

# *Appendix E*

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## *Relations with External Parties*

Because of the unprecedented nature of the mission of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Congress designed the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program to be one of the most closely scrutinized in the public arena, subject to exceptionally broad and intensive review, regulation, and oversight. This appendix presents an overview of the formal interactions in which we are engaged.

### **Review, Regulation, and Oversight**

Parties that regulate, formally review, and oversee our Program are identified below, followed by a list of the hearings, briefings, and meetings they held in Fiscal Year 2001 and the topics discussed at each. Appendix F includes a list of selected publications issued by some of these parties in Fiscal Year 2001.

- ***Congress*** – Congress defines our statutory basis, appropriates funds, and monitors our progress. The congressional committees that exercise primary oversight of our work are the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production, and Regulation; the House Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power; and the Energy and Water Development Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.
- ***General Accounting Office (GAO)*** – The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) directs GAO to conduct an annual audit of OCRWM. GAO also reviews and reports on Program activities in response to specific congressional inquiries and requests.
- ***Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)*** – NRC exercises a statutory role under the NWPA. It implements regulatory standards for the protection of the public and the environment from radioactive releases associated with storage and disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. It is responsible for certifying and licensing the components of the radioactive waste management system, including the repository, facilities for storing spent nuclear fuel, and transportation casks. NRC mandates quality assurance requirements and content requirements for license applications.

We also provide information to NRC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, which reviews the work of NRC staff and makes recommendations to NRC regarding the adequacy of that work.

- **Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB)** – The NWTRB exercises a statutory and independent role established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987. It evaluates the technical and scientific validity of activities related to site characterization and the packaging and transportation of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. The NWTRB is required to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy at least twice a year. The NWTRB’s meetings provide the public with an opportunity to observe and comment on technical exchanges between the NWTRB, Program and contractor staff, and other scientists.
- **National Academy of Sciences (NAS)** – The NAS Board on Radioactive Waste Management reviews our Program on an as-requested basis, offering technical expert review and advice on Program issues.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – The Energy Policy Act of 1992 directs the EPA to promulgate a site-specific radiation protection standard for the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at the Yucca Mountain site.
- **Department of Transportation (DOT)** – DOT regulates transportation of highly radioactive materials, including spent nuclear fuel. Its regulations govern handling of shipping containers, labeling of containers and placarding of transport vehicles for identification purposes, driver training and certification, and highway routing.
- **State of Nevada and affected units of local government** – Under the NWPA, the State of Nevada and Nye County, the county within which the Yucca Mountain site is located, are entitled to exercise oversight of site characterization activities and to receive financial assistance for this purpose. Pursuant to the Amendments Act of 1987, the Secretary of Energy designated nine counties contiguous to Nye County (including Inyo County in California) as affected units of local government and, therefore, eligible to receive Federal financial assistance to review and monitor site characterization activities.

The Amendments Act also gave the State and Nye County the right to designate onsite representatives to oversee site characterization and to receive funding for associated “reasonable expenses.” The State has never designated such a representative; Nye County has.

In Fiscal Year 2001, by congressional direction, \$2.5 million was provided to support the State’s oversight functions and \$6 million was designated for affected units of local government.

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**Fiscal Year 2001 Congressional Testimony  
and Meetings with Regulators and Oversight Bodies**

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**Joint congressional briefings/hearings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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None

**U.S. Senate**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Committee/Subcommittee</b>	<b>Witness(es)</b>
May 15, 2001	Appropriations/Energy and Water Development	Lake Barrett, Acting Director, OCRWM
January 18, 2001	Energy and Natural Resources	Secretary Abraham

**U.S. House of Representatives**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Committee/Subcommittee</b>	<b>Witness(es)</b>
May 9, 2001	Appropriations/Energy and Water Development	Lake Barrett, Acting Director, OCRWM

**NRC meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 18-19, 2001	DOE/NRC Repository Operating Temperatures
September 7, 2001	Quarterly Management Meeting
September 6, 2001	Quarterly Quality Assurance Meeting
August 28-30, 2001	129 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
August 6-10, 2001	DOE/NRC Total System Performance Assessment
August 5-6, 2001	Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel
July 24, 2001	Preclosure Issues
July 20, 2001	NRC Public Meeting

July 17-19, 2001	128 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
July 16, 2001	Naval Fuel Safety Evaluation Meeting
June 21-22, 2001	Igneous Activity
June 19-21, 2001	127 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
June 13, 2001	Quarterly Management Meeting
June 12, 2001	Quarterly Quality Assurance Meeting
June 4-5, 2001	Naval Fuel Safety Evaluation Meeting
May 24, 2001	NRC Licensing Workshop
May 22-23, 2001	NRC Public Hearing Workshop
May 18, 2001	Igneous Activity Appendix 7
May 15-17, 2001	126 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
May 15-17, 2001	Features, Events, and Processes
May 10, 2001	Site Recommendation Performance Assessment
April 19, 2001	NRC Tour of Nye County Wells
April 18, 2001	Quarterly Management Meeting
April 17, 2001	Quarterly Quality Assurance Meeting
March 21-23, 2001	125 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
March 1, 2001	NRC Regulatory Conference Panel Discussion
February 23, 2001	NRC Conference
February 6-8, 2001	Repository Design Thermal and Mechanical Effects
January 31, 2001	Data Qualification
January 16-18, 2001	124 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
January 8-12, 2001	Evolution of Near Field Environmental/Thermal Effects on Flow
December 20, 2000	Quarterly Management Meeting
December 19, 2000	Quarterly Quality Assurance Meeting
December 13, 2000	NRC/OCRWM Program Briefing
December 5-7, 2000	Radionuclide Transport
November 28-30, 2000	123 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2002	Unsaturated Zone and Saturated Zone Under Isothermal Conditions
October 23-25, 2000	Criticality
October 17-19, 2000	122 <sup>nd</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
October 11-13, 2000	Structural Deformation and Seismicity Key Technical Issue Technical Exchange

**NAS**

**National Research Council: Board on Radioactive Waste Management (BRWM)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
August 17, 2001	NAS Staging Meeting
August 7, 2001	NAS Meeting
June 29, 2001	BRWM Meeting on Repository Staging
June 27, 2001	BRWM Panel Meeting
December 14, 2000	BRWM Winter Meeting

**State and Local Governments**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
April 11, 2001	Affected Units of Government meeting
May 4, 2001	County representatives meeting in Las Vegas

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