

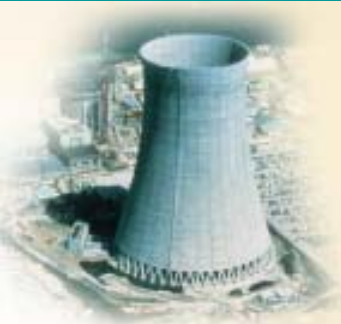


Program Update

NRC RIC 2003 – Session T4: Spent Fuel Storage, Transportation and Disposal

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April 17, 2003



Program Drivers



**Support Nuclear
Navy Mission**

- **National Security**
 - Support continued operations of the Navy's principal combat vessels.
- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation**
 - Dispose of surplus weapons-grade plutonium.
- **Energy and Economic Security**
 - Maintain nuclear energy option that supplies 20% of our electricity needs to sustain present and future economic security.
- **Homeland Security**
 - Consolidate nuclear materials presently stored at sites within 75 miles of 162 million Americans.
- **Environmental Protection**
 - Ensure environmentally sound disposition of our commercial and defense wastes.



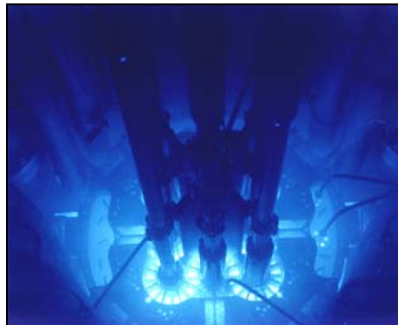
**Support Commercial
Nuclear Energy
Option**



**Support Surplus
Weapons Material
Disposition**



**Support Defense
Complex Clean-Up**



**Support International
Nonproliferation Initiatives**

Approval of the Yucca Mountain Site



- **On February 14, 2002, Secretary Abraham gave his recommendation to the President for approval of the Yucca Mountain site.**
- **On July 23, 2002, the President signed the Joint Congressional Resolution designating the site.**
- **The Department has now focused its efforts on submitting a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and developing a transportation capability.**

Key Repository Milestones



- **December 2004**

- Submit License Application to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for construction authorization.

- **2010**

- Start receiving wastes and initiate repository operations.

- **2034**

- Completion of repository operations.

Transportation Planning



- **Transportation Strategic Plan**
 - Outline approach to planning, developing and operating the transportation system.
 - Describe process to work cooperatively with Federal agencies, States, Tribes, Local Governments, waste owners and other parties.
 - Detailed plans
 - Operating system
 - Communication
 - Describe key decisions.

Major Challenges of Program



- **Funding shortfalls of \$709M between 1995-2003 (average 16%)**
- **Licensing process is first-of-its-kind**
- **Litigation**
 - From utilities, due to the delay in meeting the 1998 waste acceptance date, which put the Federal Government in partial breach of contracts.
 - Multiple lawsuits filed by State of Nevada.

Near-Term Activities Needing Congressional Attention



- **Administration's proposed funding fix with Budget Enforcement Act (BEA) cap adjustment needs approval.**
- **Administration's intent to submit a "Land Withdrawal Bill" to permanently withdraw land surrounding the repository (necessary for NRC licensing).**