

COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION

two states, one future

PRESENTATION TO SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OCTOBER 20, 2009

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www.srscro.org



What is a Community Reuse Organization?

- Section 3161 of the Defense Authorization Act of 1993 initiated the creation of "Community Reuse Organizations" across the US in response to the negative social and economic impacts of workforce restructuring
- DOE made a commitment to provide financial assistance for economic development and site reuse activities developed by the affected communities
- 15 CROs were formed across the US





Community Reuse Organization Function

Community Reuse Organization accepts and dispositions excess personal and real properties from US DOE for the purpose of industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development within a designated area.





SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO)

- Regional Economic Development entity, formerly known as the Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative (SRRDI)
- Designated by Congress as the first CRO (1993)
- Business Leaders, Elected Officials, Educators, Economic Developers
- Unique in the CSRA and across DOE complex





A Regional Focus

- Board = 22 members (11 from each state)
- Five Counties, Two States





two states, one future

SRSCRO Board of Directors

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Danny Black
- Dr. Thomas Hallman
- Fred Humes
- David Jameson
- Anna Loadholt
- Charles Martin
- Anne Rice
- Bill Robinson
- Chuck Smith
- Gary Stooksbury
- Dr. Susan Winsor



<u>GEORGIA</u>

- Eddie Bussey
- Sanford Loyd
- Dr. Marc Miller
- Dr. Lisa Palmer
- Sue Parr
- Troy Post
- Ed Presnell
- Walter Sprouse
- Jim Tingen
- Rick Toole
- Mark Wills



Mission and Goals

- **Mission:** Facilitate Economic Development and Job Creation in the CSRA
- Goal 1 Make best use of SRS Assets
- <u>Goal 2</u> Advocate new missions for SRS
- <u>Goal 3</u> Promote CSRA as a world leader in energy technology
- <u>Goal 4</u> Educate and inform the community regarding federal initiatives
- <u>Goal 5</u> Serve as a knowledgeable united voice of the community in regard to SRS









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SRS Community Reuse Organization Presents

What's Next for Nuclear Waste?

Building Consensus in the CSRA



In early 2009, the Federal Government announced that Yucca Mountain was no longer the Federal option for permanent waste storage.

This decision has farreaching implications for our region.



The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982

Established the Nuclear Waste Fund collected by utilities to pay for the repository.

Established Yucca Mountain as the preferred and only site for permanent storage of nuclear waste.

Committed the Federal Government to accept defense waste and commercial spent fuel for long-term storage.



DOE Payments to Nevada

[Authorized by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act]

<u>Item</u>	<u>Year Started</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Affected Units of		
Local Govt. –Oversight	1989	\$ 99,801,275
State of Nevada – Oversight	1983	\$ 87,662,109
Payments Equal to Taxes	1983	\$129,874,737
University & Community Coll.	1984	\$113,654,839
Clark Co. NV Transportation Gr.	2004	\$ 2,000,000
Inyo Co. CA Groundwater Mon.	2002	\$ 2,839,750
Nye Co. NV Science and		
Verification Program	1996	\$30,416, 868
Nye Co. NV Transportation		
Cooperative Agreement	2004	\$ 430,000

TOTAL FUNDING SINCE 1983

\$466,679,578

Source: U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The affected units of government are the State of Nevada and 10 counties designated "affected" by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.



What waste are we talking about?

Defense Nuclear Waste

 Radioactive waste resulting from weapons research and development, the operation of naval reactors, the production of weapons material and the reprocessing of defense spent fuel.

Commercial Spent Fuel

 Fuel that has been "burned" (irradiated) in a nuclear power plant's reactor to the point where it no longer contributes efficiently to the nuclear chain reaction.
 Spent fuel is thermally hot and highly radioactive.



 Spent fuel represents an energy resource that can be reprocessed and used again.

Reprocessing

The process by which spent fuel is separated into waste material for disposal and into material such as uranium and plutonium to be reused as fuel.

Reprocessing extends the life of our energy resources and can lead to greater energy independence.



Dry Cask Storage of Spent Fuel at Reactor Site

Our Investment

Nationally, ratepayers and taxpayers have invested more than \$7 billion in Yucca Mountain over two decades as part of more than \$30 billion that has been paid into the nuclear waste fund.

South Carolina

 South Carolina electric ratepayers have paid \$1.2 billion into the Nuclear Waste Fund toward the cost of a permanent repository.

Georgia

 Georgia electric ratepayers have paid \$675 million into the Nuclear Waste Fund toward the cost of a permanent repository.



Yucca Mountain is the most studied piece of land in American history.

It was chosen by the U.S. Government two decades ago to serve as the permanent repository for commercial spent nuclear fuel and highlevel nuclear waste from defense sites like Savannah River.



NRC License Application for Yucca Mountain

The Scope of the Problem For Our Region

Defense Nuclear Waste

- Approximately 6,000 canisters of legacy high level waste from the Cold War are either solidified and stored on the Savannah River Site or in the process of being stabilized and stored.
- This was intended to be temporary storage until a repository is ready.
- Other wastes are being stored/generated for various SRS missions (e.g. decommissioning research reactors and MOX).

Commercial Spent Fuel

- Georgia and South Carolina have 10 operating nuclear reactors at six sites.
- Six additional reactors at four sites are planned.
- Each of these reactors produces spent nuclear fuel.
- Until such time as a repository is available, the spent fuel will be stored at each site (without reprocessing).

Defense Waste and Commercial Spent Fuel was to be consolidated at Yucca Mountain for permanent underground storage.

When the waste finally reached the depths of Yucca Mountain, it would be safe and secure. It was a solution forever sealed from human intervention.



THE ANSWER TO LONG-TERM STORAGE WAS ALWAYS YUCCA MOUNTAIN.

There is no Plan B.
No alternate location.
No secondary geologic formation.
No backup technology.
No other plan.
It was always Yucca Mountain.
Nothing else.

Why is this important?

 The Government decision to "temporarily" store defense nuclear waste and commercial spent fuel in local communities was always based on the Federal promise of a permanent repository.



- High level defense nuclear waste is currently stored at 16 sites in 13 states and totals 7,000 metric tons.
- 63,000 metric tons of used commercial fuel is being stored at nuclear plants in 39 states.

In all, more than 161 million Americans

reside within 75 miles of where spent nuclear fuel and highlevel radioactive waste are stored, closer than the residents of Las Vegas are to Yucca Mountain.



-- Source: U. S. Department of Energy

In the aftermath of September 11....

Deep geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste provides optimal security by placing the material so far underground that it would provide protection from both inadvertent and human intrusion, including potential terrorist activities.



Lack of a permanent repository has implications for the Central Savannah **River** Area

- We become a permanent repository.
- Our image suffers, potentially impacting economic development efforts.
- There are questions about the safety of "forever" storage on-site.
- The Federal Government has broken its promise to us and to DOE communities nationwide.

In storing high-level nuclear waste, we saw ourselves as a hotel.

Our non-paying "guests" were transient – staying for a while and then moving on.

We never envisioned building a permanent retirement home for them.



We are all affected.

The challenge of properly disposing of nuclear waste touches every man, woman and child in America.

- Lack of enhanced public safety
- Energy Independence
- Economic Development
- Job Creation
- National Security/Terrorism
- Regional and Global Competitiveness
- Impact on future generations
- Continued payments to Nuclear Waste Fund with no repository

What's Next?

Community leaders must come together with a single voice to demand the Government keep its commitment to provide a permanent repository.



Questions for the Community

- Should we continue to support completion of Yucca Mountain?
- Should Congress establish recycling as the national policy for management of spent fuel?
- If we continue interim storage at SRS, should we demand payment to local units of government that agree to store nuclear waste?
- Should we coordinate our efforts with local units of governments in other states who are similarly affected?

Role of the SRSCRO

The SRS Community Reuse Organization is serving as a facilitator for public dialog regarding the Administration's decision to abandon Yucca Mountain.

We believe it is imperative that a permanent repository for nuclear waste be made available as promised.

- Public Meetings
- Education and Information
- Council Resolutions
- Communication with Congressional Delegation
- Communication with DOE and The White House
- Coordination with regional groups
- Coordination with DOE communities nationwide
- Working with nuclear utilities
- Working with state and Federal regulatory agencies

What Can You Do?

Become informed and educated.

Understand what is at stake for our region.

Become an active participant.

Talk to your fellow citizens.

Support initiatives to ensure a permanent repository is completed.



What We Don't Want.

In 1987, this garbage barge became infamous in environmental history as it floated aimlessly for 112 days, covering 5,000 miles looking for a place to unload its cargo.

Interim storage of spent fuel and nuclear waste is today's equivalent of the floating barge.

These materials need a permanent home. It is the government's role to provide it.



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