

Nye County NWRPO Update

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December a Success for Science & Tech Corridor

Nye County's NWRPO works to protect the interests of its citizens in activities related to the transport and storage of nuclear waste in and through Nye County.

The NWRPO is committed to helping Nye County residents become fully informed about nuclear waste activities.

This "Update" is part of Nye County's efforts to influence the direction of existing and future Yucca Mountain actions through communication and information sharing.



The Nye-County sponsored Nevada Science and Technology Corridor (NSTC) project gained momentum during December, with the award of more than \$31,000 to adopt a redevelopment plan and capital improvement plan for downtown Tonopah. This CBDG (Community Development Block Grant) brings the total amount awarded to the project since October 1997 to \$565,000. This includes significant support from the NTS Development corporation, including a \$194,000 Stage 1 Grant and a \$340,000 Stage 2 Grant, which is more than 50% completed.

In addition, Nye County was notified by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) that its' July 1998 pre-application for grant funds was formally

accepted. The EDA invited Nye County to proceed with a full application for a \$3 million dollar project. The grant application is being developed in partnership with CCSN (the Community College of Southern Nevada) and will be finalized in February.

The largest portion of the project will include development assistance for communities along the corridor and the initial planning stages of the Amargosa Science & Technology Park. Grant dollars will also be used to help in building the CCSN Pahrump Community Center, which will serve as a video conferencing hub for corridor communities.

Drilling Program QA Audit Complete

The first Quality Assurance Audit of Nye County's EWDP's drilling and sample collection operations was performed on December 10th. The internal audit was focused primarily on verification of quality-affecting aspects of sample collection and documentation. NWRPO field personnel responded to auditor's inquiries about their qualifications and training related to relevant NWRPO Quality Assurance and Technical Procedures.

Other areas covered in the audit included issue and documentation of field notebooks, sample depth-interval control, driller supplied documentation, sample-logging procedures and sample Chain-of-Custody con-

trols. Audit results were positive. Field personnel are doing an excellent job of collecting traceable, high-quality samples. A follow-on QA field visit took place on December 17th. This surveillance verified that all procedures are being performed as required by the QA program.

On January 1st, the Nye County Commissioners voted to enlarge the NSTC Advisory Board. Two Indian Springs residents have been added to the Board

White House Announces New DOE EM Secretary

The White House announced on January 8th that Carolyn L. Huntoon will be nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management for the Department of Energy.

Dr. Huntoon currently serves at George Washington University's School of Business and Public Management as an Executive in Residence for Program and Project Management. From 1996 to 1998, she was NASA's Agency Representative to the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President. From 1968 to 1996, Dr. Huntoon served in various capacities at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. She served as the Center's Director from 1994 to 1996 and managed the Center's role in 13 successful Shuttle missions.

Prior to her tenure at the Johnson Space Center, Huntoon served as director of the Space and Life

Sciences Directorate, as Associate Director of the Center, as Chief of the Biomedical Laboratories Branch, and as head of Endocrine and Biochemistry Laboratories.

Dr. Huntoon has received numerous awards, including NASA's Outstanding Leadership and Distinguished Service medals, the Senior Executive Service Presidential Meritorious and Distinguished Rank Awards, the Arthur S. Fleming Award, the YWCA's Outstanding Woman in Science and Technology award, and the Uri Gagarin Medal from the USSR Federation of Cosmonautics. She is a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, the Aerospace Medical Association, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Dr. Huntoon holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Physiology from the Baylor College of Medicine.

January Nuclear Calendar

1/11: International Non-Proliferation Conference, Washington, DC

1/14: Savannah River HLW Tank Closure EIS Scoping Workshop, No. Augusta, SC

1/18: Martin Luther King Day

1/18: Disarmament Conference, Geneva

1/19: Nye County Board of Commissioners-Beatty

1/19: House of Representatives Reconvenes

1/19: State of the Union Address, 9:00 p.m.

1/26-27: NWTRB Board Meeting, Las Vegas
AULG-Clark County Gov't Ctr/5:30-8:30

1/28: Savannah River spent nuclear fuel draft EIS, public meeting- Columbia, SC

1/28: DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility Opening (tentative)

1/99: DOE Environmental Management Office, Record of Decision for Waste Management PEIS on treatment and disposal sites for low-level and low-level mixed waste

News from the NWRPO Office.....

The newly re-designed NWRPO website is up-and-running at www.nyecounty.com. The site includes background information on the U.S. nuclear waste program, the NWRPO program description and strategic plan, drilling program activity reports, and links to pertinent nuclear waste information sites.

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