
NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE TASK FORCE, INCORPORATED

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Yucca Mountain should not be funded because:

Pursuing Yucca will delay real efforts for long term isolation of nuclear waste.

No adequate solution will be sought as long as Yucca Mountain is still being considered.

DOE sought to withdraw its license application as being “unworkable” in 2010. The site should be declared unsuitable now with no further wasteful funding.

The U.S. has tons of radioactive waste that must be stored safely now and there must be efforts made to determine what the best disposal solutions are. There are now international collaborations taking place. No other country is considering any disposal facility similar to Yucca Mountain. There are also studies being carried out examining other concepts for nuclear waste disposal which may or may not have merit. Yucca Mountain prohibits consideration of other, better solutions.

The site cannot contain or isolate waste for the time necessary

Because of the fractures and faults in Yucca Mountain, there are pathways for infiltration of water through the underground location of the waste. Even specially designed containers will eventually fail. When it was found that the site did not meet the Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines for qualifying or disqualifying sites, the guidelines were repealed. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing proceeding has been suspended since 2010. If resumed, Nevada and other parties will take years to litigate their hundreds of contentions demonstrating that Yucca Mountain is unsafe.

Transportation threatens the entire nation

Thousands of shipments of waste to Yucca Mountain, affecting 330 Congressional Districts, would travel through 44 states and the District of Columbia, on railroads, major highways and by barge on lakes, rivers and ocean shores. The 30+ year shipping campaign would impact major cities and rural areas throughout the country. Any accident would create unprecedented disruptions and cost billions for federal state and local governments.

The cost and time involved in licensing, building and operating a repository at Yucca Mountain is prohibitive. New money would only be thrown after bad.

Without considering any transport accident, the collateral impacts of 30+ years of shipments or litigation costs, the total cost estimate for a repository at Yucca Mountain is \$100 billion more than what has been spent to date.

If Yucca Mountain were to be restarted after 10 years of no activity, there would need to be \$2 to \$3 billion funding assured every year to provide for:

A new radioactive waste management authority would have to be established and staffed.

New site characterization to check conditions at the site – degradation and mold on exploratory tunnel walls and degraded or blocked track for access cars

New waste package designs for changes to fuel at reactor sites that would accommodate transport and disposal

New designs for and building of above ground facilities at the site

New environmental impact statement and new license application since significant changes have occurred.

A new 300+ mile rail line within the state of Nevada, costing over \$2 billion to reach Yucca Mountain would have to be built across mountainous terrain

The license application and performance assessment prepared by the DOE to show that Yucca Mountain would meet radiation standards is dependent on the precise and perfect installation of titanium drip shields. There would need to be 11,500 of them, weighing 5,000 lbs. each and costing an estimated total of \$9 billion. The plan calls for installation by robots in a high heat and radiation field with complex waterproof interlocking joints during the final ten years of the 100 year operating lifetime of the repository. The drip shields are indispensable to the repository license application and safety analysis because without them the DOE's own analysis formula shows that the radiation standard will be violated. There has never been an installation like this and there is no reason to believe that it is possible.

Nevadans will never agree to host this site and will fight it with every tool the state has.

Nevada currently has 5 Yucca Mountain lawsuits pending. The State will oppose any permanent land withdrawal and all permits for water rights associated with a repository project.

The Western Shoshone Nation opposes a Yucca Mountain repository because it is on their sacred ground granted by the Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863.

The citizens of Nevada will not support candidates for statewide or federal office unless they are in total opposition to a Yucca Mountain repository. The State Legislature has passed three very strong resolutions opposing a repository in the state.

The state and citizens of Nevada have been under this threat since 1987 – 32 years since the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act passed. The Screw Nevada bill is a household term in the state.