

# ***Restart of the Review of the Yucca Mountain License Application***

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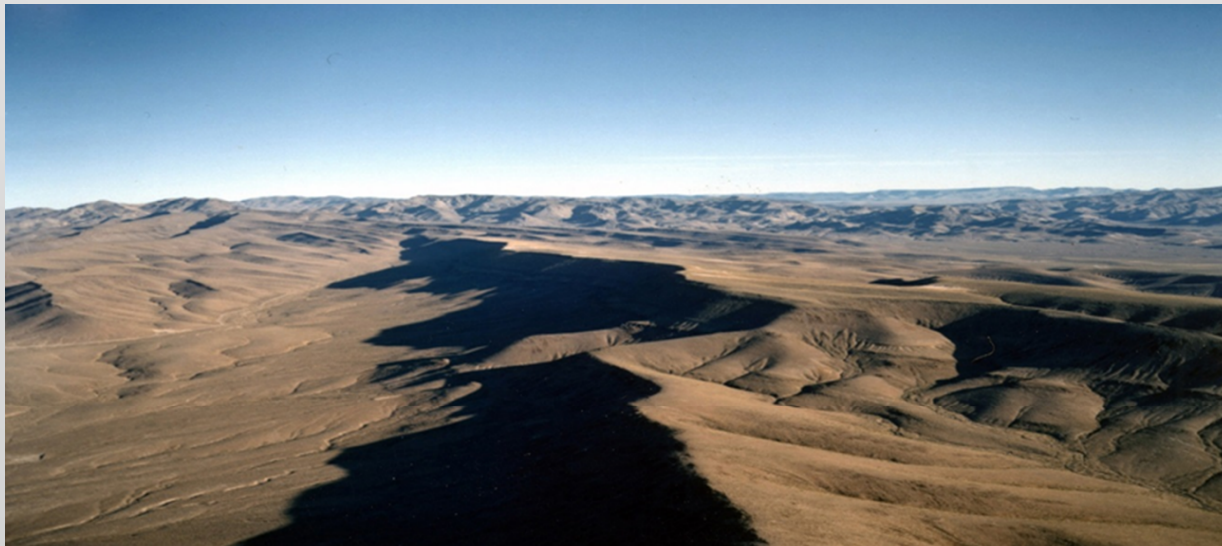
**FUEL CYCLE INFORMATION  
EXCHANGE  
ROCKVILLE, MD  
JUNE 10, 2014**

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# Overview

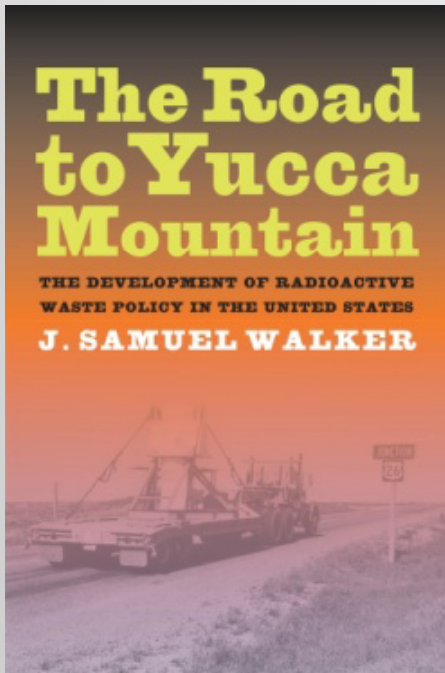
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- Background
- NRC Current Activities
  - Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report
  - Environmental Impact Statement Supplement



# Background: NWPA

- The U.S. Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982 established permanent geological disposal as the national policy for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste



- Assigned responsibilities to Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
  - DOE: repository design and operation
  - EPA : set protection standards
  - NRC: regulatory licensing and oversight
- Established a Nuclear Waste Fund
- Amendments in 1987 selected only Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for further site activities

# Background: Regulations

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- Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories
  - EPA : 40 CFR Part 191 (1985\*)
  - NRC: 10 CFR Part 60 (1981\*)
- Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada
  - EPA : 40 CFR Part 197 (2001\*)
  - NRC: 10 CFR Part 63 (2001\*)

\* with subsequent revisions

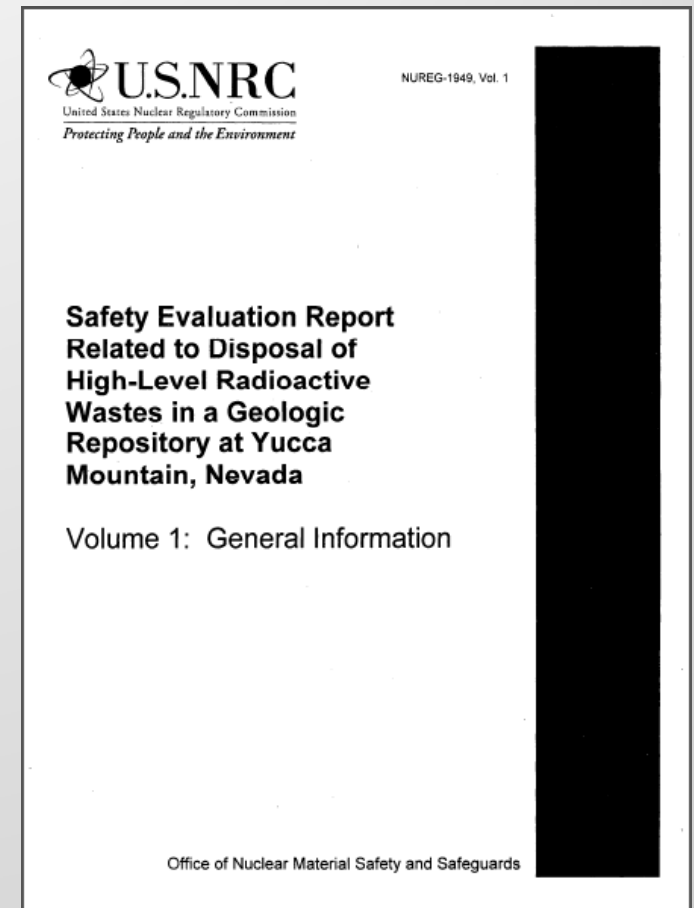
# Background: Yucca Mountain

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- DOE License Application for construction authorization of a repository at Yucca Mountain
  - Submitted June 2008
  - Accepted for docketing September 2008
  - Notice of Hearing issued October 2008
- NRC Staff adoption determination for DOE Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
  - Adoption Determination Report issued September 2008
  - Identified need for supplementation on groundwater

# Background: Yucca Mountain

- NRC issued Safety Evaluation Report Volume 1 in August 2010
- NRC began orderly shutdown of review in September 2010
  - Staff began knowledge capture
  - Adjudicatory proceeding suspended in September 2011
- Staff publications
  - Technical Evaluation Reports (3 volumes; Aug.-Sept. 2011)
  - Other technical documents



# Background: Court Actions

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- Suit filed in 2011 with the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit seeking resumption of NRC review
- Court of Appeals Order issued August 2013:  
“...unless and until Congress authoritatively says otherwise or there are no appropriated funds remaining, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must promptly continue with the legally mandated licensing process.”

# NRC Response

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- Commission Order and Staff Requirements Memorandum issued November 2013
  - Directed staff to complete the Safety Evaluation Report (SER)
  - Directed the Secretary of the Commission and staff to preserve record documents in ADAMS
  - Requested that DOE complete the supplement to its Environmental Impact Statement
  - Continued to hold the adjudicatory proceeding in abeyance



# NRC Response

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- Commission Order and Staff Requirements Memorandum issued January 2014
  - “...we expect the staff to complete a robust review addressing all applicable regulatory requirements...”
  - Further direction provided to staff on making record documents public in ADAMS



# Completing the SER

- SER planned for completion by January 2015, starting with documentation from previous review activity
- Review team assembled and working
- Loading documents into ADAMS
- All references cited in SER will be publicly available



DOE License Application,  
Environmental Impact  
Statements, and  
supporting documents,  
June, 2008

# Supplement to the EIS

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- On February 28, 2014, DOE notified NRC that
  - it would not prepare a supplement to its EIS to address the issues identified by NRC staff in its adoption determination report
  - it would provide an update to its technical report from 2009, on postclosure groundwater impacts of a geologic repository for disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain
- DOE presented overview of the updated technical report at NRC public meeting on April 7, 2014
- Updated report expected no later than June 2014

# Questions?

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