



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE**  
**COMMITTEE ON HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE**  
*(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 459.0085)*

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

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The first meeting of the Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste for the 2017–2018 Interim was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3138, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and video or audio recording of the meeting are available on the Committee's [meeting page](#). In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835) and may also be available at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair  
Senator David R. Parks, Vice Chair  
Senator Yvanna D. Cancela  
Assemblyman Chris Brooks  
Assemblyman Jim Marchant  
Assemblyman William McCurdy II

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Senator Pete Goicoechea

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

Senator Tick Segerblom (Excused)

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Jann Stinnesbeck, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division  
Diane C. Thornton, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division  
Darcy Johnson, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Erin Sturdivant, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Lisa Gardner, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.*

## **AGENDA ITEM I—OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Flores called the meeting to order.

Committee members introduced themselves and Chair Flores introduced Committee staff.

## **AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Flores called for public comment.

The following individuals spoke in favor of establishing a recycling center in Nevada for purposes of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel:

- Susan Newton, resident, Henderson;
- Bill Newton, resident, Henderson;
- Michelle Mueller, resident, Las Vegas;
- Robert E. Frank, Colonel (Ret.), United States Air Force, Chair, Nevada's Citizen Action Network ([Agenda Item II](#));
- Ron Fraass, resident, Las Vegas; and
- Lee W. Mueller, resident, Las Vegas.

## **AGENDA ITEM III—OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S HISTORY AND DUTIES**

Jann Stinnesbeck, previously identified, provided an overview of the creation and duties of the Committee and noted recent developments pertaining to Yucca Mountain.

## **AGENDA ITEM IV—THE STATE OF NEVADA'S POSITION ON THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT**

Richard H. Bryan, former Governor of Nevada and U.S. Senator, and Chair, Nevada's Commission on Nuclear Projects, Office of the Governor, discussed the State of Nevada's opposition to the Yucca Mountain Project. He commented on:

- Public health and safety concerns;
- The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982;
- Economic considerations with reprocessing spent nuclear fuel;

- [Assembly Joint Resolution 10](#) (File 29, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*);
- Technical objections filed by Nevada’s Commission on Nuclear Projects; and
- The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) plan to store high-level radioactive waste above the water table.

## **AGENDA ITEM V—UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NEVADA’S AGENCY FOR NUCLEAR PROJECTS**

Robert J. Halstead, Executive Director, Agency for Nuclear Projects, Office of the Governor, gave a comprehensive overview of the Yucca Mountain Project ([Agenda Item V A](#)). He said the bottom line with license approval will be whether the DOE can convince the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the proposal will meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s standard for groundwater protection.

There was discussion concerning:

- The DOE’s plan (thermal loading) to emplace waste in the repository while it is both thermally hot and intensely radioactive, which would impede humans from fixing problems underground;
- The one-quarter to one-half mile radius of impact in Las Vegas, should a transportation accident occur along the DOE’s proposed routes through the city; and
- The DOE’s dismissal of the Carlin and Mina rail route options, which would have avoided Las Vegas.

Mr. Halstead submitted correspondence concerning H.R. 3053 (The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017), 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, introduced by U.S. Representative John Shimkus (R-IL) ([Agenda Item V A-1](#)).

## **AGENDA ITEM VI—UPDATE ON LITIGATION RELATED TO THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT**

Marta Adams, Special Deputy Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General, and Manager, Adams Natural Resources Consulting Service, LLC, and Belinda A. Suwe, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, gave a presentation on Nevada’s legal efforts to block the Yucca Mountain Project ([Agenda Item VI](#)).

## **AGENDA ITEM VII—DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT ON LOCAL, COUNTY, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

The following individuals discussed impacts of the Yucca Mountain Project on affected units of local government and expressed support for restarting the licensing process:

- Rex Massey, representing Lander and Churchill Counties ([Agenda Item VII A](#));
- Dan Schinhofen, Vice Chair, Nye County Board of Commissioners ([Agenda Item VII B](#));
- Kevin Phillips, Commissioner, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, and former Mayor of the City of Caliente; and
- Carol McKenzie, Commissioner, White Pine County Board of Commissioners.

There was discussion concerning: (1) the status and purpose of county contentions; and (2) funding needs of the rural counties. Marta Adams, previously identified, was included in the conversation.

Connie Simkins, Coordinator of the Nuclear Oversight Program, Lincoln County, submitted a document for the record concerning the City of Caliente and Lincoln County's support for restarting the Yucca Mountain licensing process ([Agenda Item VII C](#)).

#### **AGENDA ITEM VIII—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Flores called for public comment.

The following individuals spoke in favor of establishing a recycling center in Nevada for purposes of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel:

- Bill Newton, previously identified;
- Mary Rooney, resident, Henderson;
- Julie Hereford, resident, Las Vegas; and
- Robert Frank, previously identified ([Agenda Item II](#)).

Chair Flores announced the second and final Committee meeting of the interim will be held on April 27, 2018.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Gardner  
Senior Research Secretary

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Jann Stinnesbeck  
Senior Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEETING MATERIALS

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>WITNESS/ENTITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item II</u></a>	Robert E. Frank, Colonel (Ret.), United States Air Force, Chair, Nevada's Citizen Action Network	Handout on recycling
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item V A</u></a>	Robert J. Halstead, Executive Director, Nevada's Agency for Nuclear Projects, Office of the Governor	Presentation
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item V A-1</u></a>	Robert J. Halstead, Executive Director, Nevada's Agency for Nuclear Projects, Office of the Governor	Correspondence
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI</u></a>	Marta Adams, Manager, Special Deputy Attorney General, Adams Natural Resources Consulting Service, LLC, and Belinda A. Suwe, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General	Overview of litigation
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VII A</u></a>	Rex Massey, representing Lander and Churchill Counties	Overview of county positions
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VII B</u></a>	Dan Schinhofen, Vice Chair, Nye County Board of Commissioners	Overview of county position
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VII C</u></a>	Connie Simkins, Coordinator of the Nuclear Oversight Program, Lincoln County	Overview of county position

The Summary Minutes are supplied as an informational service. Copies of all meeting materials are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or (775) 684-6827.