

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

**NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH PANEL MEETING**

**SUBJECT: TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM**

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TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Guiding Documents**
- **Focus**
- **Elements**
- **Integration**
- **Project/Public Review**

GUIDING DOCUMENTS/PLANS FOR THE PROGRAM

- **Terrestrial Ecosystem Field Activity Plan**
- **Reclamation Program Plan**
Reclamation Feasibility Plan
Reclamation Implementation Plan

PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM

- **Mitigate direct impacts of site characterization activities**
- **Monitor to assess if indirect impacts have occurred**

SECONDARY FOCUS OF THE TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM

- **Characterize the Yucca Mountain biota for possible use in an environmental impact statement**

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 5 COMPONENTS

- **Biological Surveys**
- **Reclamation**
- **Desert Tortoise**
- **Site Characterization Effects Studies**
- **Support/Radiological Monitoring**

Terrestrial Ecosystems Program is an integrated program. Information and personnel are shared among the various components within the program.

- **Vegetation data from the Site Characterization Effects Studies provide basic information on cover, density, production, species diversity that can be used in assessing reclamation success**
- **Desert tortoise food studies have identified plant species that may be used in the reclamation program**
- **Pre-activity surveys have located tortoises that were radiomarked and used in desert tortoise studies**

Terrestrial Ecosystems Program integrates with the other Yucca Mountain project environmental program and construction activities

Example; YAP30-2 Land Access and Environmental Compliance

- **Pre-activity surveys**
- **Development of interim reclamation stipulations**
- **Monitoring of tortoises during site clearing**
- **Coordination with construction crews for topsoil removal and storage**
- **Post activity surveys**

INTEGRATE WITH YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT OFFICE

- **Weekly highlights of work**
- **Monthly reports**
- **Annual report of progress**
- **Participant meetings**
- **Publication review**
- **Reports to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM EFFORTS ARE PRESENTED THROUGH VARIOUS AVENUES TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND SCIENTIFIC COLLEAGUES

- **Public Tours of Yucca Mountain**
- **Public Meetings**
- **National Symposia**
- **Regional Workshops/Symposia**
- **Publications**