

MEETING NOTES
CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING,
NUCLEAR WASTE DIVISION
YUCCA MOUNTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 21, 2009

There was no quorum.

Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Irene Navis welcomed the attendees (**Exhibit A**).

Members present: Philip Banea (for Maria Rodriguez, RTC) Sharon Beesley, Deana Domingo, Michael Johnson, Caren Levenson, Catherine Lorbeer, Irene Navis, and Holly Woodward.

Members excused: Brok Armantrout, Curtis Brown, Melvin McCallum, Peggy Maze Johnson, Clete Kus, Liane Lee, Maria Rodriguez, Ned Thomas, Daryl Thomé, and Councilman Geno Withelder. **Members absent:** None.

DOE license process update: Although there was no quorum, Irene briefed the Committee on the Yucca Mountain licensing contentions:

- Clark County has ten contentions that were accepted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
- Nevada State, Inyo County, California, and Clark County, Nevada, reached an agreement regarding the volcanism contention, as well as the one on missile program safety and testing at the Nevada Test Site. Clark County will take the lead on the volcanism contention, with the State of Nevada as the second lead. The State has about 200 other contentions moving forward. Inyo County will be the lead on their volcanism contention.
- The Discovery part of the proceedings started the beginning of October 2009. All parties are gearing up for depositions and the exchange of information. Depositions will not be taken until February 2010. The first phase of Discovery will take about a year. Then hearings will be set.
- Clark County has signed a joint prosecution agreement with the State of Nevada and Inyo County. This ensures confidentiality in the sharing of information and legal strategy. The agreement also allows for cost sharing (more cost effective).
- There may be limited funding, as well as restrictions on participation in licensing, for fiscal year 2011. Funding recently approved covers fiscal year 2010, primarily licensing activities. Engineering and transportation are not included in the funding, since Congress directed DOE to focus on the licensing proceeding.
- The Committee was briefed on newspaper articles dated October 21, 2009, referring to questions asked of President Obama. The questions related to the nomination of Bill Magwood, "a pro-Yucca Mountain nuclear industry insider to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," as well as, "how the nation plans to store or dispose of radioactive waste from the Hanford nuclear reservation and the Energy Northwest nuclear power plant." Representative Hastings questioned the disposal of the nuclear wastes from the Hanford nuclear reservation and Energy Northwest nuclear power plant. He also requested that the formation of the Blue Ribbon Panel be open and transparent, with decisions based on science that covers all the nuclear waste intended for Yucca Mountain (**Exhibit B**).
- The official funding for FY2010 Blue Ribbon Panel is just now going into place. The FY2010 appropriation allows \$197M for Yucca Mountain. This funding covers the Affected Units of Local Government on a percentage basis. Funding for the ten counties is just under \$9M. The State of Nevada was awarded around \$5M. Funding also covers outside representation for Nye County, Nevada, as a separate line item. Inyo County, California, is also a separate line item with 7.5% of the overall 8.9% funds. There will be a meeting next week to discuss the funding distribution among the counties.

- The updated *Yucca Mountain License Application Estimated Timeline* was distributed to the Committee (**Exhibit C**). The timeline covers the period from October 1, 2009, through October 30, 2010. The phase of discovery runs from October 1, 2009, to November 30, 2010. The grayed out areas on the back page of the timeline are estimates, since there are no confirmed, set dates. The timeline may change due to the President's budget and the Congressional appropriations process. It will be updated as information becomes available.

Discuss and reach consensus on appropriate key messages during time of program transition:

- Until formal notification is received that Yucca Mountain is over, Clark County will continue its efforts. Meanwhile, the level of information available to the judge panels or the NRC will be maintained. Funding is adequate to accomplish this activity through the coming year.
- Key messages: The Key Messages will be ratified at the first advisory committee meeting with a quorum (**Exhibit D**). Meanwhile, please feel free to use them.

Member updates:

- Outreach Activities: An outreach video with information to increase public knowledge on the NRC licensing process, and the volcanism contention is under development. Also, it contains an interview with Victor Dricks, the NRC's Public Information Officer. The pod casts for the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and the cities of Henderson and Las Vegas, showed a ranking of the top100 broadcasts according to the iTunes directory that measures the hits. The pod casts are available on line at www.accessclarkcounty.com. Contact Erik Muller at 702.455.5185 or emuller@co.clark.nv.us if you would like a copy of the pod cast.
- The interlocal agreements (cities of Henderson, Mesquite, North Las Vegas, and Boulder City; and Moapa Band of Paiutes) were approved by the Board of County Commissioners at the October 20, 2009, meeting.
- There are two handouts that pertain to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board). One handout is the goals and priorities for FY2010-2011; the other is the Board's mission statement (**Exhibit E**).
- The City of Mesquite's welcome back to snowbirds community event went well. Yucca Mountain materials were available, and bright yellow, bottles of water with the City of Mesquite logo were given as prizes for correct answers to questions.
- The updated Clark County Community Survey is now on the Clark County Web site, as well as the Monitoring Program Web site. The survey results continue to show over 70% public opposition toward Yucca Mountain. The survey is available on CD.
- The TV show *Focus Earth* (Discovery Channel), Bob Woodruff host, discussed nuclear power, how it contributes to the environment and nuclear waste, advantages and disadvantages.
- The Moapa Band of Paiutes' August Awareness Night went well. Upcoming events include a Pow Wow, a Halloween party, and a Boy Scout event where Yucca Mountain information is available. In work is a school presentation that deals with the Moapa Band of Paiutes culture and history.
- A Committee member who drives a schoolbus, provides Yucca Mountain information and activity books to children, while taking them home from school. This serves a dual purpose: it keeps the children quiet, and at the same time they are learning about Yucca Mountain.
- Unemployment is so high here in Nevada. Will Yucca Mountain provide any long-term employment to current residents? The DOE EIS addresses employment numbers associated with Yucca Mountain.

- There are no longer any tours of Yucca Mountain being offered by DOE.
- The 2010 calendar shows meetings scheduled every month at this time. But, if there is no need for discussion and/or action, meetings may be held every other month. The November meeting is canceled due to conflict in meetings. The next meeting will be held in January, date to be determined.

No action was taken on any agenda item due to lack of a quorum.