



United States Department of Energy

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The Department of Energy seeks public comments on proposed policy to provide training assistance to State and Tribal governments

Las Vegas, NV. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking public comments on a proposed policy to provide technical and financial assistance to States and Indian Tribes to train public safety officials along routes over which DOE will transport spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste to a repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The training will cover both safe routine transportation and emergency response procedures. Proposed planning grant levels will not exceed \$200,000 annually and training grants will not exceed \$100,000 annually and both will be subject to congressional appropriations. The eligible states and tribes are expected to receive these funds up to four years prior to actual waste transportation shipments and each year thereafter.

DOE has published its request for public comments in the *Federal Register*. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written or electronic comments by October 22, 2007.

“Preparations for the safe transportation of waste are an important step towards opening Yucca Mountain as the nation’s first permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste,” said Gary Lanthrum, Director of the Office of Logistics Management for the Yucca Mountain Project. “DOE has a long history of safely shipping transuranic and other wastes for disposal and this training will build on these procedures to prepare safety officials in these jurisdictions.”

Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) requires DOE to provide funds and technical assistance to train fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and other emergency responders and public safety officials in preparation for repository shipments through their jurisdictions. The grant program will focus on the specific needs posed by shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Yucca Mountain was approved by Congress and the President as the site for the nation’s first spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste repository in 2002. In March 2007 DOE submitted legislation to Congress to enhance the nation’s ability to manage and dispose of commercial spent nuclear fuel and Defense high-level radioactive waste. The Department’s license application for authorization to construct the repository is scheduled to be submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, June 30, 2008.

Written comments should be directed to Ms. Corinne Macaluso, U.S. Department of Energy, c/o Patricia Temple, Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, 955 N. L’Enfant Plaza, S.W., Suite 8000, Washington, D.C. 20024. The proposed policy and electronic comment forms are also available at <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov>.

For more information on DOE's Yucca Mountain Project, access www.ocrwm.doe.gov.

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