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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Allen Benson, (702) 794-1322

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U.S. Department of Energy Certifies Its Document Collection for Yucca Mountain License Application

Las Vegas, NV – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today certified its document collection for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) electronic Licensing Support Network (LSN), further advancing the Yucca Mountain repository licensing process. DOE has made electronically available on the NRC LSN over 3.5 million documents, estimated to exceed 30 million pages. DOE is required to certify its LSN document collection prior to submitting its license application to the NRC for authorization to construct the Yucca Mountain repository.

"Yucca Mountain is one of the most studied pieces of real estate in the world," Edward F. Sproat, III, Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, said. "Through the NRC's electronic network, the public can view scientific data, geologic analyses, and other documents related to DOE's license application for the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste repository."

The LSN was established by the NRC to support the licensing proceeding for the Yucca Mountain repository. The LSN is a web-based information system that enables the public to review documentary materials related to DOE's license application for the nation's first spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste repository, to be located at Yucca Mountain, in Nye County, Nevada. DOE plans to submit its license application by June 30, 2008 and will continue to add documentary material to its LSN document collection.

Today's certification represents a significant milestone on the path to DOE's submittal of a high-quality license application to the NRC. In March, DOE submitted legislation to Congress to enhance the nation's ability to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. In June, DOE announced the final performance requirements for canisters that will minimize the need for repetitive handling of commercial spent nuclear fuel by using the same canister from the time it leaves a nuclear power plant to its disposal in Yucca Mountain. This month DOE also issued for public comment draft National Environmental Policy Act documents relating to the Yucca Mountain Project.

The NRC's Licensing Support Network is available at <http://www.lsnnet.gov>. Persons without access to the internet may use public access computers at the following locations: DOE public

reading room (1E-190), U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.; Pahrump Yucca Mountain Information Center, 2341 Postal Dr., Pahrump, NV 89048; and most community libraries, colleges and universities worldwide.

Yucca Mountain was approved by the Congress and President Bush as the site for the nation's first permanent spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste geologic repository in 2002. For more information on DOE's Yucca Mountain Project, visit www.ocrwm.doe.gov

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