



# Sustainable Fuel Cycle TASK FORCE

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**June 30, 2009**

## **MEMORANDUM**

### **SUBJECT: YUCCA MOUNTAIN FY2010 FUNDING**

We are writing in support of continued Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Yucca Mountain repository license application (LA) and the companion technical and scientific review of the application by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

As reported last week, the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee approved the administration's requested funding level of \$196.8 million for the Yucca Mountain repository project. While we appreciate the continued support for the program and the continued licensing of the Yucca Mountain repository project, we believe that the approved funding level of \$196.8 million is well short of the funding needed to maintain a viable DOE/NRC licensing process.

As shown in the attached Yucca budget analysis, over one-half and as much as three-quarters of the Yucca budget is likely to be committed to paying for program and project overhead and legacy costs, thereby leaving insufficient funding available for actual licensing support work. Our analysis agrees with the Nuclear Energy Institute's estimate that \$340 million is required in FY2010 by the DOE to fully support a thorough and rigorous NRC Yucca Mountain licensing review.

Yucca Mountain continues to remain a technically and scientifically qualified site, according to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board chartered by Congress to provide independent technical and scientific reviews of the DOE nuclear waste program. Abandoning Yucca Mountain now would leave spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste stranded in 121 sites in 39 states across the country for up to one hundred years without a viable alternative for disposition.

We appreciate your continuing interest in Yucca Mountain and look forward to serving as an information resource as the FY2010 appropriations process proceeds.

Please contact:

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