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Technical Communication in Support of Post-Closure Safety: US Examples June 2016

Communicating Safety of Geological Disposal (1)

Main Points:

- Each Geological site is unique.
- The critical task is to identify critical exposure pathways, what is known and what is unknown about that pathway (for a site and design).
- Focus science activities on clearly showing safety for each critical pathway.
- In the end, each repository site/design combination will have one or two critical – most likely exposure paths.
- WIPP – Human intrusion due to oil and gas or potash mining exploration.
- YMP – Percolation through the mountain and groundwater transport to the adjacent land.

Communicating Safety of Geological Disposal (2)

- In general, the US cooperates in international experiments and uses this data as part of describing critical pathways.
- The US Regulations define the process for evaluating future conditions – Features Events and Processes (FEPS), Safety Case Description, Numerical Performance Assessment.
- Numerical models are validated, conservative parameters are used, rigorous peer review and stakeholder review.
- Cut Off time for evaluation is a social decision. This is negotiated with the public by the regulator.
- The Safety Case explanation is the critical technical “story” told by the implementer and the regulator.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

Communication on a repository program must be connected to the **Phase of Effort**, and the **responsibilities** of the communication organization.



Pre-license – US Department of Energy (DOE) had the primary role to communicate

Post-submittal - the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had communication responsibility.

WIPP: DOE (Pre-licensing, Recovery, Recertification)

General Information, News, Technical Documents, Contact Information

The screenshot shows the WIPP website with several annotations. A red arrow points from the 'Phase of Work' box to the 'News & Information' link in the top navigation bar. Another red arrow points from the 'Responsibilities' box to the 'Carlsbad Field Office' section on the left. A third red arrow points from the 'Key Messages' box to the 'Follow-Up Testing Shows No Health Risk for Exposed Employees' article in the 'In the News' section.

Phase of Work

Responsibilities

Key Messages

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Home News & Information Documents Opportunities Contact Us Search

WIPP Community Relations Plan Web Page
[Click Here](#)

[Current Contracts](#)

Carlsbad Field Office

The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office has responsibility for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program. The office's mission is to provide safe, compliant, and efficient characterization, transportation, and disposal of defense-related TRU waste. Its vision is to enable a nuclear future for our country by providing

In the News

Energy Department Initiates Recertification Process for WIPP
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted its third Compliance Recertification Application (CRA) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), demonstrating continued compliance with EPA regulations for radioactive waste disposal, as required by Congress. [Read more.](#)

DOE, NWP Making Plans to Continue Moving LANL Transuranic Waste
Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP), the management and operating contractor at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing to ship transuranic waste currently located at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for temporary storage at Waste Control Specialists (WCS), located in western Andrews County, Texas. [Read more.](#)

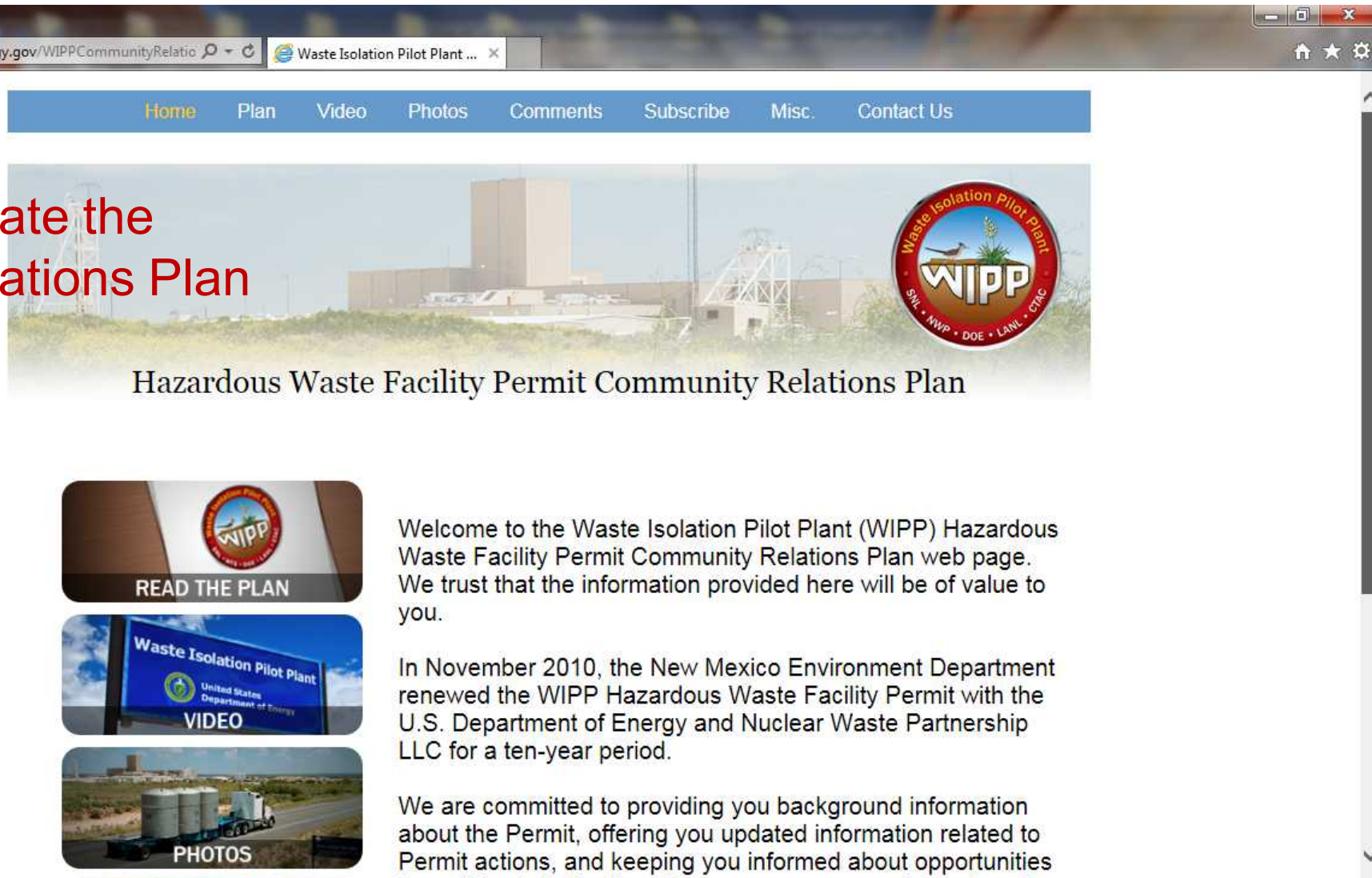
Follow-Up Testing Shows No Health Risk for Exposed Employees
Follow-up testing of employees who were exposed to airborne radioactive material during the February 14 radiation release at the

WIPP Recovery
Visit the WIPP Recovery Page to learn the latest about our recovery activities at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The page includes WIPP updates, sampling results, fact sheets, photos, videos and more. [WIPP Recovery](#)

www.wipp.doe.gov

WIPP: Community Relations Plan

Communicate the Communications Plan



Home Plan Video Photos Comments Subscribe Misc. Contact Us

Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan

READ THE PLAN

Welcome to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan web page. We trust that the information provided here will be of value to you.

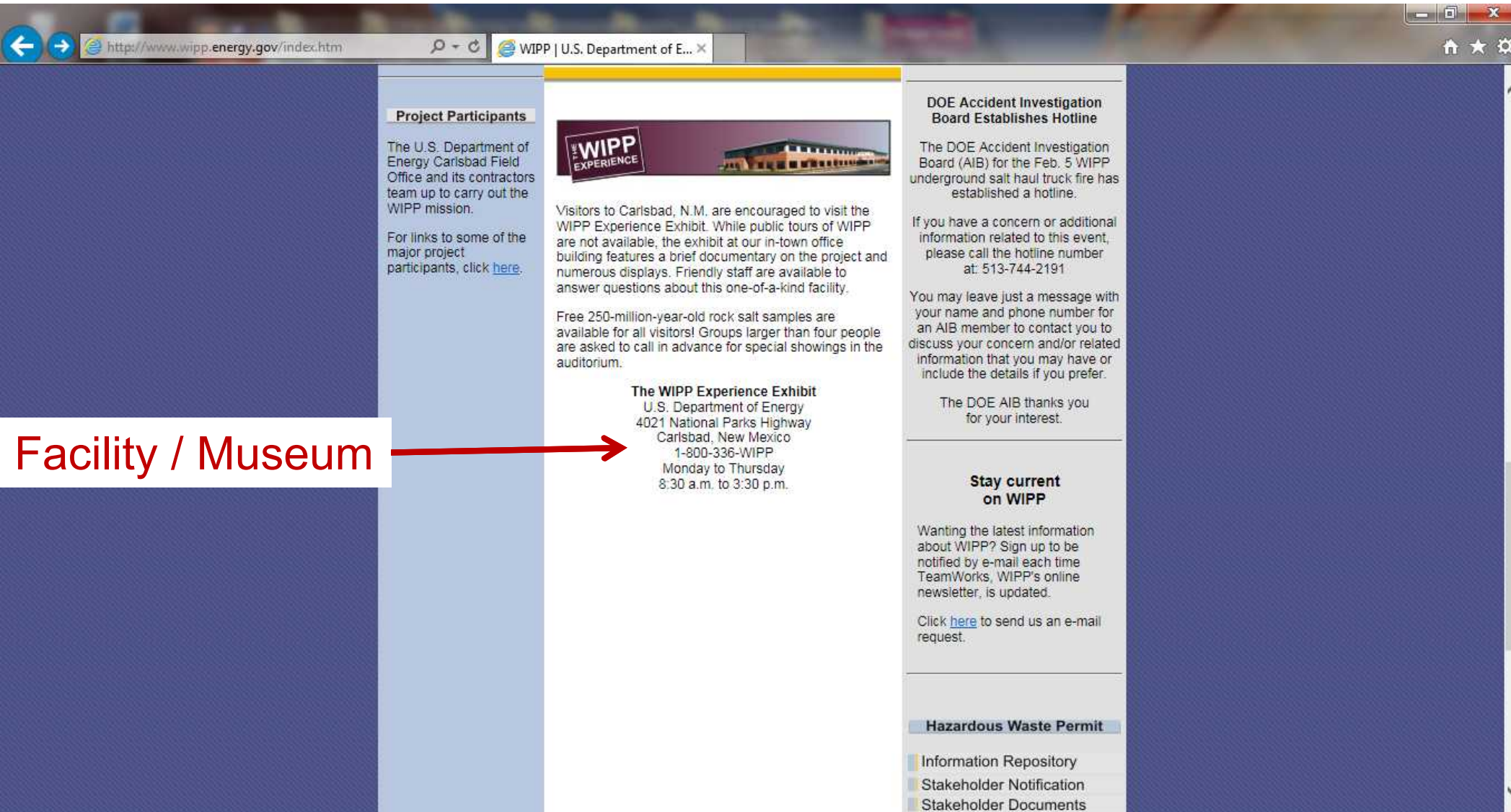
VIDEO

In November 2010, the New Mexico Environment Department renewed the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit with the U.S. Department of Energy and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC for a ten-year period.

PHOTOS

We are committed to providing you background information about the Permit, offering you updated information related to Permit actions, and keeping you informed about opportunities

WIPP: Experience Exhibit



The screenshot shows the homepage of the WIPP Experience Exhibit website. The browser address bar displays <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/index.htm>. The page layout includes a left sidebar with a 'Project Participants' section, a main content area with a 'The WIPP Experience Exhibit' section, and a right sidebar with a 'DOE Accident Investigation Board Establishes Hotline' section. A red arrow points from the text 'Facility / Museum' to the 'The WIPP Experience Exhibit' section.

Facility / Museum →

Project Participants

The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office and its contractors team up to carry out the WIPP mission.

For links to some of the major project participants, click [here](#).

The WIPP Experience Exhibit

U.S. Department of Energy
4021 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, New Mexico
1-800-336-WIPP
Monday to Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DOE Accident Investigation Board Establishes Hotline

The DOE Accident Investigation Board (AIB) for the Feb. 5 WIPP underground salt haul truck fire has established a hotline.

If you have a concern or additional information related to this event, please call the hotline number at: 513-744-2191.

You may leave just a message with your name and phone number for an AIB member to contact you to discuss your concern and/or related information that you may have or include the details if you prefer.

The DOE AIB thanks you for your interest.

Stay current on WIPP

Wanting the latest information about WIPP? Sign up to be notified by e-mail each time TeamWorks, WIPP's online newsletter, is updated.

Click [here](#) to send us an e-mail request.

Hazardous Waste Permit

- Information Repository
- Stakeholder Notification
- Stakeholder Documents

<http://www.wipp.energy.gov/index.htm>

WIPP: EPA Communication Approach – Anticipated Licensing

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Air and Radiation
(6602J)

EPA 402-K-95-006
December 1995



EPA's Communications Plan for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



EPA Roles:

- Issue standards for WIPP
- Develop compliance criteria
- Recertify every 5 years

Motivation:

“The Agency believes a successful communication and consultation program enhances the regulatory oversight process and ensures sound public policy decisions.”

Actions:

- Interviews (public press)
- Public meetings
- Timely responses to public questions
- Booklets and fact sheets
- Periodic news letter
- Information Hotline (phone access)

Yucca Mountain Project (YMP)

- Pre-license – DOE
- License Review – NRC
- Stakeholders (State of Nevada, etc.)



YMP: DOE (Archived)

Internet Archive Wayback Machine

271 captures 2 Jun 08 - 12 May 18

http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/ym_repository/index.shtml

Go

JAN 2007 MAR 29 2008 MAY 2009

Close X Help ?

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

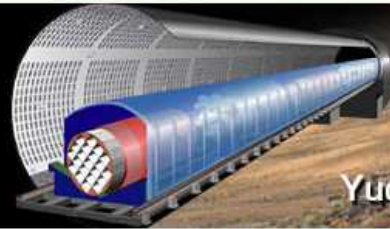
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ENERGY SOURCES ENERGY EFFICIENCY THE ENVIRONMENT PRICES & TRENDS NATIONAL SECURITY SAFETY & HEALTH

CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

OCRWM - Home
Welcome
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Yucca Mountain Repository

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- :: License Application
- :: Supplemental Yucca Mountain Repository Environmental Impact Statement
- :: Protecting People and the Environment
- :: Weather Conditions

Transporting Nuclear Waste
Receiving Nuclear Waste
Advanced Science Studies
Information Library
Youth Zone



Yucca Mountain Repository

You are here: Home > undefined > undefined > undefined > undefined > undefined > Yucca Mountain Repository > OCRWM - Yucca Mountain Repository

Yucca Mountain Repository


Yucca Mountain is the nation's planned repository for spent nuclear fuel.

The U.S. Department of Energy began studying Yucca Mountain, Nevada, in 1978 to determine whether it would be suitable for the nation's first long-term geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Currently stored at 126 sites around the nation, these materials are a result of nuclear power generation and national defense programs.

On July 23, 2002, President Bush signed House Joint Resolution 87, allowing the DOE to take the next step in establishing a safe repository in which to store our nation's nuclear waste. The Department of Energy is currently in the process of preparing an application to obtain the Nuclear Regulatory Commission license to proceed with construction of the repository.

Yucca Mountain is located in a remote desert on federally protected land within the secure boundaries of the Nevada Test Site in Nye

QUICK FACTS



NYE

http://web.archive.org/web/20080329221001/http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/ym_repository/index.shtml

YMP: DOE (Current)

The screenshot shows the Energy.gov website with the URL <http://www.energy.gov/yucca-mountain-archival-documents> in the browser address bar. The page title is "YUCCA MOUNTAIN ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS". The main content area includes a paragraph about President Obama's efforts to restart the nuclear industry, a link to "The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future", and a paragraph about archival documents. A red arrow points from the text "Go to NRC Site" to the link "NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Web site".

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Home » Yucca Mountain Archival Documents

YUCCA MOUNTAIN ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS

YUCCA MOUNTAIN ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE FORMER OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

President Obama and the Department of Energy are working to restart America's nuclear industry to help meet our energy and climate challenges and create thousands of new jobs. The Administration is fully committed to ensuring that long-term storage obligations for nuclear waste are met.

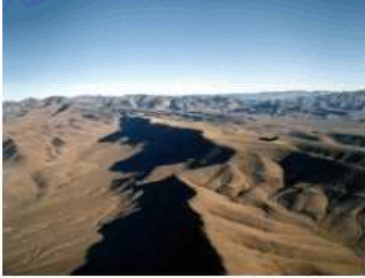
The President has made clear that Yucca Mountain is not an option for waste storage. [The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future](#), led by Congressman Lee Hamilton and General Brent Scowcroft, has conducted a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, and has offered recommendations for developing a safe, long-term solution to managing the Nation's used nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

Archival documents that were previously posted on the website for the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management can be found online here: <http://energy.gov/list-yucca-mountain-archival-documents>. Additional Yucca Mountain license application-related documents are available through the [Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Licensing Support Network Web site](#). You may also wish to visit the [NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System \(ADAMS\) Web site](#).

The license application is available to the public in hard copy at the following locations:

- Beatty Library District, 4th Street and Ward, Beatty, NV 89003, (775) 553-2257
- Atomic Testing Museum, Public Reading Room, Frank H. Rogers Building, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 103, Las Vegas, NV 89119, (702) 794-5117

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PHOTOS



RELATED NEPA DOCUMENTS

No results

Go to NRC Site

<http://www.energy.gov/yucca-mountain-archival-documents>

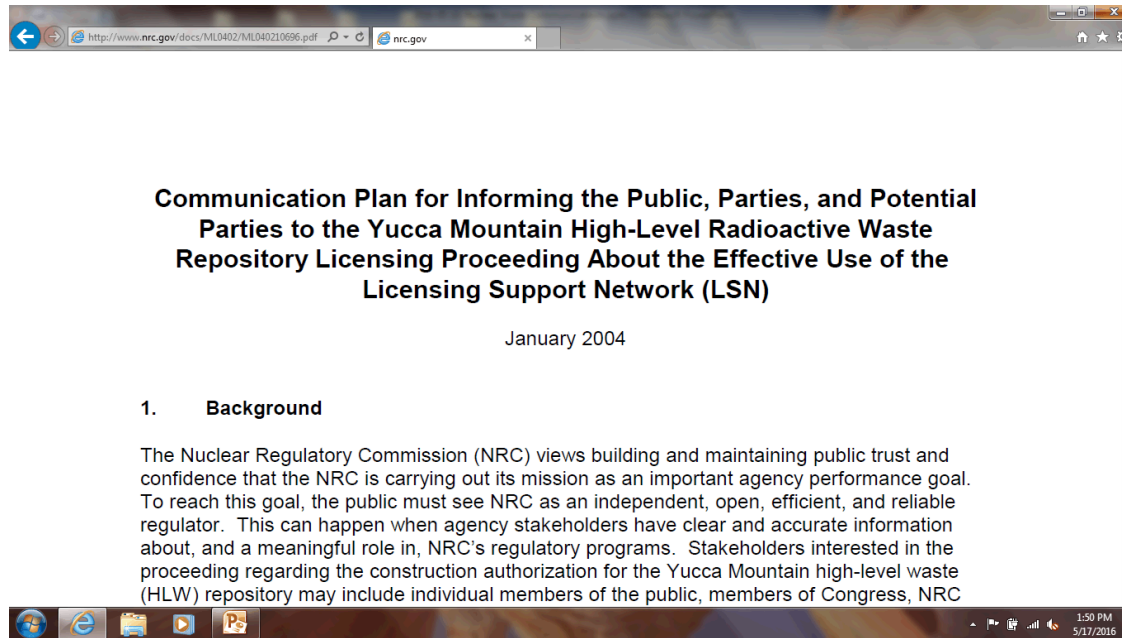
The screenshot shows the NRC website at the URL <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/hlw-disposal.html>. The page features a header with the NRC logo and tagline "Protecting People and the Environment". A navigation menu includes links for HOME, FAQ, GLOSSARY, FACILITY LOCATOR, WHAT'S NEW, SITE HELP, INDEX A-Z, CONTACT US, EMAIL UPDATES, and LISTEN TO PAGE. A search bar and a "REPORT A SAFETY CONCERN" button are also present.

The main content area is titled "High-Level Waste Disposal" and includes a sub-header "NRC's Yucca Mountain Licensing Activities". The text states: "The NRC resumed work on its technical and environmental reviews of the Yucca Mountain application using available funds in response to an August 2013 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The staff completed and published the final volumes of the [safety evaluation report](#) in January 2015. The staff completed and issued an [Environmental Impact Statement supplement](#) in May 2016. The adjudicatory hearing, which must be completed before a licensing decision can be made, remains suspended."

A sidebar on the left lists various radioactive waste topics, with "High-Level Waste Disposal" highlighted. Below the sidebar is a photograph of a person working in a desert environment, likely at Yucca Mountain.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 2:10 PM on 5/17/2016.

YMP: NRC Communications Plan



Role: Regulator

Approaches:

- Public Involvement
- Licensing Support Network (LSN) – “electronic access to discovery materials”

Motivation:

“The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) views building and maintaining public trust ... as an important agency performance goal. To reach this goal, the public must see NRC as an independent, open, efficient, and reliable regulator. This can happen when agency stakeholders have clear and accurate information about, and a meaningful role in, NRC’s regulatory programs.”

Summary

- Communication of technical support for repository programs must be couched in the “Phase of Effort” and the “responsibilities” of the organization.
- The Implementer has primary responsibility for pre-licensing or in addressing changes
- The Regulator has primary responsibility for licensing and justification of the decision