INTEGRATING YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES WITH EIS PREPARATION

WENDY R. DIXON

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & HEALTH
YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

(702) 794-7947

BEATTY, NEVADA
JANUARY 10, 1995
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