

# Will Yucca Mountain Affect Our Economy?

## Q. Will Yucca Mountain generate jobs?

A. The number of potential jobs as a direct result of a repository at Yucca Mountain is unclear. When the DOE proposed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant repository in Carlsbad, New Mexico, the promise of employment and other economic benefits was stressed. In reality, jobs fell very short of the expectation of area residents.

## Q. Will indirect employment result from Yucca Mountain?

A. Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, located 16 miles northwest of Denver, contributed a positive economic impact for 40 years, providing thousands of jobs. However, it has not been without cost to the community, including a number of on-site accidents and off-site releases of hazardous substances. Real estate market studies indicated concern about the risks associated with Rocky Flats and development was restricted in certain areas.

## Q. The business climate is so positive in Nevada, how can the potential of a national nuclear repository make any difference?

A. According to bankers and appraisers in Clark County, commercial and industrial economic development is highly competitive. Yucca Mountain is seen as a disamenity that could dampen our competitive position.

## Q. What's the gaming industry's take on Yucca Mountain?

A. The Nevada Resort Association passed a resolution on Sept. 11, 1991, stating that any news about the "transportation of radioactive materials...could cause special damage to the reputation enjoyed by Las Vegas and the success of its tourism promotion efforts."

## Q. Isn't this talk about stigma impacts bunk?

A. Stigma impacts are real. Public responses have consistently indicated fear of the dangers connected to man-made radiation and long-term exposure. For example, a study by the University of New Mexico found that property values declined in populous urban areas of South Carolina during the period of foreign reactor fuel shipments in the early 1990s due to perception of risk. Even the DOE acknowledges potential stigma impacts in its final Environmental Impact Statement. This was also reinforced in a 2006 transportation study by the National Academy of Sciences.

## Q. Will commercial property values be affected?

A. In surveys with real estate professionals who were asked about their views concerning potential nuclear waste transportation impacts on Clark County commercial or business properties, 40.7 percent indicated commercial property would decrease in value.



## **Sources for data used for Business Fact Sheet:**

**Jobs:** *Lessons Learned from New Mexico's Experience with the Development of a Nuclear Waste Repository study, Jan. 2001, conducted by Urban Environmental Research, LLC (UER).*

**Indirect jobs:** *Risk, Media and Stigma, 2001. The Effects of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant on Neighboring Property Values. Earthscan Publications.*

**Stigma effect on Nevada's business climate:** *Clark County Property Value Report on the Effects of DOE's Proposal to Ship High Level Nuclear Waste to a Repository at Yucca Mountain, June 2001 study conducted by UER.*

**Commercial property values:** *Clark County Property Value Report on the Effects of DOE's Proposal to Ship High Level Nuclear Waste to a Repository at Yucca Mountain, June 2001 study conducted by UER.*

## **Resources for further information:**

Clark County Web Site: [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com) visit Comprehensive Planning

State of Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office: [www.state.nv.us/nucwaste](http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste)

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management: [www.ocrwm.doe.gov](http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

Nuclear Energy Institute: [www.nei.org](http://www.nei.org)

EPA Yucca Mountain Homepage: [www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca)

Yucca Mountain Project: [www.ymp.gov](http://www.ymp.gov)

## **Yucca Mountain Podcast:**

Audio broadcasts at your convenience. Visit online at:  
[www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com) and click on the podcast link

## **Monitoring Program:**

Economic, fiscal, social, environmental, public health and safety indicators.  
[www.monitoringprogram.com](http://www.monitoringprogram.com)