

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

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

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM
OVERVIEW**

PRESENTER: WENDY R. DIXON

**PRESENTER'S TITLE
AND ORGANIZATION: DIRECTOR
PROJECT AND OPERATIONS CONTROL DIVISION
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

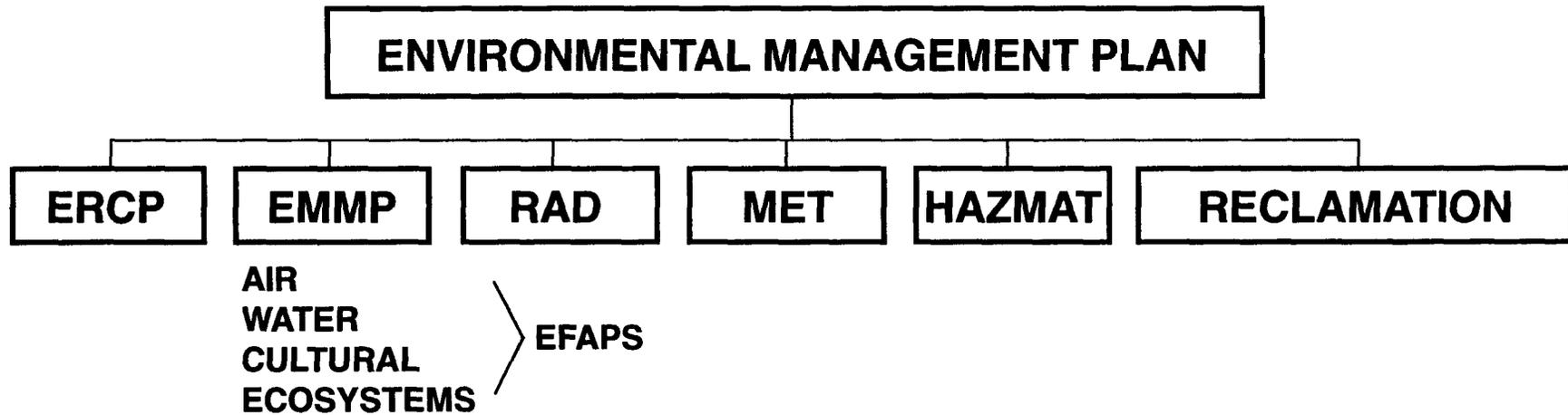
**PRESENTER'S
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (702) 794-7947**

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
NOVEMBER 22, 1993**

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM DRIVERS

- **Compliance with regulations**
- **Sound scientific practices**
- **Site characterization phase activities**

ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS



EMP

Provides the roadmap to the environmental document hierarchy

The use of lower-tiered documents was selected to aid in the description of individual components, recognize the existence of different users and oversight reviewers, and ease in document updates and modifications

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

- **Environmental compliance**
 - **Permits**
 - **Hazardous waste management**
 - **Compliance audits/surveillances**
- **Environmental field programs**
 - **Air quality/meteorology**
 - **Archaeological resources**
 - **Native American studies**
 - **Terrestrial ecosystems**
 - **Reclamation**
 - **Radiological monitoring**
 - **Water resources**

FOCUS ON CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM IS SITE CHARACTERIZATION

- **Congress did not consider site characterization a major federal action, hence it specifically precluded the site characterization phase of the program from an Environmental Impact Statement. A statutory Environmental Assessment was required.**
- **Congress, through the NWPA, did require DOE to conduct site characterization in a manner that minimizes any significant adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.**

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

- **Compliance with environmental regulations**
- **Monitoring for potential significant adverse impacts**
- **Mitigation of impacts**
 - **Pollution control equipment**
 - **Spill collection berms**
 - **Environmental input to design**
 - **Exclusion/Inclusion flagging**
 - **Floodplain assessments**
 - **Water resource monitoring**
 - **Pre-activity surveys (archaeological, biological)**
 - **Waste minimization**
 - **Desert tortoise studies**
 - **Topsoil stockpiling & erosion control**
 - **Reclamation**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

- **Requires early planning to consider environmental effects and alternative actions**
- **Does not dictate an agency's choice of action**
- **Requires description of existing conditions at the time of the EIS**
- **Requires the establishment of mitigation actions**
- **Does not require total ecosystems studies**
- **Clearly espouses rule of reason, best available information, and common sense**

THE NWPA PROVIDES A ROAD MAP TO NEPA

Congress stated in the NWPA that the EIS required for the repository need not consider:

- **The need for the repository**
- **Alternatives to geologic disposal**
- **Alternative sites to Yucca Mountain**

DOE EIS PLANS

- **Major EIS preparation steps**
 - 1) **Scoping**
 - 2) **Data gathering and publication of a draft EIS**
 - 3) **Public comment on the draft EIS**

The current mission plan calls for scoping to begin

CURRENT STUDIES/FUTURE DIRECTION

- **Focus of current studies is site characterization**
- **Information derived will feed into our EIS**
- **Additional studies normally addressed through scoping process**
- **Studies can be done earlier depending on programmatic considerations**
- **Thermal Loading Study Design being prepared**

PURPOSE OF THIS NWTRB REVIEW

As requested, provide background on our current program

**NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH PANEL MEETING
Update on DOE's Yucca Mountain Terrestrial Ecosystem Program**

November 22
Las Vegas, Nevada

8:30am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	G. Brewer, NWTRB
8:40 am	Overview	W. Dixon, DOE
9:05am	Terrestrial Ecosystem Program	K. Ostler, EG&G
9:30am	Biological Surveys	Cathy Wills, EG&G
9:50am	<i>BREAK (15 minutes)</i>	
10:05am	Reclamation	Cathy Wills, EG&G
10:30am	Desert Tortoise Studies	D. Rakestraw, EG&G
11:45am	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1:00pm	Site Characterization Effects Monitoring	R. Green, EG&G
2:00pm	Anticipated Repository Effects	K. Ostler, EG&G
2:20pm	Summary	W. Dixon, DOE
2:35pm	<i>BREAK (15 minutes)</i>	
2:55pm	State of Nevada	C. Johnson, State of NV
4:05pm	General Discussion	
5:30pm	Closing Remarks	G. Brewer, NWTRB