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APR 11 1983-01

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Distribution:
WM file: 3102-delay

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regis R. Boyle
High-Level Waste Licensing
Management Branch
Division of Waste Management

FROM: Warren R. Rehfeldt
High-Level Waste Licensing
Management Branch
Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT - DOE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED
NOMINATION OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS A POTENTIAL HLW
REPOSITORY: CONVENED ON MARCH 30, 1983, IN LAS VEGAS
NEVADA, AND ON MARCH 31, 1983 IN RENO, NEVADA

WMHL r/f
NMSS r/f
REBrowning
MJBeII
WRRehfeldt & r/f
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(Return to WM, 623-SS)

The public hearings on the proposed nomination of Yucca Mountain for characterization studies were held at the University of Nevada - Las Vegas Student Union Building (March 30) and at the University of Nevada - Reno Student Union Building (March 31). The hearing panel at both sessions consisted of the following persons:

- Mr. John McBride, Chairman (University of Nevada Board of Regents)
- Dr. Peter Krenkel (Dean, College of Engineering, UN)
- Mr. Robert Revert (County Commissioner, Nye County, Nevada)

The DOE Presiding Officer at the hearings was Robert M. Nelson. James J. Fiore, DOE Program Representative, presented an overview of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and the National Program. Technical information about the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigation Project was provided by Donald L. Vieth, DOE Technical Representative.

A court reporter was present at each hearing to prepare a complete transcript. Local newspapers and television stations provided additional coverage at the hearings. Handouts from the hearings are attached.

It was estimated that about 150 people attended the hearing at Las Vegas, while an estimated 250 people attended the hearing at Reno. A list of scheduled speakers is attached. The comments of these speakers, and the comments of speakers who did not make advance requests to speak are summarized below.

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In general, most of the speakers opposed a HLW repository in Nevada because (1) the state has shouldered more than its share of the burden relative to nuclear activities, and (2) nuclear wastes are not generated within the state. The speakers expressed concern about impacts on tourism, overcrowded highways because of transport of wastes, and possible accidents en route to NTS. They were also concerned about potential health impacts, and socioeconomic impacts related to the required work force, public services, and emergency response to accidents.

Las Vegas Hearing

Richard Bryan - Governor of Nevada: Pointed out that the state has a good relationship with the DOE. Provided background comments on NTS and weapons testing, and the LLW site at Beatty, NV. Stated that Nevada has done more than its share relative to the nuclear program, and expressed concern about the transport of LLW and HLW across the state. Opposed to a repository for HLW in Nevada, partly because the HLW is not generated in the state. Stated that he will disapprove the site designation in Nevada. Requested that the DOE conduct public information hearings across the state and extend the comment period -- the Governor will cooperate in arranging such forums. Recommended that the DOE (1) provide a comparative analysis with other sites being characterized, (2) address environmental concerns, (3) evaluate transportation alternatives, (4) discuss impacts on water resources and air quality, (5) address the problem of spoils disposal, and (6) evaluate impacts on archaeological sites and mitigating measures.

Reynaldo Martinez - Assistant to Congressman Harry Reid: Stated that Congressman Reid is in total support of Governor Bryan's position on HLW disposal in Nevada, and will sustain the Governor's veto, of a Nevada repository, in the U. S. Congress. Recommended that DOE address the impact on tourism in the EIS. Expressed concern about the health and safety of citizens in southern Nevada.

Mr. Greenspan - Journalist: Supported Governor Bryan's testimony. Expressed concern about possible affects of nuclear explosions (weapons testing) on a repository at Yucca Mountain. Predicted many problems with increased truck traffic hauling HLW to the repository (i.e., highway accidents) and that tourist travel will suffer. Suggested that a repository in Nevada will not benefit the citizens of the state.

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Robert Loux - Nevada DOE: Commented on the interaction between the State and U. S. DOE relative to this hearing. Noted that the State needs to acquire the necessary expertise in order to evaluate the HLW program. Recommended that the DOE focus on natural characteristics of the site rather than engineering factors. Pointed out that the impacts of transporting HLW are critical to Nevada, and that the State recommends only rail haul. Recommended that more emphasis be placed on environmental impacts and mitigation, i.e., disposal of spoils and quality of life (tourism) in southern Nevada. Stated that the Nevada DOE and the U. S. DOE have a good working relationship.

Frank Caine - So. Nevada Bldg. Trades Council: Pointed out that organized labor is proud of it's contribution at NTS. Expressed some concern about radioactive waste disposal in Nevada, but recommended support for the DOE program. Commented that DOE needs to do a good job on site characterization and provide proper design and safeguards.

Ann Zorn - League of Women Voters: Recognizes a problem with HLW and a need for public input and support. Noted that the land use approach for site selection used by DOE is not consistant with the Act, and pointed out that Yucca Mountain is mostly outside the NTS boundary. Stated that engineered barriers cannot be relied on alone, and that scientific factors should be of primary consideration (e.g., should not compensate for poor geology). Recommended more study relative to volcanism and seismicity. Concerned about transportation impacts and the economy of southern Nevada. Suggested that State responsibilities and emergency reaction be addressed in the EIS. Pointed out that State and local governments need to participate.

Bill Vincent - Citizen Alert: Expressed concern about socioeconomic impacts on southern Nevada, i.e., heavy truck traffic leading to NTS, accidents along highways, impact on tourism. Critical of the screening procedure which selected the Hanford site and NTS. Pointed out that geologic and hydrologic factors should be primary.

Dave Malone - State farmer: Questioned the advisability of locating a HLW repository next to a nuclear weapons testing facility. Recommended that impacts on agriculture, irrigation, and the Amargosa Desert be addressed.

Gregory Nussbaum - Clark County Republican Party: Submitted a prepared resolution relative to a HLW repository at NTS. Opposed to a site in Nevada unless DOE establishes a "fission engineering center." Stated

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that fission technology is advanced but being deliberately suppressed, and that reprocessing would eliminate a need for a repository.

Judy Treichel - Private citizen: Expressed concern, as a resident living near Highway 95 (route to NTS), about dangers related to transportation of HLW. Recommended input from National Safety Council about accident rates in Nevada.

Emma Kimberly - Private citizen: Expressed opposition to a HLW repository at Yucca Mountain.

Richard Wileman (sp?) - Professor of Engineering, UN - Las Vegas: Stated that most technical aspects have been reviewed which indicate that Yucca Mountain is adequate for HLW isolation. Pointed out that the geology, structure, and hydrology are suitable. Stated that no other demands need to be made at Yucca Mountain.

Stanley Springham (sp?) - Private citizen: Pointed out that HLW is too valuable to dispose of, and that it should be stored as a resource to be used in the future.

Stephen Rohl - Private citizen: Expressed concern about siting a HLW repository next to a military weapons facility. Concerned about radiation dangers, and suggested that DOE dosimetry standards are based on faulty data.

Alice White - Private citizen: Expressed concern about transportation impacts on tourism in Nevada.

Robin Jenkins - Journalist/Environmentalist: Expressed concern about HLW and opposed to a repository in Nevada.

Ms. McDonald - Private citizen: Expressed opposition to a repository in Nevada.

Barbara Treat - Private citizen: Expressed opposition to a repository in Nevada.

Thomas Trotter - Director of Planning, Nye County, NV: Expressed concern that since 93% of Nye County is federally controlled, including NTS, the DOE may not fully comply with provisions relating to public participation. Noted that County services may be strained if the project would develop. Pointed out that Beatty, NV, is potentially a

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major rural center, and therefore groundwater quality and use should be a factor to be studied and that water resources are important for the future. Suggested that Yucca Mountain area may be highly mineralized. Stated that the EIS process described by DOE is incomplete and that socioeconomic factors such as work force, public services, and emergency reaction, have not been addressed.

Mr. Brooks - Private citizen: Expressed opposition to a waste repository anywhere. Concerned about all nuclear activities.

Diane Bartlet - Private citizen: Concerned about health impacts. Pointed out that Nevada has "10 times more cancer than other parts of the U. S."

Susan Nounaa - University of Nevada student: Noted that many contradictory statements were made during the hearing (i.e., mineral occurrences at Yucca Mountain, shipping cask integrity) which should be clarified.

Barbara Greenspan - Private citizen: Presented a newspaper article to the hearing panel, concerning problems with nuclear waste disposal.

Ms. Durmankai - Private citizen: Expressed concern about health impacts. Noted that many people in Nevada and Utah have been exposed to radiation and received no compensation. Opposed to a HLW repository in Nevada.

Reno Hearing

James Barnes - Nevada Department of Energy: Presented a statement by Governor Bryan (see Governor's statement from Las Vegas hearing). Stated that there are "more critical geological and archeological issues" at Yucca Mountain.

Joseph Robertson - Ecologist, Citizen Alert: Commented on problems with all types of wastes and the burden on future generations. Recommended that HLW remain at present locations until a better solution is found. Opposed to a HLW repository at any location.

Jerry Robinson - Private citizen: Expressed concern about "the assumption that Nevada is a nuclear dumping ground." Presented a list of questions for DOE to answer, to the hearing panel.

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Katherine Hale - Private citizen: Presented a list to the hearing panel, with names of people opposed to a repository at Yucca Mountain. Recommended that nuclear waste remain at current storage locations.

Michael Bernard - Underground miner: Expressed interest in the program because of the potential for employment. Concerned about underground safety and maintenance during operations. Asked questions about the future use of the site, and about reprocessing of spent fuel. Expressed concern that "organized crime" may become involved in the transportation of HLW to a repository.

Susan Orr - Citizen Alert: Pointed out that after 40 years, the problem with nuclear waste has not been solved. Expressed opposition to the nuclear industry, and a HLW repository at any location.

Abby Johnson - Citizen Alert: Opposed to a HLW repository in Nevada. Expressed concern that the DOE may not fully comply with the provisions relating to public participation. Recommended more public hearings and informal meetings in Nevada. Suggested that a HLW repository at Yucca Mountain would not be compatible with nuclear weapons testing at NTS. Recommended more emphasis on geology, transportation, security, and health impacts. Suggested a program of independent monitoring (not DOE or other government agencies).

Steven Bloomfield, MD - Citizen Alert: Pointed out that HLW is not generated in Nevada and should be the responsibility of individual states where nuclear power is used. Concerned about transportation problems, i.e., increased truck traffic and accidents. Stated that the proposed method of storage has not been "proven" relative to long-term factors.

Cynthia Mitchell - Private citizen: Opposed to nuclear industry and production of waste. Concerned that DOE guidelines would not disqualify any site, and that more emphasis should be placed on transportation issues and potential for accidents.

Peggy Twedt - League of Women Voters of Nevada: Supported the statement presented at the Las Vegas hearing by Ann Zorn (also League of Women Voters). Pointed out that the League recognizes the problems of HLW. Stated that public health factors must be foremost and that "the site should be the primary barrier." Noted that Yucca Mountain was selected on institutional criteria. Concerned that the public does not have adequate time to respond to the DOE proposal. Requested more information relative to cost, mitigation, and monitoring.

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John Emerson - Citizen Alert: Opposed to nuclear industry and HLW. Expressed concern about potential accidents relative to transportation and operation.

Sym Morris - National Association of Atomic Veterans: Questioned the reasoning for selecting Yucca Mountain because "the area is subject to extreme effects from detonations." Opposed to HLW disposal. Concerned about potential health problems.

Maya Miller - Private citizen: Opposed to HLW disposal in Nevada. Expressed concern that "political punch will outweigh citizen desires."

Liz Bernheimer - Private citizen (Professor, Health Ed. at UN-R): Expressed concern about the lack of knowledge of health impacts relative to radioactive waste. Questioned DOE about funds budgeted for health problems resulting from accidents. Concerned that the program will not benefit Nevada, and that the state will have a problem attracting tourists, high-tech industries, etc.

Leonore Haimowitz - Private citizen: Expressed concern about the proximity of Yucca Mountain to the NTS and weapons testing. Opposed to HLW disposal.

Theodore Oleson - American Friends Service Committee: Stated that "outside experts" must have access to all relevant documents and plans related to DOE's program.

Evelyn Summers - Private citizen: Opposed to a HLW repository in Nevada, and all nuclear development (uranium mining, power generation, weapons testing).

Janice Whitefeather - Private citizen: Opposed to HLW disposal in Nevada. Stated that the Indian people of the western states have been adversely affected by the nuclear industry (i.e., problems with mine tailings, spills and wastes). Expressed concern for future generations and problems with radiation.

Kristin Pfanku - Private citizen: Opposed to nuclear industry. Noted problems with storage tanks at Hanford, Savannah River, and West Valley.

Jim Buckley - Student at UN-R: Suggested that Yucca Mountain may not be suitable for a HLW repository because of geologic and hydrologic factors.

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Pointed out that Nevada does not have nuclear power plants and therefore should not provide a disposal site.

Glenn Miller - Sierra Club: Stated that the issue "is complicated" and that citizens of both Nevada and Utah have been affected by activities at NTS. Noted that Yucca Mountain is mostly located outside of the NTS boundary. Expressed concerns related to transportation (i.e., "hi-jacking potential," and security). Recommended that the potential for contamination of Ash Meadows be fully analyzed for rare and endangered species (pupfish?).

John Vigoren - Private citizen: Stated that nuclear waste should remain at the site where it is generated, and that the states using nuclear power should deal with the problem. Expressed concern with transportation problems (accidents, emergency reaction teams) and the potential cost to the state.

Alice Williams - United Piutes Inc.: Recommended a moritorium on nuclear power generation. Opposed to HLW disposal in Nevada.

William Rossi, Sr. - Private citizen: Opposed to HLW disposal in western states. Suggested that the power utilities "take care of their own waste." Concerned about Indian rights.

Dagmar Thorpe - Native Nevadans for Political Education and Action (advocate for Indian people): Opposed to HLW disposal in Nevada because of problems with an "uncontrolled technology."

Robert Henry - Private citizen: Suggested that disposal of HLW is not realistic, and that HLW should be considered a resource. Recommended reprocessing of spent fuel.

Dr. Fred Rogers - Private citizen: Recommended study in radioactive releases to the atmosphere, and monitoring of radioactive particulates which can be retained in the lungs. Suggested areas to be addressed relative to human health effects, such as potential venting of radioactive gases (and gases released from damaged canisters).

Jim Schofield - State Assemblyman, Clark County, NV: Stated that a resolution has been introduced to the State Legislature urging U. S. Congress to prohibit HLW disposal at NTS. If unsuccessful, the State will ask for short-term and long-term assistance (such as at the WIPP in New Mexico). Stated that a cooperative effort between the State and

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Federal Government is needed, and that DOE should allow complete access to information relative to the program. Recommended rail transportation (less impact compared to highway transportation). The State would propose a "gamma tax" on the waste, and recommend the establishment of a research lab and engineering facility (educational). Primary concern is "to consistently consider the health of Nevada citizens."

Warren R. Rehfeldt
Warren R. Rehfeldt
High-Level Waste Licensing
Management Branch
Division of Waste Management

Enclosures:
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1983, at the offices of Texaco, Inc., 2000 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, New York, beginning at 9:00 a.m. These are briefing meetings for personnel of IEA Reporting Companies and their affiliates and for Reporting Company members of the IEA Industry Supply Advisory Group (ISAG) who will participate in the Fourth IEA Allocation Systems Test (AST-4).

The agenda for each meeting is as follows:

1. Opening remarks.
2. Background on the IEA and the International Energy Program.
3. Review emergency sharing system.
4. Review AST-4 Test Guide:
 - a. Objectives and scope;
 - b. Scenario and timing;
 - c. Organizational structure;
 - d. National Emergency Sharing Organization (NESO) participation;
 - e. Data base and use; and
5. Communications, including a description of the voluntary offer submission system.
6. Test appraisal.
7. Legal considerations and clearances.
8. Supplemental discussion for ISAG:
 - a. Assignments and overall responsibilities;
 - b. Industry Supply Operations Manual (ISOM) overview and ISAG formats;
 - c. The voluntary offer process and computer support;
 - d. Appraisal activities;
 - e. IEA security and document flow; and
 - f. Personnel considerations.

As provided in section 252(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, these meetings will not be open to the public.

Issued in Washington, D.C., February 28, 1983.

Craig S. Bamberger,
Assistant General Counsel, International Trade and Emergency Preparedness.

[FR Doc 83-6691 Filed 3-4-83; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

Public Hearings To Announce Proposal To Nominate a Site Within the State of Nevada for Characterization Studies

AGENCY: Department of Energy.
ACTION: Notice of public hearing and solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy has identified a potentially acceptable site in Nevada for a high level radioactive waste repository and proposes to nominate this site for site characterization pursuant to Section 113 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-425). Pursuant to Section 112 an environmental assessment will accompany such nomination. Further, before proceeding to sink shafts, a Site Characterization Plan will be issued. The site is located in Nye County, on

and adjacent to the southwest corner of the Department's Nevada Test Site. A major objective of the site characterization activity will be the acquisition of geologic information necessary to the evaluation of the suitability of the Nevada site for a repository. Site characterization activities at all candidate sites must be completed within the next four years to support a Departmental recommendation to the President and subsequent Presidential recommendation of a site to the Congress by March 31, 1987. This notice establishes hearing dates and locations, and a public comment period to solicit comments on the nomination, issues to be included in an environmental assessment supporting the nomination, and issues to be addressed in the site characterization plan.

DATES: The Hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. March 30, 1983, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., PST, Las Vegas, Nevada.
2. March 31, 1983, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., PST, Reno, Nevada.

Written Requests to schedule time for oral presentation are due by March 20, 1983.

Written Comments are due by March 31, 1983.

ADDRESSES: The Hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. March 30, 1983, University of Nevada, Moyer Student Union Ballroom, 4505 S. Maryland Pky, Las Vega, Nevada 89109.
2. March 31, 1983, University of Nevada, Jot Travis Student Union, UNR Campus, North Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald L. Veith, U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, P.O. Box 14100, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114, Telephone: (702) 734-3632.

Public Hearings

Hearings will be conducted by the Department of Energy in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 30, 1983, and in Reno, Nevada on March 31, 1983. The purpose of these hearings is to inform the public of the activities and considerations that led to this proposed nomination and to receive comments. The Department of Energy will develop an Environmental Assessment that addresses site characterization activities. Pub. L. 97-425, Section 112(b)(1)(E), identifies issues that must be addressed by the Environmental Assessment.¹ An

¹ Pursuant to Section 112a, proposed general guidelines for the recommendation of sites for repositories were published in the Federal Register on February 7, 1983 (48 FR 5670).

additional purpose of the Hearings is to solicit and receive recommendations with respect to specific issues that should be addressed in the aforementioned Environmental Assessment and also specific issues that should be addressed in any Site Characterization Plan which would subsequently be issued, if and when the location is approved by the President as a candidate Site for site characterization.

Presentations

Parties interested in providing oral presentations at the Hearings, may request time not to exceed ten minutes for the purpose of delivering that presentation. Requests for scheduling of oral presentation at a particular hour will be considered but cannot be guaranteed. A typewritten copy of all the material to be presented is requested and should be delivered to the presiding officer before being presented at the Hearing. Requests for scheduled presentations must be written and mailed or delivered so as to be received at the address below no later than March 20, 1983. U.S. Department of Energy, Public Hearings on Nevada Site Characterization, Attn: Presentation Schedule, Mail Stop 555, P.O. Box 14400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114.

Individuals who do not make advance requests to speak at a Hearing may register to speak with the presiding officer prior to the start of a Hearing. An opportunity to speak will be provided to these individuals if time permits. However, time for these unscheduled presentations will be limited, depending on the number of requests received and time available.

Written Comments

Parties may also submit written comments on the proposed nomination; the issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment; and the issues to be addressed by any Site Characterization Plan, if developed. These comments will be added to the Hearing transcripts for both locations and become an official Departmental record of the Hearings. Written comments should be mailed to reach the following address by March 31, 1983. U.S. Department of Energy, Public Hearings on Nevada Site Characterization, Mail Stop 555, P.O. Box 14400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114.

Conduct of Hearings

DOE reserves the right to arrange the schedule of presentations to be heard and to establish additional procedures governing the conduct of the Hearing.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 1983

The U.S. Department of Energy has extended the deadline for receiving written comments on the proposed nomination of Yucca Mountain as a potential location for a high-level radioactive waste repository. The new deadline of April 25 adds nearly a month onto the original comment period.

Public hearings on the proposal will be held next week in Las Vegas and Reno to inform Nevadans of the proposed nomination and to solicit recommendations on issues that should be covered in the Environmental Assessment and the Site Characterization Plan required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

For the convenience of the public, the hearings at both locations will last one hour longer than previously announced.

The Las Vegas hearing will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday (March 30) in the Ballroom of the Moyer Student Union Building, University of Nevada at Las Vegas. The hearing will recess from noon to 2 p.m.

In Reno, the hearing will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday (March 31) in the Pine Room of the Travis Student Union Building, University of Nevada at Reno. There will be a recess from 1 to 3 p.m.

Anyone wishing to file a written statement with DOE may do so. The comments will be added to the hearing transcripts for both the Las Vegas and Reno locations, and will become part of the official hearing record.

(more)

Individuals who have not made advance requests to speak at a hearing may register to speak with the presiding officer prior to the start of the hearing. An opportunity to speak will be provided if time permits. Time for unscheduled presentations will be limited, however, depending on the number of requests received and the amount of time available.

Written comments and requests for more information should be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Public Hearings on
Nevada Site Characterization
Mail Stop 555
P. O. Box 14400
Las Vegas, NV 89114

- DOE -

News Media Contact: Chris L. West, DOE/NV, Office of Public Affairs (702) 734-3521.

REVISED SCHEDULES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

To Address

The Proposed Nomination Of A Nevada Location For Site Characterization As A Potential High Level Radioactive Waste Repository

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has scheduled two public Hearings to receive comments regarding a proposal to conduct site characterization studies at a Nevada site. Site Characterization is planned to occur at three sites within the United States during the next four years. By March 1987, each site will have been evaluated and one will be selected for recommendation to the President as the proposed location of the nation's first geological high level radioactive waste repository. Requirement for these Hearings is specified by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (Public Law 97-425), which was signed into law by President Reagan on January 7, 1983. The purposes of the Hearings are:

1. To inform area residents of this proposed nomination and to receive their comments.
2. To solicit issues to be addressed in an Environmental Assessment which must accompany formal nomination for site characterization.
3. To solicit issues to be addressed in a Site Characterization Plan which would be used in studying the potential of the site as a candidate repository site.

The site considered to be potentially acceptable is Yucca Mountain, located in Southern Nye County at the southwest boundary of the Nevada Test Site and Nellis Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range, and extending into Bureau of Land Management-controlled land. It is approximately 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas. All interested parties, including individuals and organizational representatives, are invited to comment. Written comments regarding the proposed nomination; Environmental Assessment issues; and Site Characterization Plan issues; should be mailed to be received at the address below by April 25, 1983.

Hearings will be held in Las Vegas and Reno, according to the following revised schedules.

Las Vegas

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(recess - Noon to 2 p.m.)
Wednesday, March 30, 1983
University of Nevada - Las Vegas
Moyer Student Union Ballroom
Las Vegas, Nevada

Reno

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
(recess - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)
Thursday, March 31, 1983
University of Nevada - Reno
Pine Room-Jot Travis Student Union
Reno, Nevada

For more information, write:

United States Department of Energy
Environmental Assessment for Nevada Site Characterization
Mail Stop 555 • P.O. Box 14400 • Las Vegas, NV 89114

scanned copies

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED NOMINATION OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS A
POTENTIAL HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen! My name is Robert M. Nelson. I am an Assistant Manager of the DOE's Nevada Operations Office in Las Vegas. As the Department of Energy's presiding officer for this hearing, I now declare that this public hearing is open. For the record, this hearing is convened on March 30, 1983, at 9:00 a.m., at the UNLV Student Union Bldg. in Las Vegas, Nevada (and March 31, 1983 at 10:00 a.m., at the UNR Student Union Bldg. in Reno, Nevada).

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Federal Register on March 7, 1983. This hearing was also advertised through local news media announcements. I will conduct this hearing in accordance with the Federal Register Notice.

The purposes of this hearing are as follows:

1. To solicit comments on the nomination of Yucca Mountain for site characterization as a potential high-level radioactive waste repository. This site is located in Nye County, on and adjacent to the southwest corner of the Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site.
2. To solicit issues to be included in an Environmental Assessment supporting the Department's formal nomination of that site.
3. To solicit issues to be addressed in the Site Characterization Plan which would subsequently be issued, prior to proceeding with site characterization.

This public hearing will utilize a panel comprised of three (3) persons, including a chairperson, who are not employees of the Department of Energy, and who have not participated directly in the preparation of the proposed nomination of Yucca Mountain. The panel, under the direction of the chairman, will conduct the oral presentations of the public at this hearing, and will be responsible for seeking clarification or expansion of relevant points made during the hearings. The panel will also be responsible for preparing a summary report which presents the panel's consensus view of the significant issues raised by the public participants at the hearings.

A court reporter is present to prepare a complete transcript of this hearing. Anyone who wishes to purchase a copy of the transcript may make arrangements with the court reporter at their office. For the hearing held in Las Vegas, you may contact:

Associated Reporters of Nevada
600 South Sixth Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone No. 382-8778
Cost - 15¢/pg.

For the hearing held in Reno, you may contact:

Bonanza Reporters
1111 Forest
Reno, Nevada 89509
Telephone, No. 786-7655
Cost - 35¢/pg.

You can obtain these addresses at the registration table.

The entire record of the hearings, including the transcripts, will be retained by DOE and made available for inspection at the DOE Freedom of Information Office, Nevada Operations Office, 2753 South Highland, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The record of the hearings will also be available for inspection at libraries located in Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, and Tonopah. The names and addresses of these libraries can be obtained at the registration desk.

The public may submit written comments on the proposed nomination; the issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment; and the issues to be addressed by any Site Characterization Plan, if developed. These comments will be added to the hearing transcripts for both locations and become an official Departmental record of the hearings. Written comments should be mailed to reach the following address by April 25, 1983: (This is approximately a one-month extension beyond the date originally specified in the Federal Register Notice). The Federal Register Notice is currently being published to announce this extension.

U. S. Department of Energy
Public Hearings on
Nevada Site Characterization
Mail Stop 555
P. O. Box 14400
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

I would now like to establish the ground rules under which this hearing will be conducted. In order to permit a significant number of presentations, a period of ten (10) minutes has been allocated for each speaker who made advance requests to speak.

This will not be an "evidentiary" or "judicial" type of hearing. ~~Direct~~ cross examination of speakers by other speakers or by the audience will not be permitted. Questions may be asked by the members of the panel conducting the hearing. I may ask clarifying questions. Anyone present who wishes to ask a question at the hearing may submit the question in writing to me through the registration desk. Any question which pertains to the three purposes of this hearing will be passed on to the chairman to be answered if time is available. If you, as a member of the audience, need assistance in formulating your questions or seek more information, contact the people at the registration desk.

As specified in the Federal Register Notice, individuals who did not make advance requests to speak may register to speak at the registration desk. An opportunity to speak will be provided if time permits. If there are vacant periods on the schedule, I will request the chairman to fill them

with questions which have been submitted, planned speakers who are prepared to speak, or individuals who register to speak at the desk today.

Although you may have many concerns about a wide variety of issues and activities of the Department of Energy, please let me explain that the members of this panel only have the responsibility of reflecting public concerns expressed at this hearing which pertain to the proposed nomination of Yucca Mountain for site characterization as a potential high-level radioactive waste repository. In order to make the best use of the time that we have, I would ask your cooperation in focusing this hearing specifically on this proposal. I am prepared to revise the closing time for this hearing to assure full public participation.

The agenda as well as other pertinent documents for this public hearing is available at the registration desk. I would appreciate it if all attendees sign the log at the registration desk sometime during the course of the day.

Are there any questions on the ground rules for the conduct of the Hearing?

Let me now introduce the Chairman: John R. (Jack) McBride, who is the Chairman of the University of Nevada Board of Regents and panel members: Dr. Peter Krenkel, Dean, College of Engineering; and Robert Revert, County Commissioner, Nye County.

Representatives of the Department of Energy are also in attendance at this hearing. The panel members will be calling on DOE to provide information about the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigation Project during the hearings when the panel feels such information would be important to the issues at hand. As an introduction to the hearing, the DOE Program Representative, James J. Fiore, will provide further information on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

REVISED AGENDA

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
PROPOSED NOMINATION OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN
AS A POTENTIAL HIGH LEVEL
RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY**

Las Vegas, Nevada - March 30, 1983

Purpose of Hearing and Description of Procedures	Robert M. Nelson, DOE Presiding Officer	9:00-9:15 a.m.
Scheduled Presentation	Honorable Richard H. Bryan Governor of Nevada	9:15-9:30
Scheduled Presentation	Congressman Harry Reid	9:30-9:45
Nuclear Waste Policy Act and National Program	James J. Fiore, DOE Program Representative	9:45-10:05
Nevada Project	Donald L. Vieth, Technical Representative	10:05-10:50
	Break	10:50-11:00
Introduction to Scheduled Presentations	John R. McBride Panel Chairman	11:00-11:10

Scheduled Presentations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Time</u>
Robert R. Loux	Dept. of Energy, State of Nevada	11:10-11:20 a.m.
Frank Caine	So. Nev. Bldg. Trades Council	11:20-11:30
Ann A. Zorn	League of Women Voters	11:30-11:40
Stephen C. Rohl	Private Citizen, Las Vegas, NV	11:40-11:50
Judy Treichel	Private Citizen, Las Vegas, NV	11:50-12:00
Bill Vincent	Citizen Alert	12:00-12:10 p.m.
	Break	12:10-2:00
James E. Owen	Amargosa Valley Water Users Assoc.	2:00-2:10
Thomas H. Trotter	Director of Planning, Nye County	2:10-2:20

Unscheduled Presentations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Time</u>
		2:20-2:30 p.m.
		2:30-2:40
		2:40-2:50
		2:50-3:00
		3:00-3:10
		3:10-3:20
		3:20-3:30
	Break	3:30-3:40
		3:40-3:50
		3:50-4:00
		4:00-4:10
		4:10-4:20
		4:20-4:30
		4:30-4:40
		4:40-4:50
	Break	4:50-5:00
		5:00-5:10
		5:10-5:20
		5:20-5:30
		5:30-5:40
		5:40-5:50
Closing Comments	Robert M. Nelson, DOE Presiding Officer	5:50-6:00

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
PROPOSED NOMINATION OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN
AS A POTENTIAL HIGH LEVEL
RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY

Reno, Nevada - March 31, 1983

Purpose of Hearing and Description of Procedures	Robert M. Nelson, DOE Presiding Officer	10:00-10:15 a.m.
Nuclear Waste Policy Act and National Program	James J. Fiore, DOE Program Representative	10:15-10:35
Nevada Project	Donald L. Vieth, Technical Representative	10:35-11:20
	Break	11:20-11:30
Introduction to Scheduled Presentations	John R. McBride Panel Chairman	11:30-11:40

Scheduled Presentations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Time</u>
James I. Barnes	Dept. of Energy, State of Nev.	11:40-11:50 a.m.
Joseph H. Robertson	Citizen Alert	11:50-12:00
Jerry Robinson	Private Citizen, Reno, NV	12:00-12:10 p.m.
Katharine Gardiner Hale	Private Citizen, Reno, NV	12:10-12:20
Susan Orr	Citizen Alert	12:20-12:30
Abby Johnson	Citizen Alert	12:30-12:40
Steven Bloomfield, MD	Citizen Alert & Physician for Social Responsibility	12:40-12:50
Cynthia K. Mitchell	Private Citizen, Reno, NV	12:50-1:00
	Break	1:00-3:00
Sym O. Morris	N.A.A.V.	3:00-3:10
Judy Michelson	Private Citizen	3:10-3:20
Liz Bernheimer	Private Citizen	3:20-3:30
Maya Miller	Private Citizen	3:30-3:40

Scheduled Presentations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Time</u>
Kristin Pfanku	Private Citizen	3:40-3:50 p.m.
Glenn C. Miller	Sierra Club	3:50-4:00
Peggy Twedt	League of Women Voters of NV	4:00-4:10
	Break	4:10-4:20
Leonore Haimowitz	Private Citizen	4:20-4:30
Jon Vigoren	Private Citizen	4:30-4:40
Theodore E. Oleson, Jr.	Private Citizen	4:40-4:50
Dagmar Thorpe	Native Nevadans for Political Education and Action	4:50-5:00
John H. Emerson	Citizen Alert	5:00-5:10
Janice D. Whitefeather	Private Citizen	5:10-5:20
Jim Buckley	Private Citizen	5:20-5:30
Joseph F. Griggs, Jr.	Private Citizen	5:30-5:40
Jo Anne Garrett	Private Citizen	5:40-5:50
Dr. C. Fred Rogers	Private Citizen	5:50-6:00
	Break	6:00-6:10

Unscheduled Presentations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Time</u>
		6:10-6:20 p.m.
		6:20-6:30
		6:30-6:40
		6:40-6:50
Closing Comments	Robert M. Nelson, DOE Presiding Officer	6:50-7:00