

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

**NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
FULL BOARD MEETING**

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATING YUCCA MOUNTAIN
SITE CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES
WITH EIS PREPARATION**

PRESENTER: WENDY R. DIXON

**PRESENTER'S TITLE
AND ORGANIZATION: ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & HEALTH
YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT
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**BEATTY, NEVADA
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Technical Areas That Support Both the Suitability Determination and EIS Preparation

- **EIS will provide technical basis for evaluating environmental, socioeconomic and transportation siting guidelines**
- **EIS will make use of other site suitability determination analyses, as required, to address specific environmental impact issues**

Technical Areas That Support Both the Suitability Determination and EIS Preparation

(Continued)

- **Radiological exposures must meet applicable safety standards**
- **Environmental quality must be adequately protected**
 - **Repository construction, operation, and closure information needed to identify impacts and mitigation**
 - **Environmental, socioeconomic, and transportation impacts would be evaluated**

Technical Areas That Support Both the Suitability Determination and EIS Preparation

(Continued)

- **Characteristics of Yucca Mountain that affect waste containment and isolation as needed for environmental impact analyses**
 - **Geohydrology**
 - **Rock Characteristics**
 - **Geochemistry**
 - **Climate**
 - **Erosion**
 - **Tectonics**
 - **Natural Resources**

EIS - Site Suitability Coordination

- **Interfaces between EIS and suitability organizations have been made and will continue**
- **Early coordination indicates that there will be an abundance of data available for the EIS**
- **Additional data needs will be defined through EIS scoping**
- **EIS team will assign a lead person to coordinate with site characterization organizations**
- **Same “experts” will do the performance assessment analyses required for EIS, suitability, and licensing**
- **Agency and public comments also will be addressed by the appropriate “experts”**

Incorporation of Site Characterization and Performance Assessment Information into Supplemental EIS(s)

- **DOE regulations encourage review of EISs at least every five years**
- **A supplemental analysis will be done, if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that bear on a proposed action or its impacts**