



U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management



# Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program Update

Presented to:  
**Transportation External Coordination Working Group**

Presented by:  
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Atlanta, GA**

# Introduction

- **Provide status of Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) and its mission**
  - Strategic objectives
  - Program milestones
  - Key issues
  - Near-term Program priorities
- **Present transportation program update**
  - Office of Logistics (OLM) projects
  - FY 2006 accomplishments
  - Nevada Transportation Project status and milestones
  - National Spent Fuel Transportation Plan
  - FY 2007 transportation program priorities
- **Conclusions**



# Program Strategic Objectives

- **Submit a high-quality and docketable license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission no later than June 30, 2008**
- **Design, staff and train the OCRWM organization so it has the skills and culture needed to design, license, and manage the construction and operation of the Yucca Mountain Project with safety, quality, and cost effectiveness**



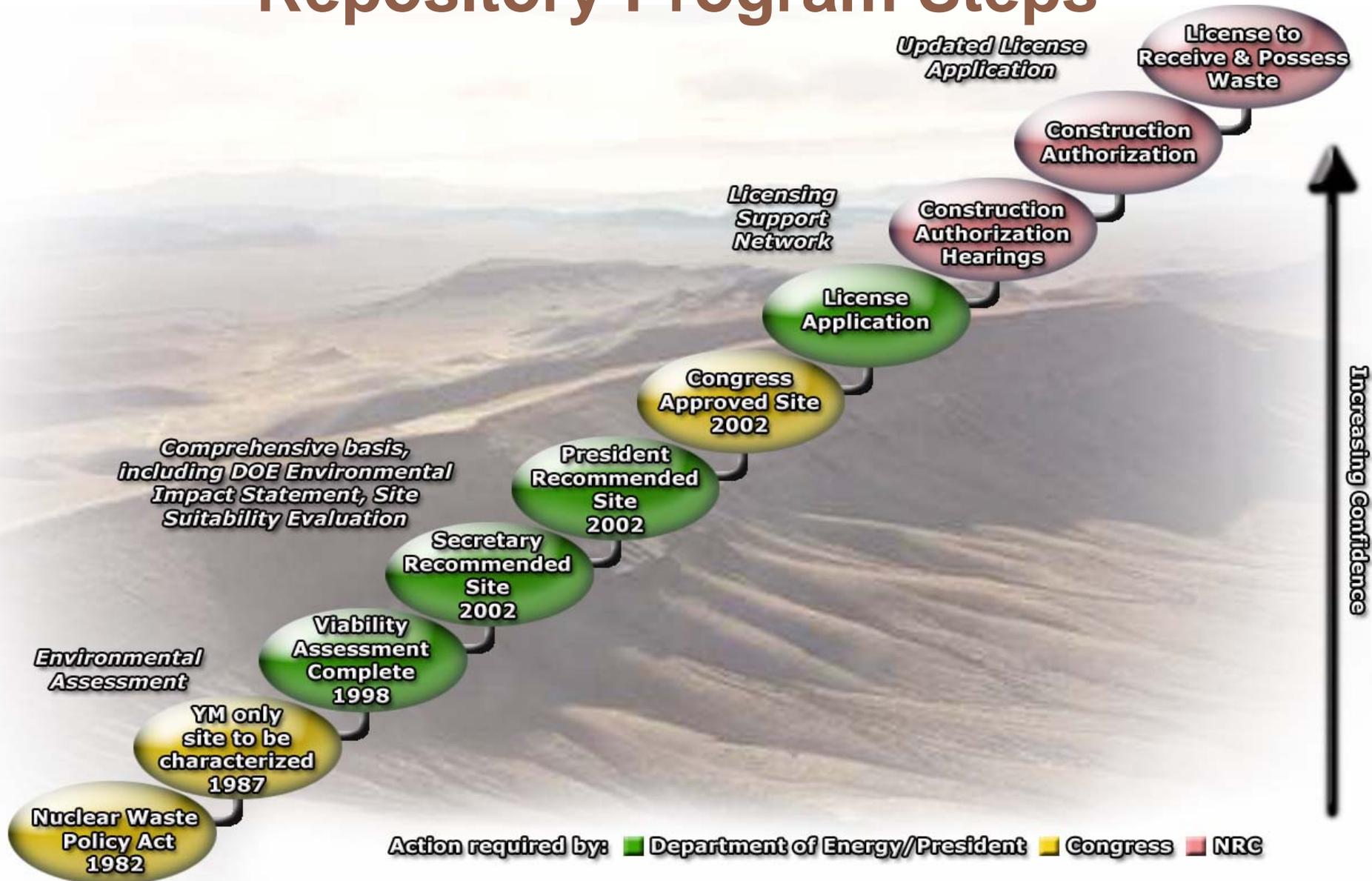
# Program Strategic Objectives

## (continued)

- **Address the federal government's mounting liability associated with unmet contractual obligations to move spent fuel from nuclear plant sites**
- **Develop and begin implementation of a comprehensive national spent fuel transportation plan that accommodates state, local, and tribal concerns and input to the greatest extent practicable**



# Repository Program Steps



# Program Milestones

- **License application design complete** Nov. 2007
- **Licensing Support Network certification** Dec. 2007
- **Supplemental repository EIS** May 2008
- **LA submittal** Jun. 2008
- **Start Nevada rail construction** Oct. 2009
- **Repository construction authorization** Sept. 2011
- **Submit license update to receive/possess** Mar. 2013
- **Nevada rail line operational** Jun. 2014
- **Begin waste receipt** Mar. 2017



# Key Issues Update

- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Budget**
  - Full-year continuing resolution will keep funding at the same level as FY 2006 – \$495 million
  - Critical milestone of submitting LA by June 2008 can still be met
- **Revisions to Environmental Protection Agency Standards 40CFR197**



# Key Issues Update

## (continued)

- **Legislative**

- **Land Withdrawal**

- ◆ **NRC regulations require that DOE have permanent control of land around the repository**

- **Reclassifying Waste Fund receipts**

- ◆ **Will facilitate Congress' ability to provide adequate funding for the Program**

- **Capacity Limit**

- ◆ **If the 70,000 metric ton statutory cap is not lifted, a second repository will be needed**



# Near-term Program Priorities

- **Further develop the designs of**
  - Repository
  - Transportation, aging and disposal (TAD) systems
  - Transportation system
    - ◆ OCRWM is moving ahead with development of a transportation strategic plan
- **Complete draft of the LA including**
  - Supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) to the 2002 Yucca Mountain final EIS
  - Licensing Support Network



# Near-term Program Priorities

## (continued)

- **Building a nuclear culture is an important piece of the Yucca Mountain Project**
- **OCRWM must have the necessary skills and culture to be an NRC licensee and a repository operator**
- **In FY 2007, focus will be on**
  - **Safety, integrity, accountability, quality, team work, and continuous improvement**
- **A human capital management plan will identify approaches to enhance engineering, managerial, and operations skills**



# Office of Logistics Management Projects

- **OLM manages two major capital asset projects developing the transportation infrastructure**
  - **National Transportation Project**
    - ◆ **Casks**
    - ◆ **Special rail cars**
    - ◆ **Support facilities**
  - **Nevada Transportation Project**
    - ◆ **Rail alignment EIS (RA-EIS)**
    - ◆ **Design and construction of a rail line to Yucca Mountain**
- **OLM has two other key projects**
  - **Institutional relations provides the mechanisms to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders and key interested parties**
  - **Operations develops the requirements and capabilities that are required for shipping campaigns**



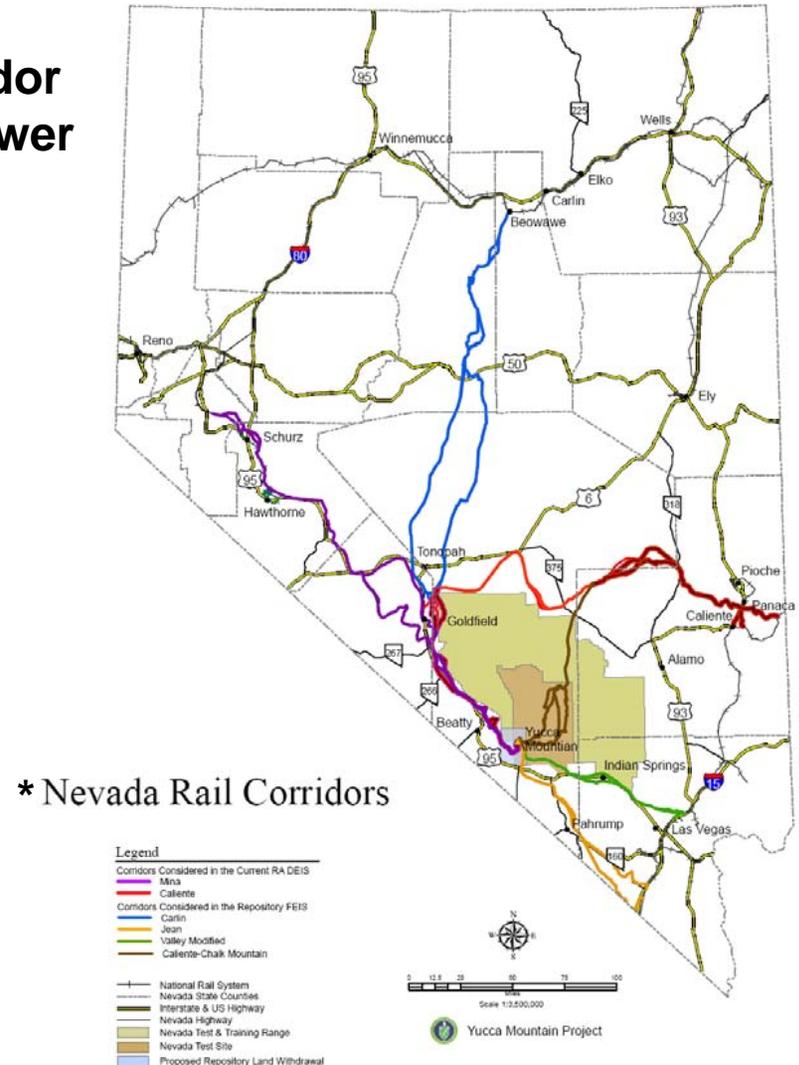
# FY 2006 Accomplishments

- **Caliente Corridor draft Nevada rail alignment RA-EIS is essentially finished**
  - Field work and analyses have been completed
- ***Transportation Concept of Operations* issued**
- **Benchmarking study completed and under review**
  - Evaluated critical success factors and identified lessons-learned from past shipping campaigns
- ***Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual* (DOE M 460.2-1) updated for OCRWM shipments**
- **Continued consultations with stakeholders including state, local, and tribal governments and nuclear industry representatives**



# Nevada Transportation Project Status

- Caliente corridor selected from five corridor options in the repository EIS based on fewer potential land-use conflicts
- Conceptual design for Caliente was completed; Draft RA-EIS ready to be issued on schedule and within budget
- Mina corridor was not considered in the repository EIS due to objections from the Walker River Paiute Tribe
- In May 2006, Tribe removed objection to studying the impacts of nuclear waste shipments across their lands
- Inclusion of the Mina route in the RA-EIS was announced in October and will allow the Tribe to make a more informed, final decision on a right-of-way



\*Nevada Rail Corridors Analyzed in the Final Repository EIS Plus Mina



# Nevada Transportation Project Key Milestones

- **2007 - Issue draft RA EIS**
- **2008 - Issue final RA EIS and RA record of decision**
- **2008 - Start final Nevada rail design**
- **2008 - Receive Bureau of Land Management right-of-way**
- **2009 - Start Nevada rail line construction**
- **2014 - Nevada rail operational**



# National Spent Fuel Transportation Plan

- **OLM is preparing a comprehensive national spent fuel transportation plan that accommodates state, local and tribal concerns to the extent practicable**
  - One of four strategic OCRWM program objectives
- **Elements of the plan include**
  - Requirements
  - Infrastructure development
  - Institutional outreach
  - Operations
- **OCRWM plans to issue a draft for public comment later this year**



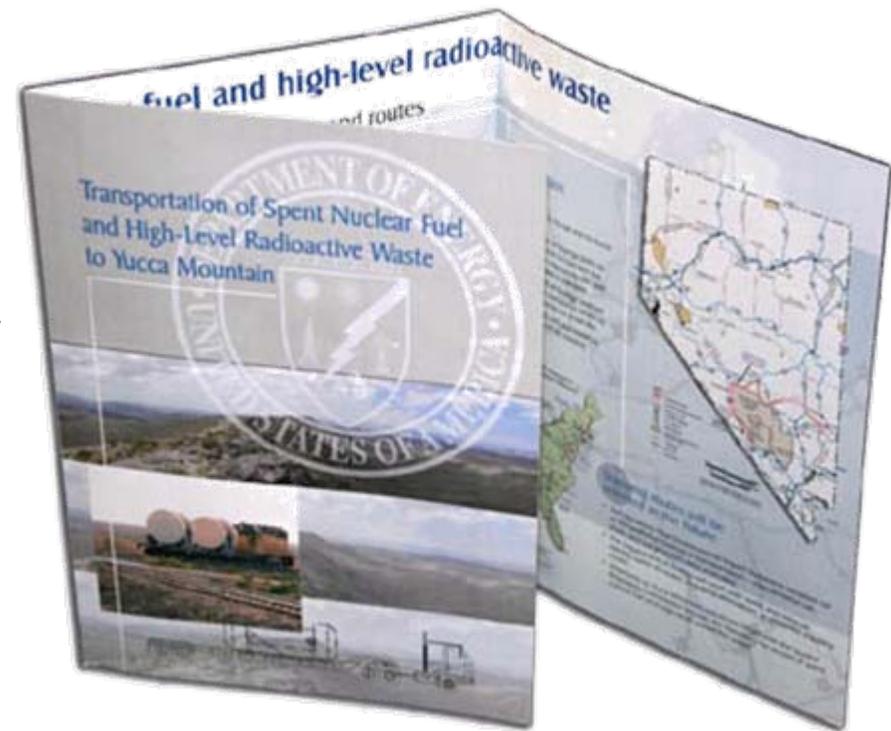
# FY 2007 OLM Priorities

- **Complete draft *Supplemental Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor and Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement***
- **Publish draft Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) Section 180(c) policy and application procedures**
- **Continue work on routing criteria for preliminary national and regional suites of routes**
- **Prepare a comprehensive national spent fuel transportation plan**
- **Expand benchmarking efforts to identify best practices**
- **Partner with Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program for development of the escort car design**
- **Coordinate with TAD canister system development effort**



# Outreach/Communications Activities

- **FY 2006 Transportation communications products**
  - Key messages, graphics and exhibits
  - “How to Build a Railroad” DVD
- **Expanded outreach in FY 2007**
  - National science teachers
  - American Nuclear Society



# Conclusions

- **The Department is committed to the successful licensing and development of Yucca Mountain as a geologic repository**
- **Developing a comprehensive national spent fuel transportation system is an OCRWM Program priority**
- **Collaboration with stakeholders is integral to implementing a transportation system that is safe, secure, efficient, and merits public confidence**

