



Yucca Mountain
a “model” of
government interaction
Department of Comprehensive Planning
Nuclear Waste Program

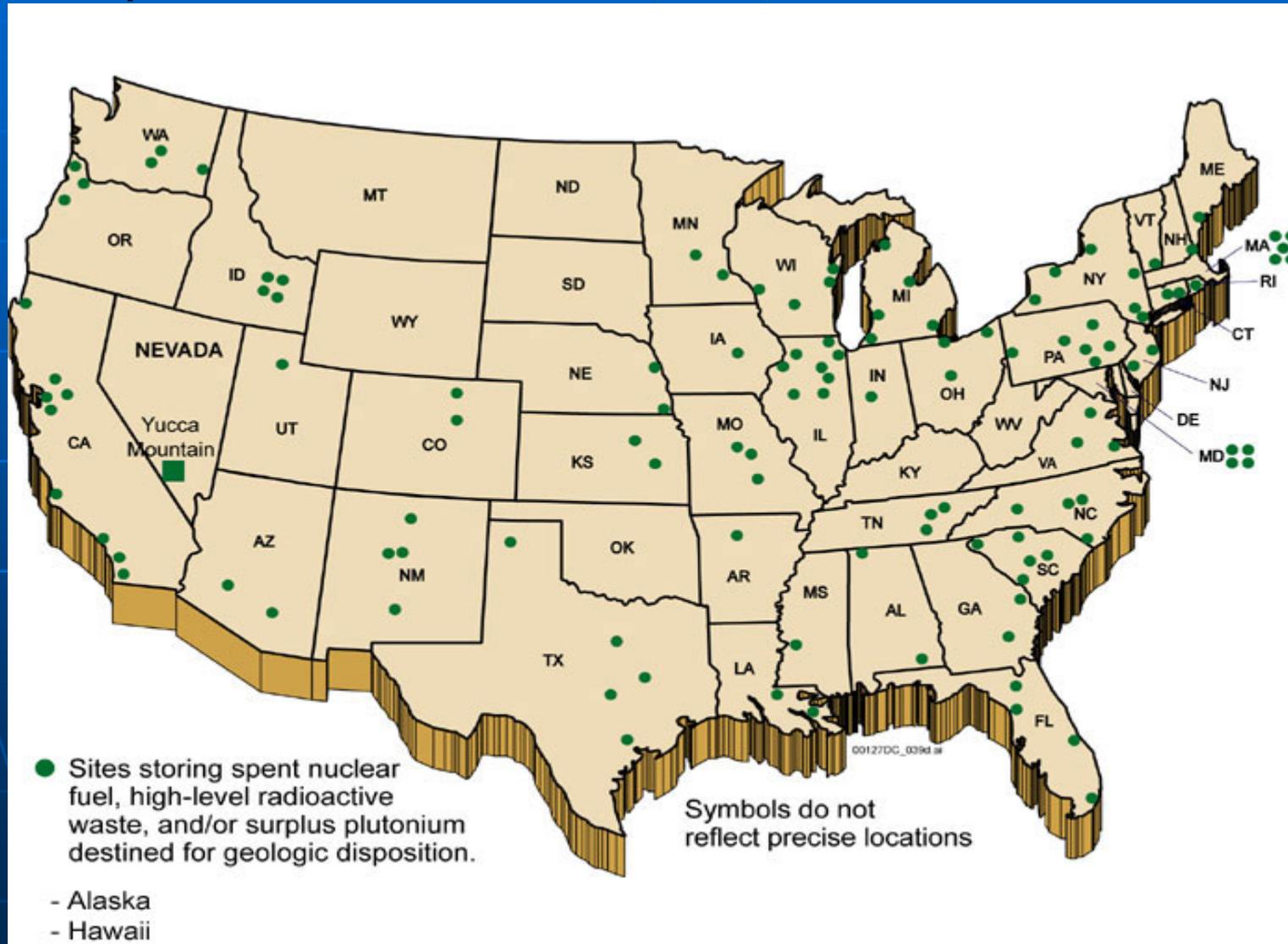
Background

- Yucca Mountain is a ridge of volcanic rock about 90 miles from Las Vegas in Nye County, Nevada.
- The federal government (DOE) had planned to store at least 77,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel for thousands of years.

Background

- Clark County Commissioners have been opposed to this project since 1985.
- Clark County, as an “affected unit of local government” has been receiving an annual appropriation from Congress to study and comment on the DOE’s program.

(Inter)National Issue/Local Concerns



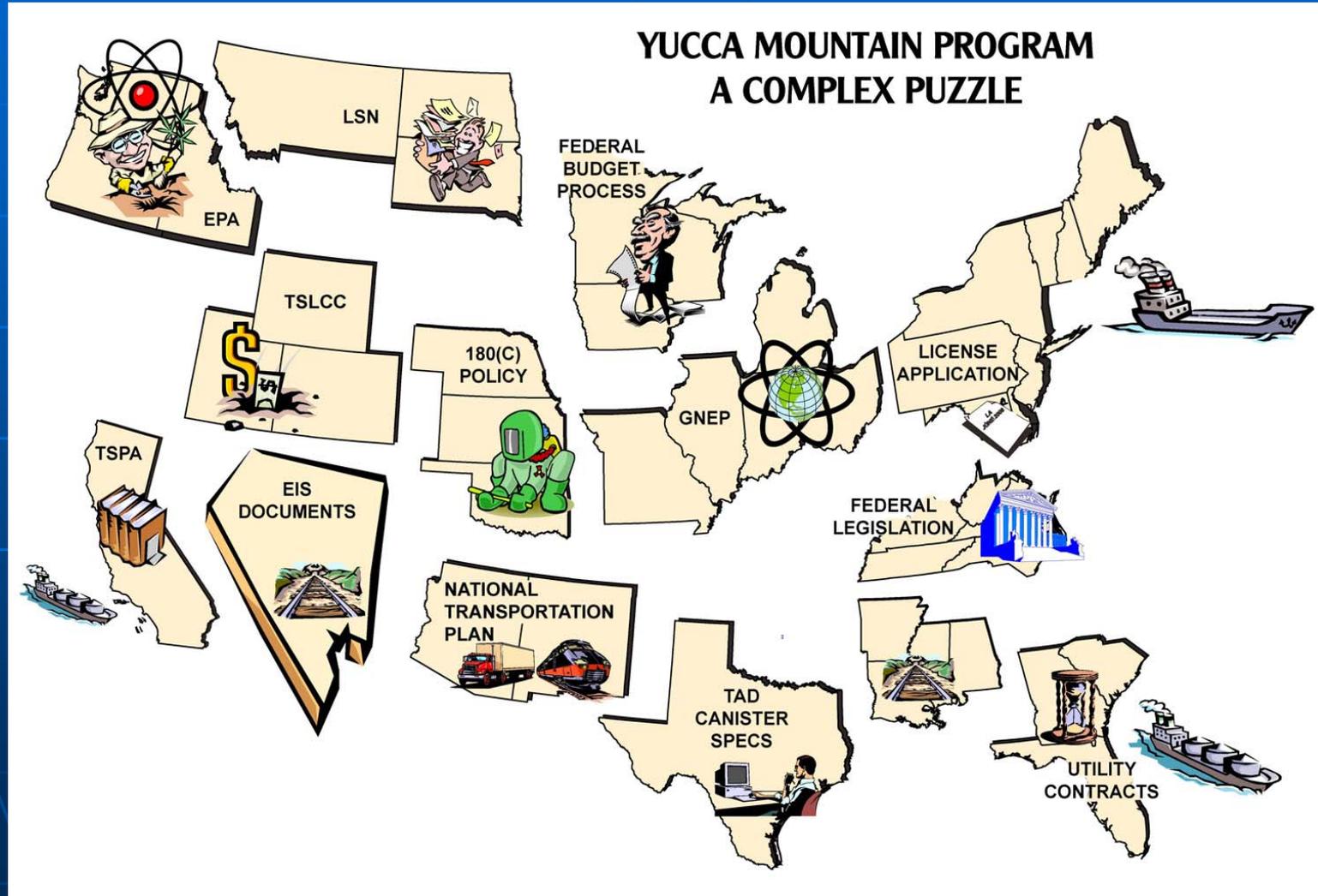
Clark County's Role

- Examine science and technical results (hydrogeology, volcanoes, earthquakes)
- Evaluate transportation (rail, truck)
- Assess & report socioeconomic impacts
- Conduct public involvement and outreach
- Coordinate efforts with cities and tribes
- Participate in the Licensing Proceeding

DOE Milestones

- License Application (June 2008)
- New EPA radiation standard (2008)
- Rail Corridor EIS (2008)
- Transportation plans (Nevada and National) (2009)
- President submits "zero" FFY2011 budget for Yucca (2010)
- Blue Ribbon Commission is formed (2010)
- DOE Motion to withdraw license application (2010)

A Complex Puzzle



Licensing Issues

- Public Safety (Radiation Exposure)
- Worker Safety
- NEPA
- Science and Technical
- Procedural and Administrative

Levels of Government

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Tribal



Levels of Interaction

- Policy (all governments)
- Legislative (all governments)
- Judicial (federal and state courts)
- Regulatory (agencies)
- Technical/Advisory
- Programs
- Stakeholder/Public input



Government Involvement

■ Federal

- Administration (White House/OMB/CEQ)
- U.S. Congress
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Department of Transportation (FRA/STB)
- Department of Homeland Security
- Other (DOD, DOI-BLM, BIA)

Government Involvement

- State of Nevada (“Affected Unit of Government” under NWPA 1982)
 - Governor
 - Agency for Nuclear Projects
 - Commission on Nuclear Projects
 - Legislature
 - Public Safety/Homeland Security
 - Department of Transportation

Government Involvement

- Local Government
 - 10 AULGs (9 in Nevada, 1 in California)
 - Cities in Nevada do not have “AUG” status
 - under NWPA (amended 1987)
- Western Shoshone
 - Las Vegas Paiutes
 - Moapa Paiutes
 - Timbisha Shoshone (AUG status)

Advisory/Stakeholders

- National Academy of Sciences
- Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
- Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
- Professional Organizations
- Utility Companies
- Environmental/Advocacy Groups
- Public



What You Can Do. . .

- Be informed!

www.ClarkCountyNV.gov

www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/comprehensive_planning/nuclear_waste/Pages/NuclearWastePodcasts.aspx

www.monitoringprogram.com

[Clark County TV Channel 4](#)

[Nuclear Waste Division E-Newsletter](#)

www.state.nv.us/nucwaste

www.ymp.gov

www.nrc.gov

www.epa.gov

www.stb.dot.gov



What You Can Do . . .

- Be involved!

Clark County Events and Speakers
455-5185

Yucca Mountain Tours (DOE) 295-
1312

Clark County Yucca Mountain
Advisory Committee

- Be heard!

- YuccaOpinions@aol.com

- www.ClarkCountyNV.gov