

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

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

**SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED
OCRWM PROGRAM
AND PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

PRESENTER: LAKE H. BARRETT

**PRESENTER'S TITLE
AND ORGANIZATION: DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (202) 586-6850

**AUSTIN, TEXAS
APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 1996**

Background

- **1994 - Streamlined and redirected Program**
- **1995 - Substantial progress towards goals**
- **1996 - Congressional redirection and reduced funding**
 - **Administrations Fiscal Year 1997 budget**
 - **Program strategies revised**

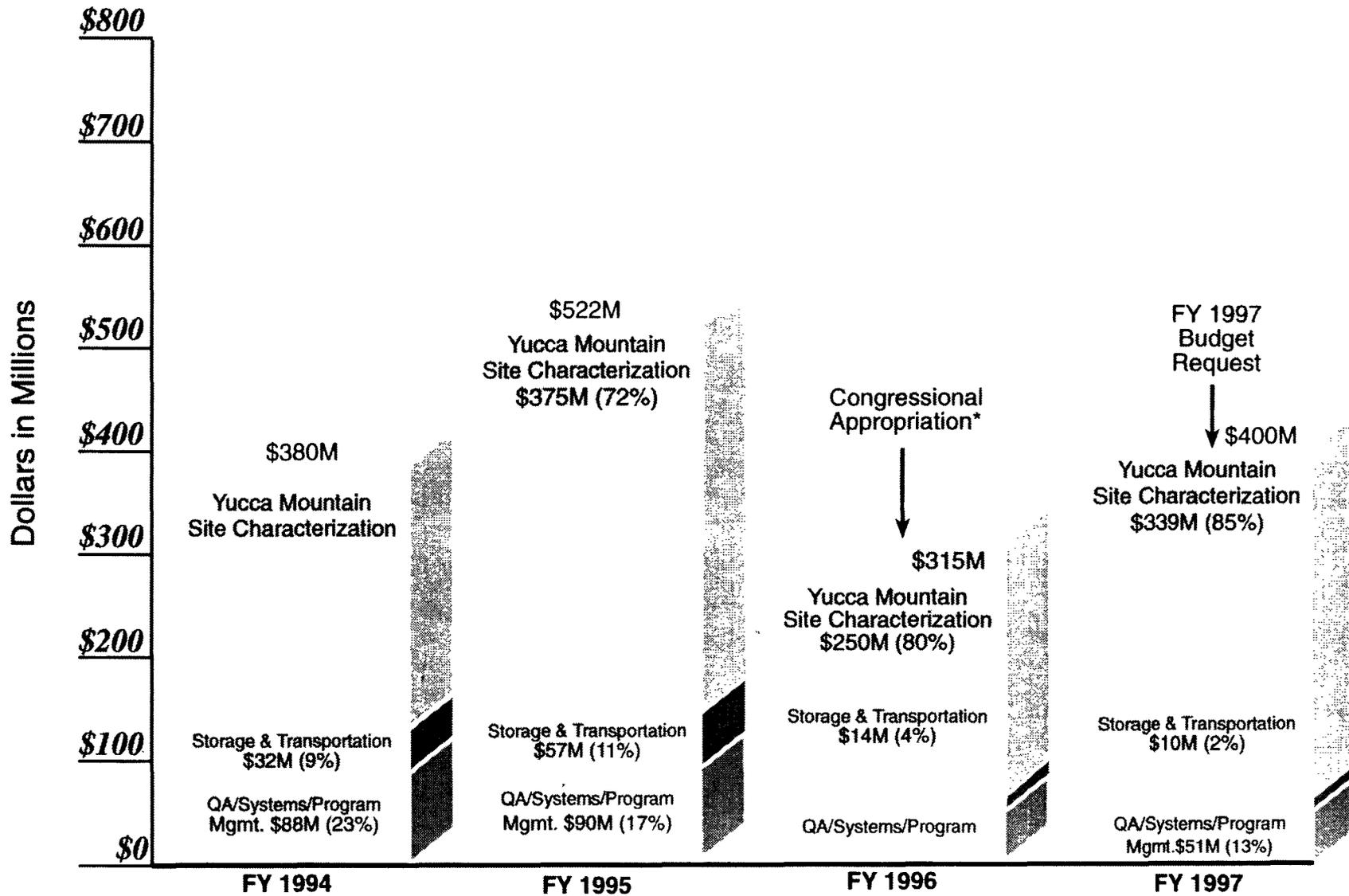
Revised Program Plan

- **Addresses key unanswered technical questions related to public health and safety at Yucca Mountain**
- **Resumes path forward to License Application in 2002**
- **Shifts to a market-driven approach to waste acceptance and transportation functions while conducting non-site specific interim storage activities**

Program Budget

- **FY 1995: Congress provided \$522 million**
 - **Implemented Program Approach**
- **FY 1996: Congress provided \$400 million for Program**
 - **\$85 million reserved for interim storage facility pending statutory authority**
- **FY 1997: Administration requests \$400 million**
 - **\$339 million for Yucca Mountain site characterization (85%)**
 - **\$10 million for waste acceptance, storage, and transportation**
 - **\$51 million for program management**

Budget Distribution Comparison



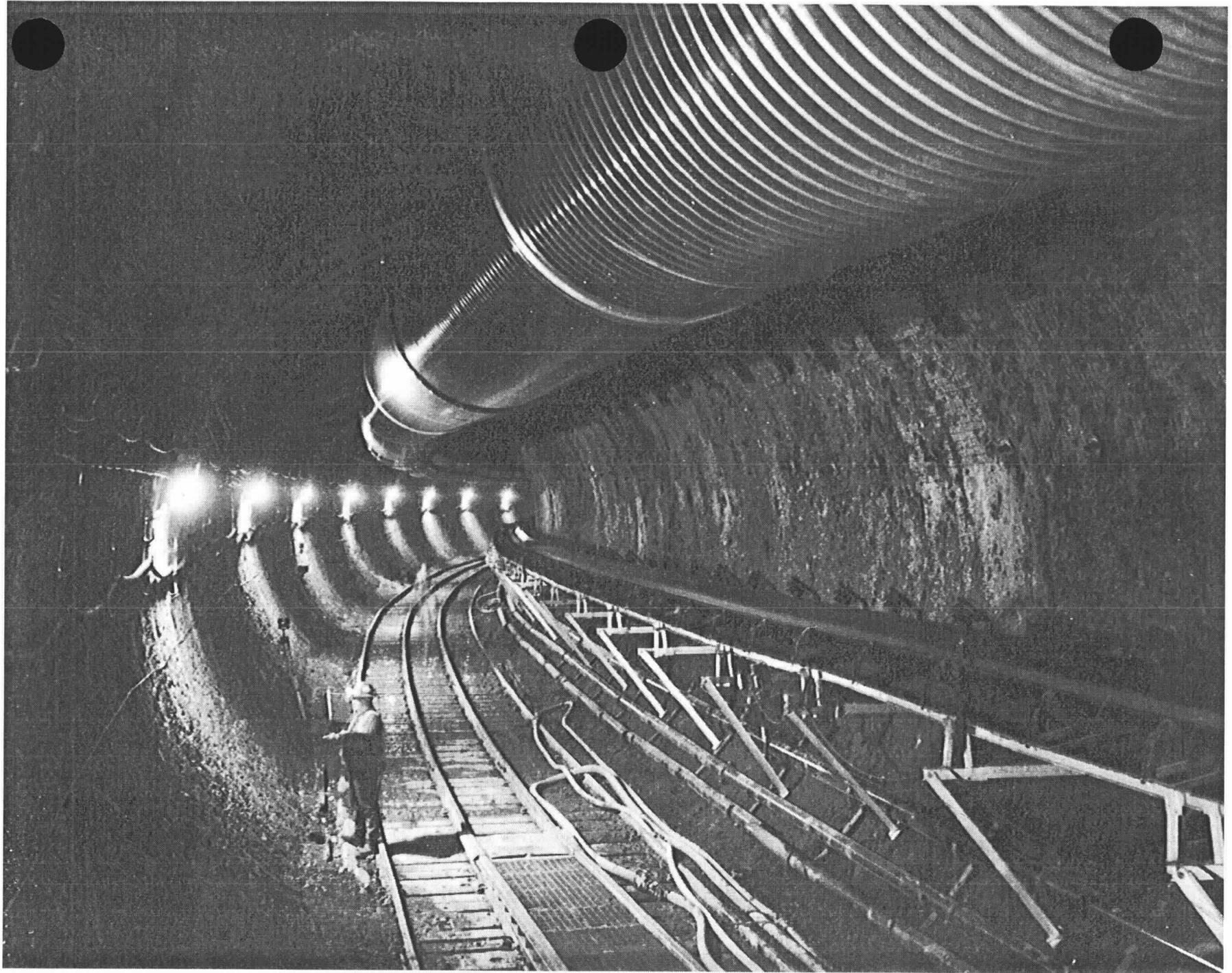
* \$85M Reserved by Congress for Interim Storage

Congressional Guidance

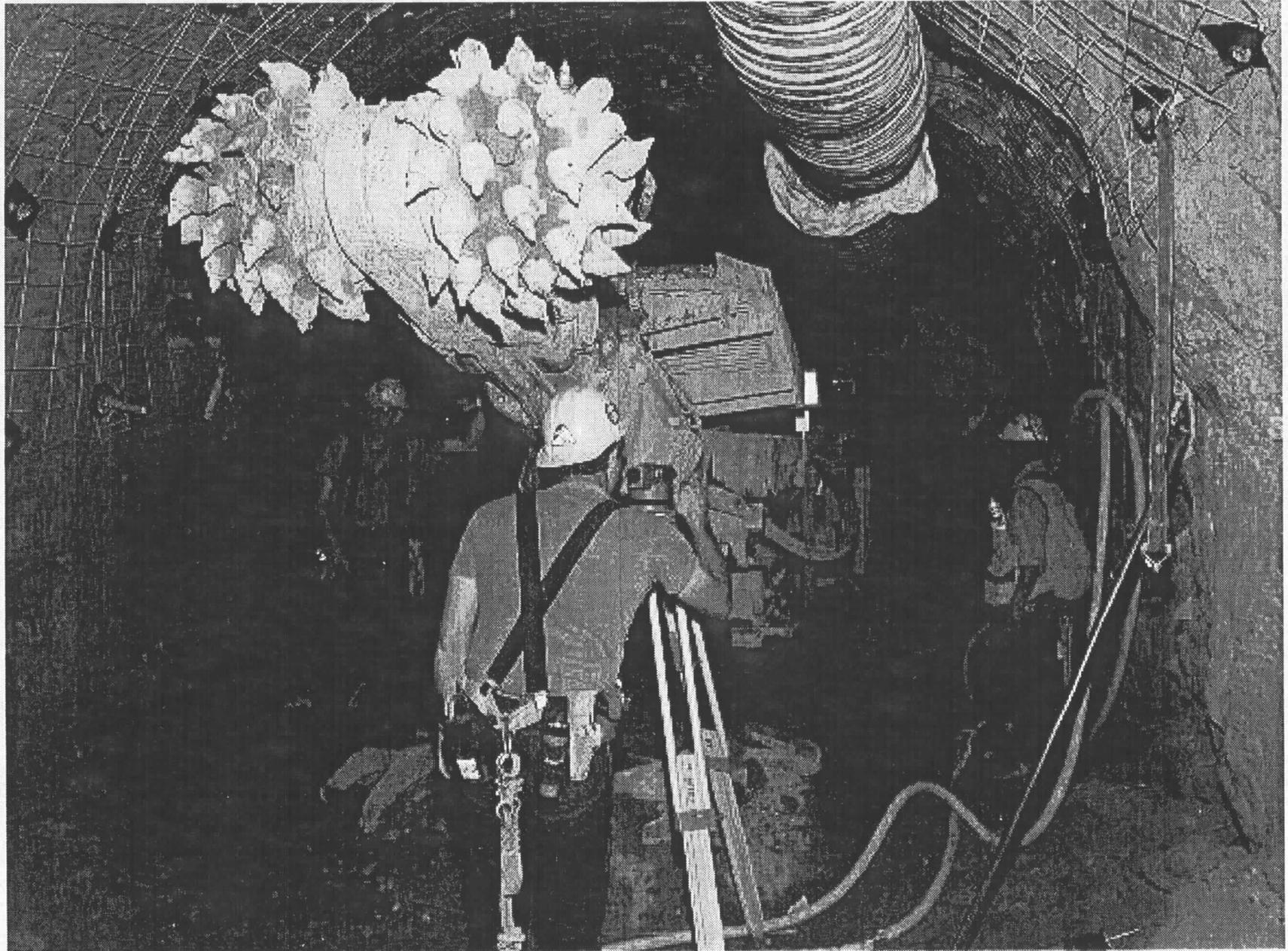
- **The Conference Report accompanying the Program's FY 1996 appropriation directed the Department to**
 - **Collect the scientific information needed to determine the suitability of Yucca Mountain**
 - **Complete the scientific tests needed to assess repository performance**
 - **Complete excavation of the necessary portions of the ESF**
 - **Defer preparation and filing of repository License Application**
 - **Complete a conceptual repository and waste design package**

Progress: Yucca Mountain Project

- **Greater understanding of site contributed to**
 - **Formulation of waste containment and isolation strategy**
 - **Reduction in overall scope of testing**
 - **More representative TSPA**
- **Exploration tunnel now three miles into the five-mile loop and well into the proposed repository area**
- **Test results and TSPA95 continue to support our hypotheses that the natural system at the site will contribute significantly to waste isolation**



Alpine Miner Excavating a Test Alcove



Plans: Yucca Mountain Project

- **1997:** Complete tunnel and test alcoves, initiate thermal testing, and penetrate Ghost Dance Fault
- **1998:** Viability Assessment
- **2000:** Final Environmental Impact Statement
- **2001:** Site recommendation
- **2002:** Submit License Application to Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Progress: Waste Acceptance, Storage, and Transportation (WAST)

- **Complete fabrication and testing of a 1/2 scale of advanced technology truck cask**
- **Contractor has completed the design for a multi-purpose canister system**
- **Submitted a formal report on burn-up credit to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review**
- **Initiated the process to develop a policy and procedures to provide technical and financial assistance to states and Indian tribes**

Plans: Waste Acceptance, Storage, and Transportation

- **Shift to a market-driven approach to waste acceptance and transportation functions**
- **Engage NRC in pre-licensing discussions for non-site specific phased interim storage facility**
- **Make existing canister and cask knowledge available to private sector**

Plans: Waste Acceptance, Storage, and Transportation

(Continued)

Planning assumption for WAST:

- **1997 - Submit Phase I non-site specific interim storage Topical Safety Analysis Report to NRC**
- **1999 - Statutory Direction**
 - **Designation of interim storage site**
 - **Utilization of commercial regulatory processes**
- **2000 - Phase I interim storage facility LA submitted to NRC**
- **2002 - Begin fuel receipt at Phase I interim storage facility**

Progress: Program Management

- **Revised Program strategies to preserve major Program objectives**
- **Consolidated Program participants to increase integration and efficiency**
- **Reorganized Program around two business centers**
- **Improved management systems to increase effectiveness of reduced resources**

Plans: Program Management

- **Continue to reduce management costs**
- **Complete consolidation of support services contractors**
- **Enhance federal staff's ability to manage with reduced contractor support**
- **Maintain capability to implement National Waste Management Policies in a safe, timely, and cost-effective manner**

Current Outlook

- **Program is now focusing on four significant objectives:**
 - **Address the key unanswered technical questions at Yucca Mountain related to public health and safety**
 - **Resume path forward to timely repository License Application**
 - **Shift to a market-driven approach for privatizing waste acceptance and transportation functions**
 - **Maintain a management emphasis on protecting the environment, our workers, and the safety of the public, while carrying out national policy for disposal of radioactive waste**