

Eureka, Nevada

December 4, 2018

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADOPTING THE NUCLEAR WASTE PROGRAM ISSUES REPORT AND STATING THE  
PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES FOR THE EUREKA COUNTY NUCLEAR WASTE  
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 set a process and time schedule for the establishment of the nation's first geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent commercial nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 1987, the Congress of the United States amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, identifying Yucca Mountain in Nye County, Nevada, as the sole site to be characterized as a permanent repository for the storage of spent commercial nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste, and designated Eureka County as an "affected unit of local government" because it is contiguous to Nye County; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County as an affected unit of local government has a responsibility to perform oversight as identified in section 116 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act as amended; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of Eureka County residents being of the highest priority, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners has been steadfast and diligent in its efforts to assess, prepare for, participate, and monitor impacts to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Carlin rail corridor beginning in Beowawe and extending southwest through Eureka County was considered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the 300 mile rail line through Nevada to facilitate shipments to the repository, and may still be considered again depending on a number of factors including the viability of the chosen route; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has both rail and interstate highway corridors which pose public safety challenges for safe transport of nuclear material in remote areas with only volunteer emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS Eureka County is recognized as a "downwind" county from atomic bomb testing primarily in the 1950s and 1960s at the Nevada Test Site in Nye County, Nevada, where winds blowing away from Las Vegas delivered radioactive particles which exposed residents of Eureka County to radiation and adversely affected the health of Eureka County residents; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County has produced numerous studies and reports on the likely impacts of the repository and its transportation needs including extensive comments on Environmental Impact Statements, the County's Impact Assessment Report to the State of Nevada, and its Report to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County is an "Interested Governmental Participant" in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing hearing process to consider the application of the Department of Energy to construct a repository at Yucca Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners ensured the County's ability to be an active participant in the NRC licensing proceeding by the certification of its document collection in the NRC's Licensing Support Network in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Eureka County Board of Commissioners has consistently strived for public participation and full involvement by the County in the consideration of the Yucca Mountain site as the nation's sole repository.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: the Eureka County Board of Commissioners adopts the following principles regarding its Nuclear Waste Program:

Eureka County supports bringing critical thinking and transparency to all aspects of the Yucca Mountain repository program including the management by DOE and the NRC licensing process as part of its oversight role as an affected unit of local government; and


Eureka County endeavors to assess, prepare for and monitor potential impacts to public health and safety, and other impacts to residents of Eureka County with special emphasis on concerns about transportation and emergency response and the uncertain prospect of reconsideration of the Carlin rail corridor by DOE; and

Eureka County supports full public participation in the repository program and the licensing process to encourage public involvement, transparency, and promote public trust and confidence as identified by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future; and

The Eureka County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Nuclear Waste Program Issues Report, 2018, as the foundation for this resolution, and hereby further states that based on present facts and circumstances, Eureka County remains neutral in its official position on the Yucca Mountain repository.

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

Ayes: GOICUECHA  
SHARKOZY  
ETHEGARAY  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE

  
Chairman of the Board  
Eureka County Commissioners

Attest:

  
Commission Clerk