



YUCCA MOUNTAIN MONITOR

COUNTY of INYO

YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY ASSESSMENT OFFICE UPDATE

We are happy to announce the revival of our quarterly newsletter, the **YUCCA MOUNTAIN MONITOR**, produced by Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office staff.

In a July 2006 announcement, DOE posted an aggressive schedule in anticipation of submitting a License Application by June 30, 2008. This schedule includes a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Rail Environmental Impact Statement. The schedule calls for receipt of nuclear waste shipments in March 2017. (see page 3 for schedule)

Recent changes in the House and Senate do not bode well for DOE to adhere to the proposed schedule.

Inyo County Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office (YMRAO) anticipates providing regular information to the public via our Web Page, Bishop office, and the Yucca Mountain Monitor.

We will rely heavily on feedback from Inyo County residents as to issues and content. Contact information is on the back page of this publication. **Those wishing to receive this publication via email are invited to submit an email request to: inyoyucca@qnet.com.**

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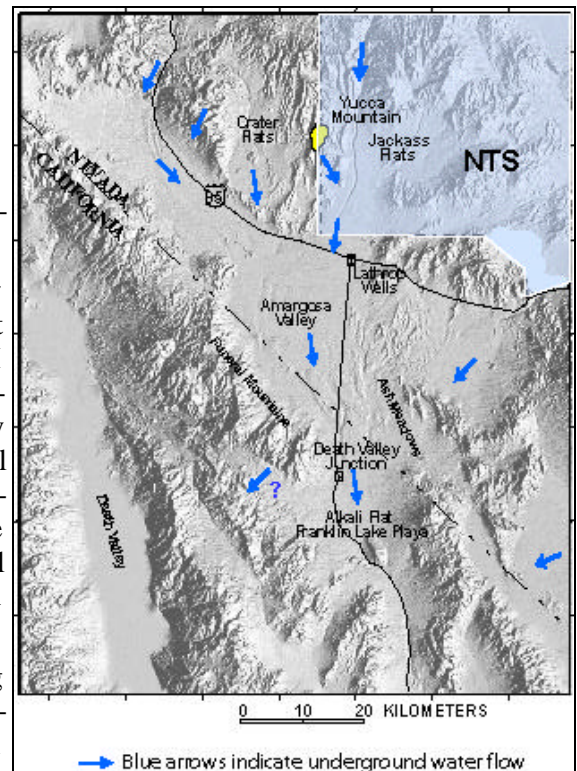
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HYDROLOGY UPDATE

Final reports from Inyo County's 3-year Death Valley Regional Ground Water Monitoring Program Cooperative Agreement (DE-FC08-02RW12162) are on the YMRAO Web Page.

On June 9, 2006, Inyo County received the 5-year Death Valley Lower Carbonate Aquifer Monitoring Program Cooperative Agreement (DE-FC28-06RW12368). Drilling equipment was deployed to the BLM #2 Site located near the Funeral Mountains in eastern Inyo County. During the first drilling season for this cooperative agreement, Inyo County will complete deep wells BLM #2 and BLM #1. BLM #4, a shallow well within the footprint of BLM #1, will also be included in this drilling season's plans. This research is being conducted in cooperation with the Department of Energy, National Park Service, United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior and various Inyo County Offices and results will be posted on the YMRAO Web Page when available.

The purpose of the County's drilling and ground water monitoring program is to analyze the connection between the Lower Carbonate Aquifer, underlying Yucca Mountain, and groundwater resources in Death Valley National Park. If a connection between the two is established, groundwater in Southeast Inyo County may be threatened due to escaping radionuclides from waste packages emplaced in the repository. (Continued...page 3)



TRANSPORTATION

DOE remains committed to a rail campaign for High Level Waste (HLW) shipments to the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain. There are two rail routes under consideration.

DOE had earlier designated the Caliente Corridor as its preferred rail alternative (estimated construction at over \$2 Billion).

DOE is now considering the Mina Route (estimated at \$1.6 Billion). Both proposals are proving to be more costly than originally estimated. The revival of the Mina Route is of high concern to the State of California due to possible impacts rail routing would have throughout the state.

The high cost estimates for the proposed rail campaign makes an increased argument for truck shipment. When questioned, the DOE has remained committed to the rail campaign. If not Caliente or Mina, other routes will be revisited.

Inyo County's concerns regarding the use of CA127 between I-15 and NV373 for high level waste shipments by truck continue to be a primary issue. With 24 shipments of Low Level Waste (LLW) (April—June 2006) and 13 shipments of LLW (July—September 2006), this is a proven viable route which may be considered for HLW shipments by truck to the proposed repository. With the high cost of building a rail route, the trucking industry is showing greater interest in proposed shipping of nuclear waste.

Inyo County contracted with Radioactive Waste Management Associates to produce a transportation assessment. The results of this study are posted on the Yucca Mountain WEB PAGE.

However, there has been no formal designation by the DOE for the use of CA 127 in the event that shipments by truck become the preferable method of transporting HLW to Yucca Mountain.

Studies conducted by Radioactive Waste Management Associates and the California Department of Transportation have concluded that CA 127 is inadequate to transport HLW, with legal weight or heavy-haul trucks.



GIS UPDATE

The Yucca Mountain GIS Program.

The GIS program has enabled a link to interactive mapping on our WEB PAGE. Please visit our site and try this service.

HYDROLOGY UPDATE

(cont.:)

The wells will be logged to characterize the lithology and pump tested to determine hydraulic properties. Water samples will be collected and analyzed for dissolved concentrations of major cations and anions and the isotopic ratios of the elements strontium, uranium, oxygen and hydrogen. Samples will be analyzed for Carbon 14 in an effort to determine the age of the water. The results of the geochemical analyses will be compared to 1) the groundwater geochemistry of water from springs and wells at and around Yucca Mountain, and 2) wells and springs in Death Valley National Park. Water levels in the wells will be monitored for a two-year period to evaluate the hydrology of the Lower Carbonate Aquifer. In addition, a comprehensive groundwater and geochemical database of the Death Valley Region will be compiled.

Fiscal News

Federal FY 2006 Funding has been delayed due to the Continuing Resolution on the appropriations bill responsible for the funds distributed to the Affected Units of Local Government (AULG). Simply stated, the Senate did not approve the DOE appropriations prior to the break at the end of the Federal fiscal year. This was not the only appropriations bill still being considered. Therefore, a Continuing Resolution (CR) is in place. (Similar to the County "roll-over" budget.) However, the Democratic chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have recently agreed to a year long Continuing Resolution.

Although AULGs are allowed to have reserve funds, not all AULGs are able to carry enough of these reserves to continue operating if appropriations are stalled. This year, the DOE has promised to make partial payments during the continuing resolution with the first based on FY2006 funding levels. This has set a valuable precedent for the AULGs. Additional CR funding is expected to be based on a formula as yet unknown. It is expected that information will be available some time in January 2007.

With recent changes in the House and Senate, funding for the proposed repository is certainly in question. It is believed, however, the AULGs and the State of Nevada will continue to be funded.

New Target Dates for Yucca Mountain

Design for License Application Complete.....	30 November 2007
Licensing Support Network Certification.....	21 December 2007
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Issued.....	30 May 2008
Final Rail Alignment EIS Issued.....	30 June 2008
License Application Submittal.....	30 June 2008
License Application Docketed by NRC.....	30 September 2008
Start Nevada Rail Construction.....	5 October 2009
NRC Authorizes Construction.....	30 September 2011
Receive and Possess License Application Submittal to NRC.....	29 March 2013
Rail Access In-Service.....	30 June 2014
Construction Complete for Initial Operations	30 March 2016
Start up and Pre-Op Testing Complete	31 December 2016
Begin Receipt of Waste.....	31 March 2017

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Inyo County Repository Assessment Office
regularly updates the Yucca Mountain
WEB PAGE. You may visit us at:

www.inyoyucca.org

Please visit often and contact our office with
any questions or suggestions.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Inyo County Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office is currently located upstairs within the Inyo County Water Department, 163 May Street, Bishop, CA 93514.

Inyo County Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office staff are available for questions or comments by phone or email. We will make every effort to furnish information upon request.

Nearest Information Centers are located at 2341 Postal Drive, Pahrump, NV 89048 and 100 North E Ave. off State Route 374, Beatty, NV 89003.