



Draft Supplement to the Department of Energy's Environmental Impact Statements for the Proposed Yucca Mountain Repository

Rockville, Maryland

September 3, 2015

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Overview

- Background – environmental review
- Overview of the draft supplement
- Opportunity for clarifying questions
- Public comments

How did we get here?

Environmental Review

- Framework
 - National Environmental Policy Act
 - Nuclear Waste Policy Act
- Activities
 - Department of Energy (DOE) environmental impact statements in 2002 and 2008
 - NRC staff review and Adoption Determination Report in 2008

What did the NRC staff find in the Adoption Determination Report?

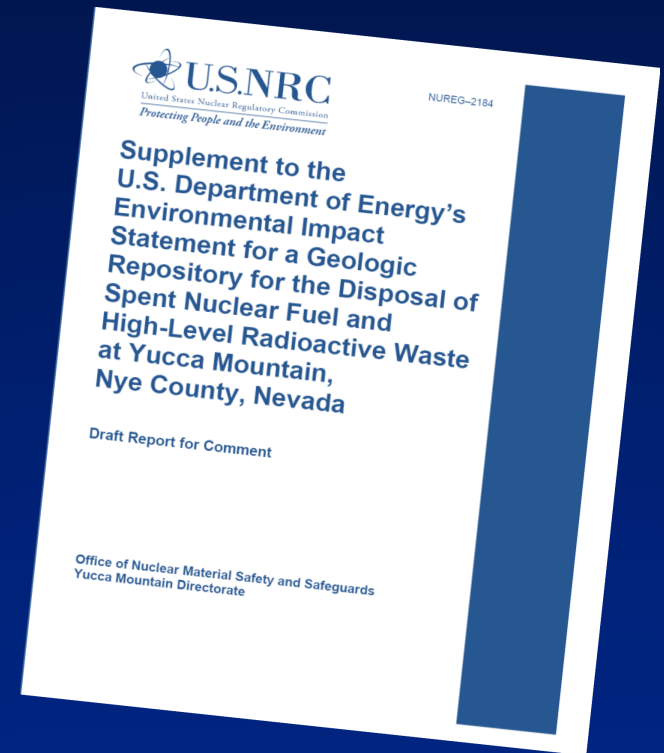
- EISs could be adopted, but supplementation is needed
- Scope of needed supplementation:
 - Impacts on groundwater beyond the regulatory compliance point
 - Impacts from surface discharge of groundwater beyond the regulatory compliance point
 - Including radiological and nonradiological contaminants

Why is the NRC staff supplementing DOE's EISs?

- NRC review and hearing process was suspended in 2011
- The NRC requested that DOE complete the supplement
- DOE deferred to the NRC
- NRC staff began work on the supplement after completing the Safety Evaluation Report

What is the scope of the supplement?

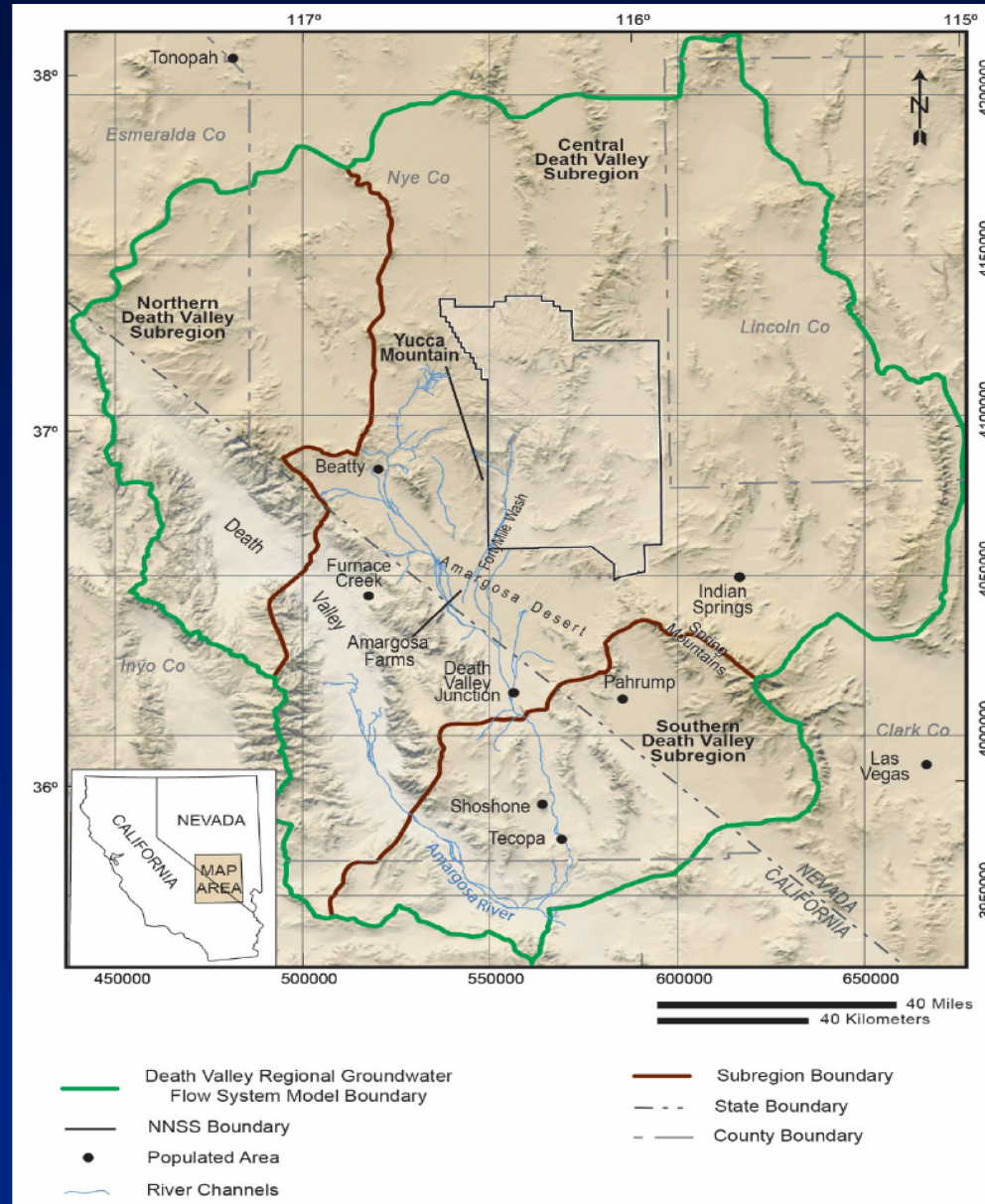
- Described in Adoption Determination Report
- Scope is limited because NRC staff found environmental impact statements otherwise appropriate for adoption



What is the potentially affected area?

- Area of groundwater flow path that could include contaminant releases from repository
- Evaluates groundwater flow path beyond regulatory compliance location
- Surface discharge areas (pumping and natural)

Death Valley Regional Groundwater Flow System



What resources could be affected?

- Groundwater – the aquifer environment
- Soils
- Public health
- Ecology
- Potential for disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations

What is the framework for the analysis?

- Radiological and nonradiological contaminants
- One million years after repository closure
- Builds on DOE's model of repository performance, as assessed and found acceptable in NRC staff's Safety Evaluation Report

What conditions are analyzed?

- Groundwater pumping
 - Pumping for irrigation in Amargosa Farms
 - No pumping \Rightarrow possible natural discharge
- Climates
 - Hot and dry (similar to present day)
 - Cooler and wetter

Deposits at Former Discharge Locations



Prehistoric spring discharge deposits
State Line area, Nevada-California

What does the supplement conclude and why?

- Potential direct and indirect impacts would be small
- Potential cumulative impacts would be small
- Impacts are consistent with NRC staff understanding of contaminant transport through the aquifer

Next Steps

- Public meetings in Nevada
 - Las Vegas, September 15
 - Amargosa Valley (Nye County), September 17
- Teleconference, October 15
- Comment period closes November 20, 2015
- Final supplement expected in first half of 2016

How to Comment

Present Oral Comments at a Public Meeting

Sign up at the registration desk to present oral comments in person at a meeting

- September 3, 2015 at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD
- September 15, 2015 at Embassy Suites in Las Vegas, NV
- September 17, 2015 at Amargosa Valley Community Center, NV

Call into the phone line for the September 3 or October 15 public meetings

Submit Written Comments through November 20, 2015

Please include Docket ID NRC-2015-0051 in the subject line of written comments.

Post comments to the Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2015-0051. Click on the comment icon and complete the web form.

Mail comments to NRC: Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop OWFN-12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001

Present written comments at a public meeting: Hand your written comments to NRC staff members at an EIS Supplement public meeting.