



U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management



## Collaboration with External Stakeholders

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Presented to:  
**Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group**

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# Overview of Presentation

- **Why is OCRWM involving stakeholders in the transportation planning effort?**
- **What process is OCRWM using?**
- **Who is involved?**
- **What issues are of concern?**
- **Focus on Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act**



# Importance of Stakeholder Collaboration

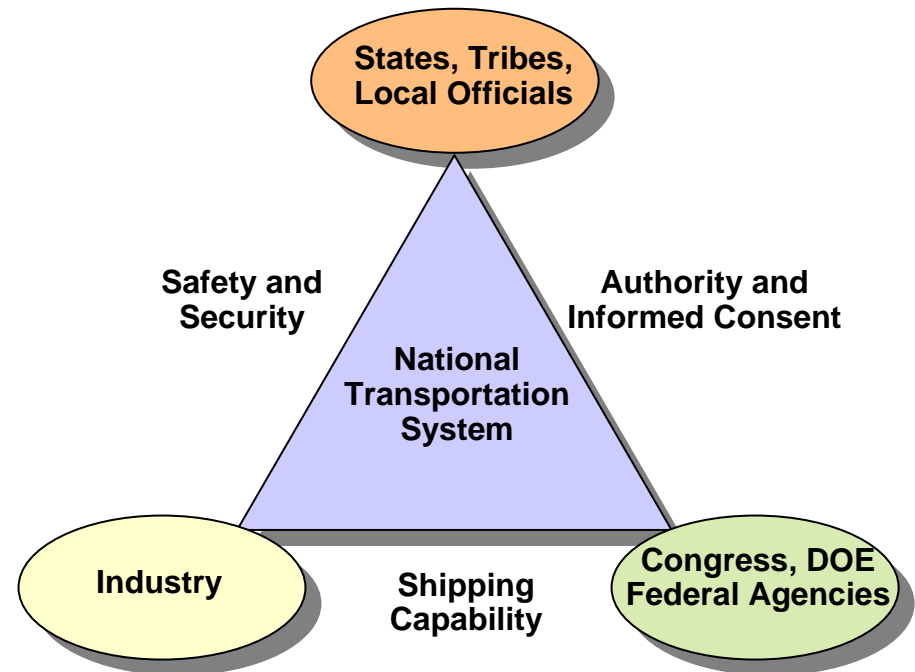
- **The Department of Energy's (DOE) approach to developing the transportation system is to collaborate with stakeholders from the planning phase of the project through execution of shipments**
- **OCRWM, responsible for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW) to the repository, captures the collaborative approach in:**
  - ***Strategic Plan for the Safe Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste to Yucca Mountain: A Guide to Stakeholder Interaction***



# Importance of Stakeholder Collaboration

(continued)

- **As the Office of Logistics Management (OLM) moves through the continuum of planning, the planning partners (stakeholders) become partners in operations**
- **The OLM Institutional staff provides the principal point-of-contact between stakeholders and OLM for implementing the collaborative process**



# Regional Planning Approach

- **OLM is implementing its detailed planning activities through a regional process anchored by four State Regional Groups (SRGs):**
  - **Council of State Governments' (CSG) Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force**
  - **CSG's Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee**
  - **Southern States Energy Board's Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee**
  - **Western Interstate Energy Board's High-Level Waste Committee**



# Transportation External Coordination (TEC) Working Group

- **OCRWM co-chairs TEC with DOE's Environmental Management Program**
- **TEC provides an opportunity for broad-based input and information exchange from organizations representing:**
  - **Utility and transportation industries**
  - **State, tribal, and local governments**
  - **Police, fire, and emergency management professional organizations**
  - **Labor unions**



# TEC Working Group

(continued)

- **TEC conducts research and provides its findings to DOE through semi-annual meetings**
- **Work is accomplished through subject-specific topic group sessions that enable a small number of participants to focus intensively on key issues**
- **Four active topic groups currently address:**
  - **Tribal concerns**
  - **Routing activities**
  - **Rail activities**
  - **Security issues**
- **TEC Web: <http://www.tecworkinggroup.org>**



# OCRWM and Tribal Government Collaborative Approach

- **Transportation planning efforts involve:**
  - **Recognition of tribal sovereignty**
  - **Interaction with tribes on a government-to-government basis**
  - **Directly funding tribes for emergency response and training under Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), as amended**
  - **Compliance with DOE's *American Indian & Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy* during consultation with tribal governments along potential transportation routes**
  - **Proactively engaging tribes and facilitating discussions**



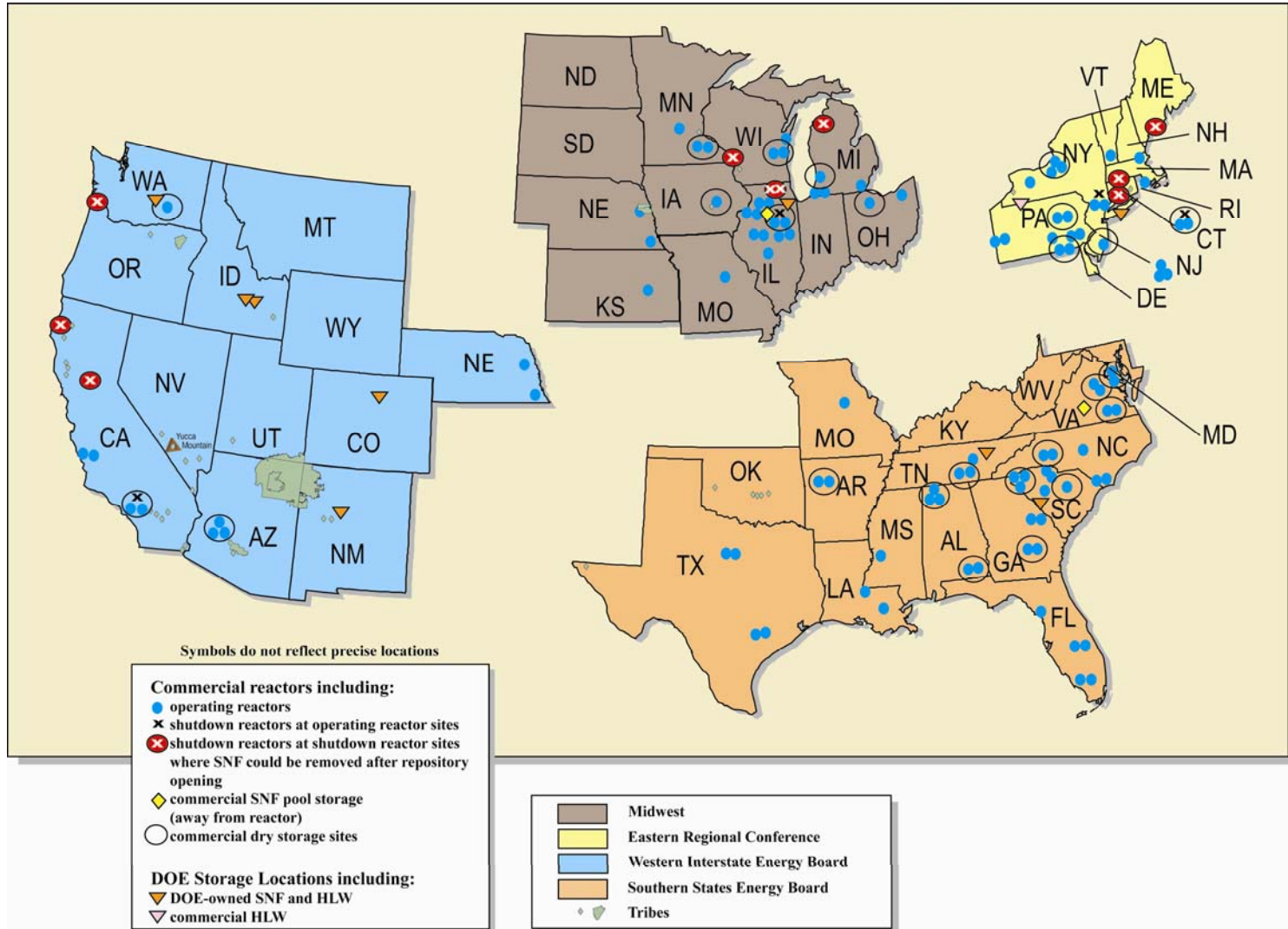


# OLM's Stakeholders

- **OLM is committed to working with:**
  - **States and Tribes**
  - **Emergency Responders**
  - **Transportation Industry**
  - **Other Federal Agencies**
  - **Utilities**
  - **Local Government**
  - **Special Interest Groups**
  - **Other Interested Parties**

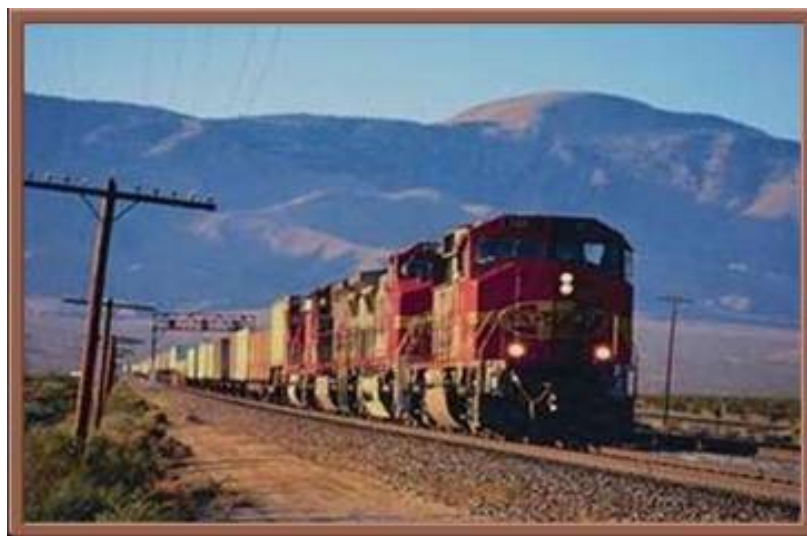


# SRGs, Reservations, and Reactor/DOE Site Locations



# Topics of Interest to Stakeholders

- **Transportation topics of interest to stakeholders:**
  - **Transportation routing**
  - **Emergency response planning and training**
  - **Safeguards and security**
  - **Tribal interactions**
  - **Operational practices**
  - **Rail activities**



# Section 180(c)

- **Section 180(c) of the NWPA requires DOE to provide funding and technical assistance to states and tribes for training public safety officials for safe routine transportation and emergency preparedness**
  - **Covers all modes of transport**
  - **Funding will come from the Nuclear Waste Fund**



# Background on Section 180(c)

- DOE issued a *Federal Register* Notice of Proposed Section 180(c) Policy in 1998
- A renewed effort to update Section 180(c) Policy began in 2004
  - DOE reviewed changes in emergency preparedness and funding since 1998
  - An updated *Federal Register* Notice on the Revised Policy is expected any day



# Section 180(c) TEC Topic Group

- **OCRWM formed a Section 180(c) Topic Group in 2004**
- **About 30 TEC member organizations volunteered for the Topic Group, including:**
  - **Representatives of four State Regional Groups**
  - **Oneida Nation**
  - **Umatilla Tribe**
  - **International Association of Emergency Managers**
  - **International Association of Fire Chiefs**
  - **Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association**



# The Collaboration: Organization of the Topic Group

- **Reaching consensus was desirable but not required**
- **An issue paper was written for each topic**
  - **Divergent views were described for OCRWM management.**
- **Smaller groups sometimes worked independently and brought recommendations back to full topic group**



# The Collaboration: Outcomes

- **Outcome #1**
  - Consensus was reached on 8 of 11 issues
- **Outcome #2**
  - Topic Group now serves as a model of cooperative planning
- **Outcome #3**
  - Issue papers served as basis for OCRWM staff to write the *Federal Register* Notice and as a basis for explaining recommendations to management





# Keys to Success

- **Direct interaction between OCRWM staff and the stakeholders**
  - **Results reflect input of stakeholders**
  - **Reflects OCRWM's value of stakeholder input**
  - **Trust is built among participants**



# Keys to Success

- **Divergent opinions led to greater understanding**
  - **Even when agreement could not be reached, the dissenting opinions were better understood by the group and more fully described for OCRWM management**
  - **Participants had to better defend their positions, which led to more defensible decisions**
    - ◆ **Funding allocation method**



# Keys to Success

- **Participants had broad range of experience that covered all aspects of the Section 180(c) program:**
  - **State, local, tribal, and Federal grant programs**
  - **Emergency response and normal transportation conditions from State, local, tribal, and Federal perspectives**
  - **Rail and highway shipments of radioactive materials**
  - **Training programs from State, local, tribal, and Federal perspectives**
  - **Public communications experience**
  - **Knowledge of Federal financial assistance regulations**



# Keys to Success

- **OCRWM's commitment to the activity**
  - **Effort took 17 months from start to finish – considerably shorter than process from mid-1990s**
  - **Staff was committed to working cooperatively and meeting the schedule**
  - **Management supported staff on schedule and commitment of resources**



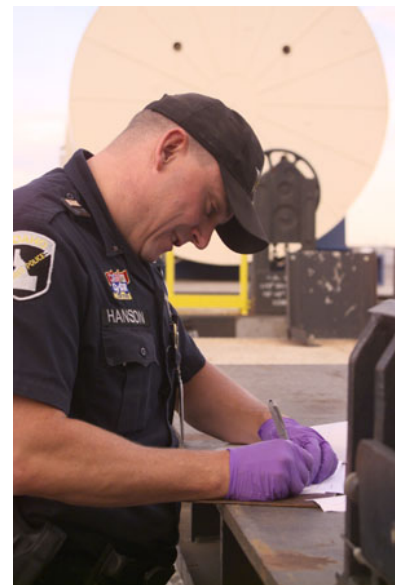
# Section 180(c) Topic Group: Conclusion

- **The process followed by this Topic Group can be a model for OCRWM and DOE**
- **Complex transportation decisions can be made in a timely and collaborative fashion**
- **Decisions made in this fashion can be high-quality and defensible**



# Future Stakeholder Involvement

- **Operational readiness**
  - Pilot project
  - Readiness reviews
- **Campaign planning**
- **Emergency preparedness**
  - 180(c) pilot project



# Conclusions

- **The path toward developing a safe, secure, efficient transportation system of shipments of SNF and HLW to Yucca Mountain will require participation of many interested parties**
- **Although the process is just beginning, the collaborative approach we have established will provide the framework for addressing stakeholder priorities and ensuring coordination among all of the parties**
- **The relationships established with stakeholders during the planning phase will be critical to the successful implementation of operational activities**

