



ESMERALDA COUNTY REPOSITORY OVERSIGHT PROGRAM *YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT*

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Talking Points for February 21, 2014 Nevada's Legislative Committee on High Level Radioactive Waste

Esmeralda County, NV is geographically located between North and South Nye County, NV and is recognized as an Affected Unit of Local Government in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

Esmeralda County government officials have always placed safety and health as the top priority for our citizens when considering the Yucca Mountain Project. The Esmeralda County Commissioners passed Resolution No. 11-R-5 in April 2011 declaring the Yucca Mountain licensing proceedings should continue and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should complete a thorough and detailed review of the License Application in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982

The Esmeralda Board of Commissioners is convinced that until such time as the NRC completes its review of the license Application, Nevada Counties, the State of Nevada and the nation will be denied a scientific and technical determination of the potential of the Yucca Mountain repository to be built and operated safely and successfully.

Nevada has NEVER negotiated for compensation or benefits, as allowed in the NWPA. The window of opportunity to begin such negotiations will close when (if) the license to operate is approved by the NRC. If the license is approved without Nevada working out a "deal" in advance, some other state will get the gold mine - and Nevadans will get nothing.

We could certainly increase funding to the state if our state leaders would constructively engage in being part of the solution as opposed to the problem. You should consider it compensation for helping our nation fix a problem.

EXHIBIT Z – HLRW Document consists of 3 pages. Entire Exhibit provided. Meeting Date: 02-21-14

I ask you members of Nevada's Legislative Committee and the Nevada State Legislature in your capacity as a body representing the citizens of this great State of Nevada why would you not want to let the NRC complete the license application?

If the NRC does not complete its review of the license Application, Nevada Counties, the State of Nevada and the nation will be denied a scientific and technical determination of the potential of the Yucca Mountain repository to be built and operated safely and successfully.

But moreover, rather than being a "repository," Yucca Mountain could become the site of a world-class National Energy Research Center where not only would nuclear energy technology be studied and advanced, and but other alternative sources of energy such as wind, solar and geothermal. All of these facilities would create thousands upon thousands of good, high-paying jobs and additional tax revenue for the state.

In addition to cash compensation, Nevadans would benefit tremendously should a recycling plant be built at Yucca Mountain, as well as a nuclear power facility which could use the reprocessed fuel rods to provide Nevadans with abundant and inexpensive electricity.

Fifteen billion dollars has been spent on the project. Then in 2007 through 2009 approximately 2000 employees working in Las Vegas on the Yucca Mountain Project left the area due to political decisions made in Washington D.C. to shut down the project. These were high paying jobs that left people in financial binds forcing them to leave the area. Most all were fortunate to find jobs at other nuclear facilities located in Idaho, Washington State, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. Some walked away from their homes letting them go into foreclosure. This created a loss of millions of dollars contributing to the Economic downfall of the State of Nevada.

As a side note: Over 3,000 shipments of spent nuclear fuel have crossed 1.6 million miles of road and rail in the U.S. without incident. Shipments of gasoline, ammonia and chlorine gas all pose a far greater danger than spent nuclear fuel. Nuclear spent fuel doesn't even make it on Homeland Security's Top 10 list of transported dangerous materials!

Why would you not want to look at the possibility of a \$90 billion public works program starting back up in Nevada? If you are really interested in the future economy for the State of Nevada as legislatures you must put away the idea that Yucca Mountain is political suicide and let the science and engineering be evaluated and at

the same time sit down at the negotiating table and find out what benefits can become reality for the State of Nevada should the NRC provide a license for construction. If the license application does not pass the test then let it be and Yucca Mountain Project becomes the end of story. THIS DOES NOT IN ANY WAY INDICATE THAT YOU AS MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE ARE FOR OR AGAINST THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT.

Respectfully Submitted by: Edwin Mueller, Director
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(Yucca Mountain Project)