

# *Appendix E*

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## *Relations with External Parties*

Because of the unprecedented nature of OCRWM's mission, Congress designed the Civilian High-Level 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 1999 and the topics discussed at each. Appendix F includes a list of selected publications issued by some of these parties in Fiscal Year 1999.

- ***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 Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Power; and the Energy and Water Development Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.
- ***General Accounting Office*** – Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the General Accounting Office is authorized to audit our Program. It also reviews and reports on Program activities in response to specific congressional inquiries and requests.
- ***Nuclear Regulatory Commission*** – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) exercises a statutory role under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. It defines 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 waste management system, including the repository, facilities for storing spent nuclear fuel, and transportation casks. NRC also mandates quality assurance requirements and content requirements for license applications.

We engage in prelicensing consultations with NRC's Division of High-Level Waste and its Spent Fuel Projects Office. The former interacts frequently with our Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office on matters related to site characterization and the repository. The latter has interacted with our Waste Acceptance, Storage, and Transportation Project on non-site-specific issues associated with interim storage. Both offices interact with our Office of Program Management and Administration.

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

- ***Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board*** – The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board exercises a statutory and independent role established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987. It must evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities related to site characterization and to the packaging and transportation of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.  
The Board is required to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy at least twice a year.  
The Board's meetings provide the public with an opportunity to observe and comment on technical exchanges between the Board, Program and contractor staff, and other scientists.
- ***National Academy of Sciences*** – The National Academy of Sciences' 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*** – The Energy Policy Act of 1992 directs the Environmental Protection Agency 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. The proposed rule was released for public comment in August 1999.
- ***Department of Transportation*** – The Department of Transportation 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 Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, 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 on-site 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 1999, by congressional direction, \$250,000 was provided to support the State's oversight functions, and \$5.54 million was designated for affected units of local government.

*Fiscal Year 1999 Congressional Testimony  
and Meetings with Regulators and Oversight Bodies*

**Congressional Hearings**

**Senate**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Committee/Subcommittee</b>	<b>Witness(es)</b>
September 15, 1999	Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Nominee for OCRWM Director, Dr. Ivan Itkin
March 24, 1999	Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Acting OCRWM Director, Lake H. Barrett; NRC Chairman, Shirley Jackson
February 25, 1999	Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Secretary Bill Richardson

**House of Representatives**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Committee/Subcommittee</b>	<b>Witness(es)</b>
March 16, 1999	Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development	Acting OCRWM Director, Lake H. Barrett
March 12, 1999	Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power	Secretary Bill Richardson
February 24, 1999	Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power	Under Secretary Ernest Moniz
February 10, 1999	Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power	Acting OCRWM Director, Lake H. Barrett; NRC Chairman, Shirley Jackson; NWTRB Chairman, Jared Cohon; EPA Assistant Administrator for Air & Radiation, Robert Perciasepe; DOJ Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Stuart Schiffer

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 14-15, 1999	112 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; plans for Yucca Mountain DEIS review; dose modeling; plans for proposed Nevada public outreach sessions; near-field chemistry considerations; strategic planning activities within Division of Waste Management
August 11, 1999	DOE/NRC Management/Quality Assurance Meeting
July 19-21, 1999	111 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; plans for improving risk communications ability for public interactions; proposed Nevada public outreach meetings; repository design; near-field chemistry considerations; site recommendation design; license application design selection; revised repository design; NRC licensee casework; transportation studies; DOE presentation on scope of DEIS and planned review process
June 28-30, 1999	110 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; Yucca Mountain review plan; risk informing the planning and prioritizing process; ACNW and NRC review capabilities; evaluating and explaining contributions to risk; risk insights from performance assessment; technical basis for and uncertainties in probability; repository design and thermal-mechanical effects; thermal effects on flow; evolution of near-field environment; container life and source term; DEIS review guidance; defense-in-depth
June 22, 1999	DOE/NRC Quarterly Technical Meeting
June 15, 1999	DOE/NRC Spent Nuclear Fuel Meeting
June 3, 1999	DOE/NRC Technical Exchange on the 3-dimensional geologic framework model
May 25, 1999	DOE/NRC Technical Exchange on total system performance assessment
May 11-13, 1999	109 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; working group on risk-informed regulation; Yucca Mountain review plan; risk communication; preparation of ACNW reports on low levels of ionizing radiation, repository design, waste-related research and technical assistance
April 22, 1999	DOE/NRC Management/Quality Assurance Meeting
March 31, 1999	DOE/NRC Technical Exchange Videoconference; level of detail in license application; design basis events
March 23-25, 1999	108 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; low levels of ionizing radiation: remarks, presentations, panel discussion; clearance rule; ACNW reports on: the viability assessment, ACNW self-assessment, report on NRC's waste-related research, repository design, and low levels of ionizing radiation
March 16-17, 1999	107 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting, briefing to Commission

March 16-17, 1999	Commission briefing on status of viability assessment from ACNW, NRC staff, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, State of Nevada, and Indian Tribes
February 23-25, 1999	106 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; DOE's presentation on license application design selection; discussion with NRC Director of the Division of Waste Management's Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards on developments at Yucca Mountain, rules and guidance under development, human resources; waste related research at the NRC; DOE presentation on: future course of Yucca Mountain Project, license application plan, waste package corrosion, seepage in drifts, unsaturated zone flow and transport; NRC's programmatic and technical issues with viability assessment; Nuclear Energy Institute's presentation of 1999 high-level waste initiatives
February 8, 1999	OCRWM Acting Director's briefing to NRC Commissioners
December 15-16, 1998	105 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; developments at Yucca Mountain; rules and guidance under development; potential topics for future ACNW reports; repository safety strategy; total system performance assessment overview; comparative analyses; waste package degradation; prioritization of technical work needed to complete post-closure safety case; post-closure and defense-in-depth considerations
December 9, 1998	DOE/NRC Management/Quality Assurance Meeting
October 22, 1998	DOE/Affected Units of Local Government videoconference
October 20-21, 1998	104 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting; Yucca Mountain field trip; ACNW strategic plan; effectiveness of ACNW; lessons learned on ACNW effectiveness; review of ACNW operational processes; role of ACNW in upcoming year; topics of regulatory interest to Nevada; Nye County drilling program

**Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board: Full Board**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 14-15, 1999	Perspectives on Program and Yucca Mountain Project; proposed environmental standard for repository; repository safety strategy: implementation, performance assessment, process model reports and analysis model reports, testing and analysis for site recommendation, unsaturated zone model validation, and waste package degradation model validation; update on scientific and technical investigations
June 29-30, 1999	Repository design and the scientific program; license application design selection, process and uncertainties; enhanced design alternatives: assumptions, descriptions, evaluation process, future plans; near-field environment and coupled processes; effects of uncertainty; subsurface design; thermal testing; drift scale test; materials

and performance modeling; corrosion tests and process modeling; Total System Performance Assessment modeling plans; geochemistry and hydrology; Nye County drilling program; chlorine-36 and chloride data to determine hydrologic pathways; unsaturated zone transport test at Busted Butte

January 26-27, 1999

*Viability Assessment of a Repository at Yucca Mountain*; overview of viability assessment; site characteristics; preliminary design concept for repository and waste package; total system performance assessment; license application plan and costs; costs to construct and operate repository; alternative repository designs; report on tunnel stability workshop; site investigation; early warning drilling program; 10 CFR Part 63

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### **National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council: Board on Radioactive Waste Management**

**Date**

**Topic**

May 27-28, 1999

Disposition of high-level radioactive waste through geological isolation development – current status and technical and policy challenges

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### **Accelerator Transmutation of Waste (ATW) Technology Roadmapping Team**

**Date**

**Topic**

July 21-22, 1999

Steering committee meetings in Albuquerque on ATW overview report; conclusions paper; recommendation paper; requirements table; costs

July 15-16, 1999

International ATW workshop of international and domestic experts on ATW system scenarios for U.S. roadmap; separation technology and waste forms; target/blanket technology and ATW fuel; technical approach of the ATW roadmap; perspectives on the European multilateral accelerator driven sub-critical system; ATW world experts meeting; perspectives of the ADNA Corporation, the French, Japanese, Italians, Russians and Swedes on U.S. ATW program

May 6, 1999

Steering committee teleconference on performance assessment assumptions; total system life-cycle cost process; philosophy for the ATW report to Congress; planning for July 21-22 meeting

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April 21, 1999	Steering committee teleconference on status of system scenarios/integration; accelerator technology; target/blanket technology technical working groups
February 19, 1999	Steering committee meeting in Washington, DC, on committee charter; focus for ATW technology roadmapping; identification of ATW technical working groups and group leads
February 17-18, 1999	International ATW workshop of international and domestic experts; status of ATW technologies in international programs; perspectives of ADNA-HYTEC, MINATOM, Sweden, JAERI, Russian Academy of Sciences, and the French on the status of the ATW technology; separation issues; programs in Italy; technology options; HYTEC engineering capabilities
February 5, 1999	Steering committee teleconference on committee responsibilities; presentation by Under Secretary Moniz; itinerary for February 19 meeting

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