

MEETING SUMMARY

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Inyo County, California, along with nine other counties in the State of Nevada, are designated as "Affected Units of Local Government" by the Department of Energy, as provided for under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended.

On Tuesday, October 25, 2005, in response to a specific request from County officials, staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety (HLWRS) and the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) briefed the Inyo County, Board of Supervisors on the NRC's high-level radioactive waste program. The briefing was held in Independence, California, at a regularly-scheduled public meeting of the Board.

On Wednesday, October 26, 2005, NRC staff also met with the Park Superintendent and other staff of Death Valley National Park (DVNP), including the Park hydrologist, in Death Valley, California, to discuss their concerns related to potential hydrologic and transportation issues for DVNP. Later in the afternoon of October 26, NRC staff held a public information meeting with residents of Inyo County in Tecopa, California.

During each meeting, NRC staff provided an overview of the NRC's role in the potential licensing of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada (including the NRC's licensing process, the hearing process, and criteria for NRC's adoption of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for Yucca Mountain), and its role in safe transportation of spent nuclear fuel to the potential repository site. The independent regulatory role of the NRC was stressed in all the meetings.

Speakers from HLWRS and SFPO were supported at the meetings by the HLWRS public outreach team and staff from the NRC's On-site Representative's Office in Las Vegas, Nevada; the Office of General Counsel; the Office of Public Affairs; and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, San Antonio, Texas.