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LAS VEGAS, July 28, 2006 – U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Director Ward Sproat officially opened the new Yucca Mountain information center at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday in Pahrump, Nevada. The Pahrump Information Center has been in operation for about 14 years but recently moved to a more spacious facility, allowing greater visibility and expanded work space for project employees. Pahrump is located about 60 miles from Yucca Mountain.

"The facility at Pahrump represents the Department of Energy's commitment to Nye County, a commitment that recognizes the county as the host community for the Yucca Mountain Project," said Sproat. "I look forward to strengthening our relationship with the people of Nye County based on mutual trust and open communication."

The Pahrump Information Center will serve as a hub for public outreach and educational outreach programs in rural Nevada. DOE operates two other similar facilities throughout the state in an effort to educate Nevada residents about the project. The centers have exhibits and interactive computer programs to explain why and how scientists and engineers are studying Yucca Mountain.

The information centers provide a wide range of educational programs and have staff available for presentations on topics such as mining, radiation, geology, environmental issues, Native American culture, and other general science and technology topics. "Discovery Day" events provide interactive learning experiences for the whole family, and school programs inform students and teachers about scientific and environmental issues.

The centers make available literature and videos describing the science and engineering characteristics of the Yucca Mountain Project.