

What's Wrong with Yucca Mt.

1. *Yucca Mt. was politically selected, not scientifically characterized*

- The 1982 High-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act called for the scientific characterization of at least eight (8) sites to determine the most suitable site for permanent, deep-geologic disposal of high-level radioactive waste (HLRW).
- By 1987, close political races in states with potential sites eliminated all but the Yucca Mt. site from consideration.
- In the 1987 Amendments to the Act Congress *explicitly prohibited* DOE from examining other potentially suitable sites, and *designated* Yucca Mt. to serve as the nation's dump, *prior* to completion of scientific site characterization. That is not how science is done.
- Site performance and radiation protection standards were weakened twice during characterization to prevent Yucca Mt. from being automatically disqualified for failure to meet site performance requirements.

2. *Yucca Mt. is geologically flawed, designed to fail*

- It is within a geologically active region with evidence of historic volcanism, high oxidizing soils, and high moisture content.
- According to Alison Macfarlane, professional geologist and former Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairwoman, Yucca Mt. fails two of four international IAEA siting criteria for the safe isolation of HLRW.
- The finding of chlorine-36 – a product of nuclear weapons testing -- inside of Yucca Mt. during previous site investigation proves that pathways exist for water -- and therefore radionuclides from the wastes -- to go in and out of the Mountain.

3. *Yucca Mt. is locally opposed*

- The majority of Nevadans oppose the dump.
- The Western Shoshone, on whose land Yucca Mt resides by treaty, oppose the dump.
- Nevadans are not "NIMBYs"; they never received any benefit from commercial nuclear power, yet are now expected to take all of the risks from the HLRW. People from the states with nuclear reactors are the *real* NIMBYs.
- The State of Nevada has exercised its legal right and denied water rights to the DOE to construct the facility.
- The State of Nevada has amassed over 200 legal contentions against the DOE's application and characterization of the site, and is prepared to go to court over them.
- Sec'y. of Air Force concerned Yucca "would impact 'mission-critical systems evaluations' and 'air combat training'" at adjacent Nevada Test and Training Range – a national security concern.

4. *Costly restart for a site destined to fail*

- \$9+ billion failure already.
- Trump Administration allocates \$120 million to begin licensing process anew.
- Realistic annual cost estimates for re-start are within the \$2-3 Billion range.

Ver. 9/20/17