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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yucca Mountain Documents Made Available for Licensing Proceeding

1.2 Million Documents, Some 5.6 Million Pages, Available Via The Internet

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2004 -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today certified to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the public availability through the Internet of approximately 1.2 million documents totaling some 5.6 million pages regarding Yucca Mountain. The documents are available on the Department's website, and will be included in the NRC's Licensing Support Network (LSN). This certification is in anticipation of DOE's submitting a license application for Yucca Mountain to the NRC by December of this year. Following submittal of the license application, the Commission will conduct a full and public adjudicatory process on the license application, for which Federal law contemplates a three- to four-year time period.

DOE has previously released a substantial number of scientific documents related to Yucca Mountain, including the Yucca Mountain Science and Engineering Report, Site Suitability Evaluation, and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Many of the 1.2 million documents served as background material for those reports. The documents represent the scientific studies, evaluations, and opinions of more than 20 years of scientific study of Yucca Mountain. Each individual document represents only a piece of the information in the development of the license application. All information must be considered in context and as part of the entire set of documents for any user to draw substantive conclusions about the scientific information in the license application. Selective use of individual documents or portions of documents by any user, including DOE, outside the context provided by other relevant documents is likely to result in inappropriate, faulty, or misleading conclusions.

If the 5.6 million pages searchable on the Internet were stacked one on top of the other, the stack would reach a height of approximately 1,800 feet – some 3 times the height of the Washington Monument. Laid end-to-end, these 5.6 million pages would extend approximately 1,000 miles or almost one-half the distance from Washington, D.C. to Las Vegas, NV.

The DOE will be providing additional documents to the LSN as an ongoing activity. Other participants in the licensing proceeding are also required to submit documents to the LSN.

DOE's documents may be accessed today at <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov>, and will be available through the NRC's LSN web site at <http://www.lsnnet.gov>. Persons without access to Internet connections may use the public access computers at the Las Vegas Yucca Mountain Information Center - 4101B Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV; at the public reading room (1E-190), U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.; or at most libraries worldwide.