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**YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT OFFICE STATEMENT ON NEVADA
EARTHQUAKE REPORT**

Las Vegas, NV - The following statement was released by the Yucca Mountain Project Office today following news reports of an earthquake in the vicinity of Yucca Mountain:

There was not an earthquake at Yucca Mountain today. There was a "light" earthquake located at Little Skull Mountain, Nevada, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey early this morning. According to the USGS, the quake's epicenter was located approximately 15 miles to the east of Yucca Mountain. This is a known and studied geologic zone.

There was no damage to any Yucca Mountain Project facilities, structures or the underground Exploratory Studies Facilities. And, the public tour of Yucca Mountain scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 15th will occur.

The 24 years of scientific studies at Yucca Mountain have taken an exhaustive look at the possibility of earthquakes. In fact, Yucca Mountain scientists have used earthquakes greater in magnitude than this morning's quake to study and design a nuclear waste repository. Yucca Mountain repository designs could withstand a local earthquake with 1,000 times more energy than the one reported this morning and a regional earthquake with 30,000 times more energy than the one reported this morning.

All the scientific studies show that an underground repository at Yucca Mountain would perform safely in accordance with regulatory standards, including during an earthquake.

In 1992, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred in the same vicinity. The energy released by that earthquake was approximately 30 times greater than this morning's earthquake; even so, the 1992 earthquake did not even dislodge boulders located on the slopes of Yucca Mountain.

If felt, the vibrations of an earthquake like the one reported this morning are similar to those felt when a truck passes.

For more information about the Yucca Mountain Project, sign on to www.ymp.gov.

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