

YUCCA MOUNTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY PROGRAM

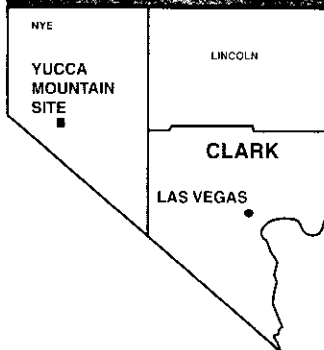
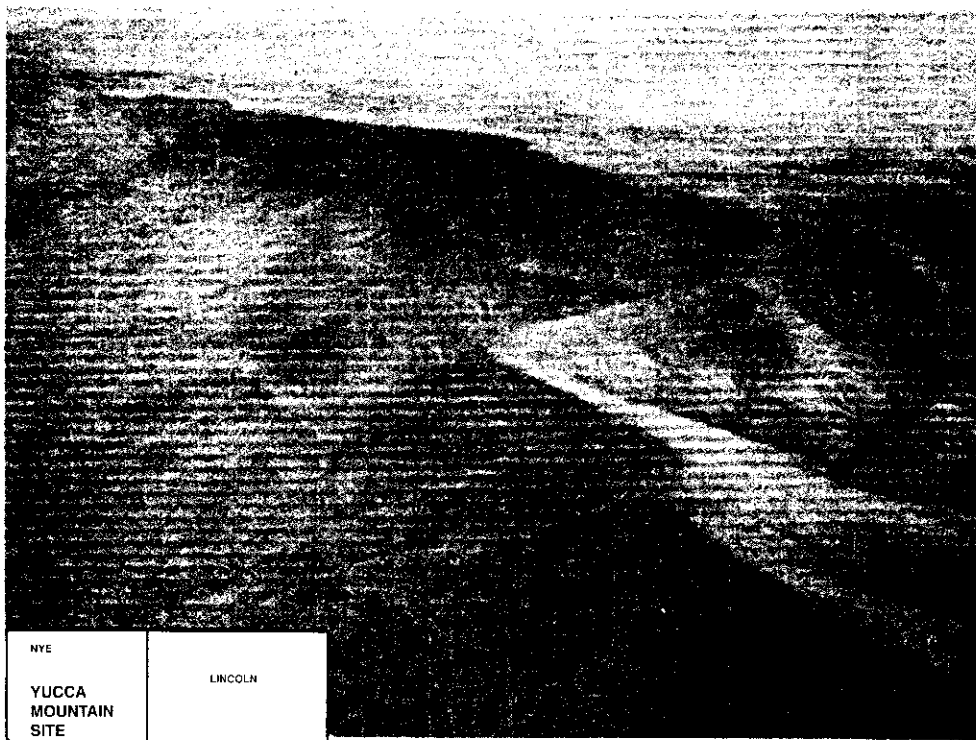


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CLARK COUNTY
Department of Comprehensive Planning
Nuclear Waste Division

FINAL

CITY OF MESQUITE GOVERNMENTAL AND FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



8687 East Via de Ventura Dr., Suite 211
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

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ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

DEIS	DOE <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada</i> , U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management August 1999.
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management - the agency responsible for the characterization, construction and operation of a repository.
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation - the agency responsible for routing approval and enforcement of nuclear-related transportation regulations
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - the agency responsible for establishing standards for radiological exposure and enforcing environmental regulations.
FEIS	DOE <i>Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada</i> , Due, Summer 2001.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency - the agency responsible for establishing standards and programs for training of public safety personnel
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee. Each county in Nevada has an LEPC that works under the auspices of the State Emergency Response Commission.
NEPA	The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the legislation that regulates and provides guidance and standards for the protection of the natural and social environment with regard to major federal projects, among others.
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission - the body responsible for repository licensing, and approval of transportation cask design, and safety and security of transportation routes.
NWPA	The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, and amendments.
SER	DOE <i>Science and Engineering</i> . In conjunction with the FEIS, this report will be used as a basis for a <i>Site Recommendation Report</i> to be presented by the DOE Secretary to the President in late 2001.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Utility of the Study

The purpose of this study is to estimate potential fiscal impacts of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository for high-level nuclear waste on the City of Mesquite, Nevada. The present work is focused specifically on fiscal impacts on city government, especially the cost impacts for public safety programs.

The proposed nuclear waste repository and the transportation of high-level nuclear waste and spent-fuel (HLW) have been identified as a source of potential and perhaps significant impacts to the economy, culture, and social well-being of Mesquite, Nevada.

The City of Mesquite, located in southern Nevada, is bisected by Interstate 15, a route identified for possible shipments of HLW, is approximately 85 miles north of Las Vegas. Virtually all of Mesquite falls within the one-mile corridor adjacent to I-15. In fact, three of the major employers the Casa Blanca Resort casino, the Si Redd Oasis Resort Hotel and casino, and the Virgin River Hotel and casino, are situated directly off the entrance and exit ramps of I-15. Interstate 15 may be used to transport HLW southward from Utah to S.R. 95 to the repository at Yucca Mountain. As a result, the city of Mesquite may experience significant vulnerabilities because of its location along the shipment route.

This report identifies the types of impacts that could be experienced by the Mesquite community and the nature and magnitude of the governmental fiscal costs to the community. Information was gained through interviews with key city government personnel; two visits to the community; identification of needs through a review of the city budget; and an analysis of the types of resources that will be necessary to prepare the community if the DOE proceeds with its

plans to transport HLW through Mesquite on route to a repository to be constructed at Yucca Mountain. Special appreciation is acknowledged to Mr. Jim Brown, City of Mesquite Emergency Management Coordinator/City Safety Officer, for his time and assistance in gathering community related data.

This investigation was supported and coordinated by the Nuclear Waste Division, Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning. Under provisions of the federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act, As Amended, Clark County has been designated as one of 10 "affected units of local government" that may monitor the siting process and conduct its own impact studies and public involvement programs.

In August 2000, the City of Mesquite made a decision to work with the Clark County Nuclear Waste Division to undertake an analysis of the impacts on the community of the transportation of high-level nuclear waste to a repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. During Fiscal Year 2001 [July 2000-June 2001], studies similar to the present one will have been conducted in the other four incorporated cities of Clark County – Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas. In addition, investigations into potential impacts on property values, tourism, and other socio-economic effects are being conducted in unincorporated areas of Clark County.

The results of these studies will be used in a Clark County Yucca Mountain Impact Report that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in Summer 2001. Under Section 114. (a)(F)(G), the Clark County report, the DOE Science and Engineering Report, the DOE Final Environmental Impact Statement for Yucca Mountain, impact reports submitted by the State of Nevada, affected units of local government and other interested parties will be considered as the

Secretary of Energy makes a recommendation to the President to advance the siting process.

2.0 THE CITY OF MESQUITE

2.1 The City of Mesquite as an Affected Community

The City of Mesquite is located in Clark County, alongside I-15, approximately 85 miles northeast of the City of Las Vegas, a proposed route for shipping nuclear waste (DEIS 2000). The ten largest employers within the community are all located within three miles of the I-15 corridor (Table 1). Moreover, because of the limited routes traversing the community, if an incident were to shutdown I-15, egress from Mesquite would be limited (Figure 1). Because of the location of the community and its key economic assets, the routing of nuclear waste along I-15 has a strong potential to adversely impact the health of community residents, its economic base, and community well-being.

Table 1 Ten Largest Mesquite, Nevada Employers

Largest Employer
Si Redd's Oasis Resort
Casablanca Resort
Virgin River Resort
Rancho Mesquite
Mesquite Star
Primex Plastics
Clark County School District
City of Mesquite
Mesquite Vistas
Smith's Food & Drug

The City of Mesquite was identified as an impacted community for assessing repository-related impacts for a number of reasons. First, the community has the potential for experiencing significant direct and indirect impacts from the transportation of nuclear waste along I-15. These impacts can result from a nearby accident event or from stigma-induced effects. Second, residents