



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 24, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Carl J. Paperiello, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: John T. Greeves, Director *JT Greeves*  
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

FROM: C. William Reamer, Chief *CW Reamer*  
High-Level Waste and Performance Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT ON PUBLIC MEETINGS IN NEVADA  
CONCERNING NRC PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR A  
POSSIBLE YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY

This report summarizes recent U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff public meetings in Nevada on proposed 10 CFR Part 63 which would govern a possible U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) repository for disposal of high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. In particular, a team of NRC staff members held meetings in Nevada at Amargosa Valley (June 15, 1999), Las Vegas (June 16, 1999), and Caliente, in Lincoln County, (June 17, 1999), to continue a dialogue with the public on proposed Part 63. The team included Keith McConnell, Tim McCartin, Aby Mohseni, Janet Kotra, Robert Lewis, Clark Prichard, Judy Goodwin and me of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards staff. Chip Cameron of the Office of General Counsel acted as facilitator for the meetings, and Sue Gagner of the Office of Public Affairs coordinated press matters. Representatives of the Offices of Inspector General and Nuclear Reactor Regulation attended the meetings.

The immediate purpose of the meetings was to respond to public concerns expressed during meetings in Nevada on proposed Part 63, March 23-25, 1999, by providing additional information and encouraging further dialogue on the concerns. The longer-term purpose of the meetings was to continue to work on establishing a relationship with local officials, opinion leaders, and citizens in the vicinity of the Yucca Mountain site through frequent informational meetings on relevant NRC staff activities.

The format for the meetings allowed for short NRC staff presentations on selected topics, interspersed with periods for questions by the public. Staff presentations covered the role of the NRC and how the public can participate in the regulatory process; why the NRC is proposing new regulations for Yucca Mountain at this time; how NRC regulations will protect Nevadans; the manner in which NRC standards protect infants and children, in particular; requirements for multiple barriers; and how the NRC ensures the safety of spent fuel transportation. Generally, the team believed that the format and content of the meetings effectively elicited public views on important local concerns. During the meetings, team members repeatedly stressed their interest in, and their willingness to listen and respond to, public comments.

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C. Paperiello

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If you would like additional information on any aspect of the trip, please contact me or any member of the team.

cc: M. Virgilio  
B. Brach  
J. Holonich  
Team Members

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