

**Yucca Mountain Program
Oversight
Clark County Lessons Learned
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Introduction

- Clark County Context
- Clark County Oversight in Brief
- Influence Over Technical Decisions
- Effectiveness of Oversight
- Links between Oversight and Increased Confidence

Clark County Context

- Background
- Elected Official and Public position on the YMP
- Areas of focus for oversight
- Approach to oversight
- Key results and findings

Influence Over Technical Decisions

- Decision making (e.g. DOE, NRC, EPA, etc.)
- Changes to regulations and technical reports
- Provide input to other bodies (e.g. NWTRB, National Academies, GAO)

Effectiveness of Oversight (Positive)

- Public and political support for Clark County's position and approach
- Validation by other groups with similar independent technical findings
- Respect for and acceptance of high quality work by technical experts
- Adequate federal funding to support oversight

Effectiveness of Oversight (Negative)

- Inconsistency and timeliness of funding
- DOE program-level micromanagement
- Unrealistic deadlines and milestones
- DOE's approach to considering alternative analysis, methodologies, and findings
- Constant programmatic and political uncertainty

Links Between Oversight and Increased Confidence

- Independent research, analysis, monitoring and reporting increases public confidence.
- Peer-reviewed technical studies completed by competent, respected experts engender the highest level of confidence.
- "Translating" technical studies for lay audiences is key to fostering public support and confidence.

Conclusion/Summary

- The Yucca Mountain Project provides valuable insights for current and future generations of technical experts.
- The Nevada experience provides instruction and guidance for government, academics, scientists, technical experts, and the public.
- The body of work accumulated over nearly three decades should be retained and protected.