

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**PRESENTATION TO THE
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
FULL BOARD MEETING**

**SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION TO EARLY
EVALUATION OF SITE SUITABILITY
FOR THE POTENTIAL REPOSITORY
SITE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA**

PRESENTER: DR. STEPHAN BROCOUM

**PRESENTER'S TITLE
AND ORGANIZATION: DIRECTOR, ANALYSIS & VERIFICATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**PRESENTER'S
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**DALLAS, TX
APRIL 7-8, 1992**

Background of Early Evaluation of Site Suitability

- **The Environmental Assessment established the suitability of Yucca Mountain for characterization as a potential repository site**
- **The Site Characterization Plan included testing to satisfy the data needs for a comprehensive site-suitability evaluation required by 10 CFR Part 960**
- **In his report to Congress in November 1989, the Secretary committed to an early focus on the evaluation of site suitability**

Background of Early Evaluation of Site Suitability

(continued)

- **To comply with the NWPA, as amended, 10 CFR Part 960, and the Secretary's commitment to an early evaluation of site suitability, two kinds of evaluations are required:**
 - **early evaluations that focus on conditions that would make the site unsuitable**
 - **comprehensive evaluations that would ultimately lead to a decision on whether to recommend a site for development as a repository, if it is found suitable**

Basis for Use of Siting Guidelines (10 CFR Part 960)

- **The siting guidelines (10 CFR Part 960) are applicable to comparison among sites or to the evaluation of a single site**
- **The primary question faced was the manner in which 10 CFR Part 960 would be used for the early evaluation of site suitability**

Direction for Early Site Suitability Evaluation

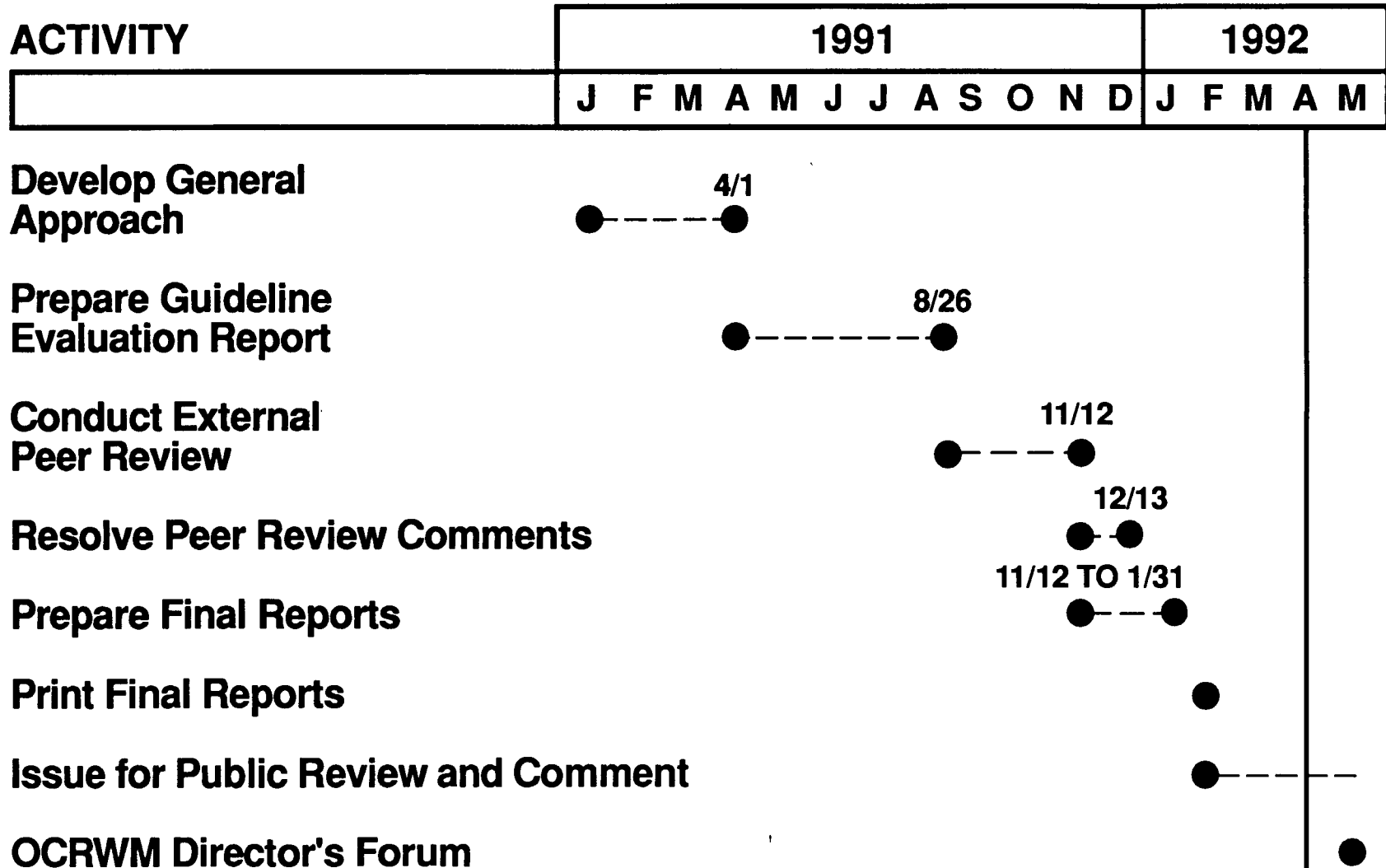
- **Decision made by OCRWM in December '90 to conduct early evaluation of site suitability during 1991**
- **The Office of Geologic Disposal (OGD) was directed to make an early assessment of the suitability (or non-suitability) of the Yucca Mountain Site under the guidelines of 10 CFR Part 960**

Direction for Early Site Suitability Evaluation

(continued)

- **OGD directed the T&MSS contractor to conduct the early site suitability evaluation (ESSE)**
- **The results from ESSE will be used by DOE as part of the basis for decision-making with regard to future plans and actions for evaluating the Yucca Mountain site**

Overview of Early Site Suitability Evaluation (ESSE) Task



Future DOE Plans

- **Receive written comments from the public on ESSE and the overall site evaluation process (comment period ends June 15, 1992)**
- **Hold OCRWM Director's forum in May 1992 to discuss DOE's policy, strategy, and plans for site evaluation, including factors to be considered in decision-making process**
- **Consider and respond to public comments in writing**
- **After considering public comments, the Director will determine appropriate actions with respect to future plans for evaluating the Yucca Mountain site**