

**CLARK COUNTY YUCCA MOUNTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2009**

**Chairperson Irene Navis called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.**

**Welcome and introductions:** Irene welcomed and introduced new committee member, Sharon Beesley. **Members present:** Brok Armantrout, Sharon Beesley, Deanna Domingo, Michael Johnson, Catherine Lorbeer, Melvin McCallum, Irene Navis, Jan Schweitzer, Daryl Thomé, and Penney Towers. **Members excused:** Curtis Brown, Councilman Gustaveson, Peggy Maze Johnson, Liane Lee, Caren Levenson, Maria Rodriguez, Ned Thomas, and Holly Woodward. **Members absent:** None. (See **Exhibit A**)

1. **Consideration of the March 16, 2009, minutes:** The minutes were unanimously approved.
  
2. **National Transportation Plan, review/comments:**
  - Comments to the National Transportation Plan are due to DOE on April 30, 2009. This committee and Clark County should submit comments on the transportation issue for the record. These comments should be submitted in letter format. Clark County's comments will be entered in the Clark County License Support Network document collection, thus it will be part of the licensing proceeding.
  - Most of the governmental entities filed contentions regarding canisters, transportation casks, and public safety issues related to transportation.
  - During the licensing proceedings (March 31, 2009–April 2, 2009) the judge panels questioned the NRC's transportation purview. A ruling is forthcoming regarding the extent of transportation issues to be discussed.
  - The transcripts of the meetings are available on the State's Website, located in their licensing proceeding document collection. A video cast will be available a total of 90 days from the date of the meeting.
  - Rail transportation may not impact Mesquite; however, transportation by truck will.
  - The Department of Defense waste, slated for delivery to Yucca Mountain, will be 100% covert--no notification. However, the Governor's Office will be notified of the DOE shipments. The Governor's Office will notify local governments.
  - The state of Nevada does have transportation regulations in place for all hazardous materials. The high-level radioactive waste is considered Class 7.
  - If the waste is transported on rail, it will skirt the City of North Las Vegas (NLV). However, if there is an incident, it could affect NLV, both by air and ground. Transportation by highway will also leave NLV vulnerable.
  - There will be a national exercise in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the release of radiological material through transportation on April 21, 2010. There will be a request for volunteers and participants. It will be a multi-agency exercise.
  - The Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribe is concerned with the possibility of accidents occurring near the Reservation. Concerns include, will there be emergency management (EM) teams handling the accident cleanup, and will there be EM training for the Tribe?
  - In response to the Moapa Band of Paiutes' question, the Transportation Plan is unclear about public safety and on how accidents will be handled.
  - The City of Henderson questions whether nuclear waste will be routed through the city, and if so, will it come by rail or road?
  - In response to Henderson's question, rail is preferred as the mode of travel to avoid coming through the valley. However, some shipments will be trucked.

- If the Mina route was selected, few shipments would travel through the valley.
- All routing depends on source of material, weather, and shortest routes.
- NDOT does not support nuclear waste for Yucca Mountain (YM); however, NDOT's focus is on the financial costs to maintain the infrastructure. Some roads need to be improved to support heavy haul transportation to YM. DOE is not providing funds for highway upgrades; but, will assist the state in determining what needs to be done for highway improvement. NDOT will wait for the final route decision to determine their course of action.
- DOE will transport the nuclear waste by truck before they use rail. The truck route would be through Churchill, Mineral, Lander, and Esmeralda Counties. The counties cannot afford the costs involved for infrastructure upgrades to support heavy haul transportation. DOE has not considered these costs in their transportation plan.
- The perception is that transportation of high-level nuclear waste through the valley will have a disastrous effect on the local economy.
- Boulder City is concerned about transportation, since the recent snow storm closed Railroad Pass. Communication issues posed a problem, since the media reported that roads in and out of Boulder City were closed due to the snow, and separated Boulder City from the rest of the valley. At the time, however, the Lake Mead route was open. Communication is important for Emergency Response. What would happen if this was a radiological event? How can we ensure the correct information is put out? How much mass hysteria will there be?
- There is planning under way for a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) exercise scheduled for May 17-21, 2010. The exercise includes communications interoperability testing. These exercises are funded through a Homeland Security grant.
- There is a terrorist radiological dispersal device exercise scheduled for May and June. It is an exercise that will occur in three phases. Phase I, May 11, 2009, a table-top exercise, focuses on the incident during the first 48 hours. Phase II, June 1, 2009, is a full-scale radiological emergency response integrating federal, state, and local assets. Phase III, June 15, 2009, is a tabletop exercise focusing on long-term issues and the transitioning of the coordination responsibility from the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (DOE) to EPA.

### **3. DOE license process update:**

- The NRC held hearings for three days and considered over 300 contentions for admissibility. On or before May 11, 2009, the decision of admissible contentions will be determined. After May 11, 2009, appeals may be made to the NRC Board. Since there were so many contentions, the judge panel grouped issues of concern together. They discussed whether the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) should be admitted as a party. (Both DOE and NRC are opposing NEI's party status. NEI currently has a lawsuit against the DOE.)
- The primary obstacle to the DOE license application being withdrawn is the fear that there will be many lawsuits.
- The Global Nuclear Energy Program is not funded at this time.

### **4. Member updates:** None.

### **5. Next Meeting Date; Select Agenda Items:** May18, 2009, is the next tentatively scheduled meeting date.