

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## **Contract Services for Monitoring Socioeconomic and Transportation Impacts Associated with the Yucca Mountain High-Level Radioactive Waste Repository Project and Providing Research and Information Support for Legal Cases and Licensing Activities Related to the Repository Project**

### **Background and Introduction**

In July, 2002, the U.S. Congress voted to uphold the decision by the Energy Department (DOE) and the President to select Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada as the potential location for the nation's first high-level nuclear waste repository. Nevada is presently challenging the project in the courts and plans to contest any DOE application to obtain a license for a Yucca Mountain repository before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Under Public Law 97-425, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA), the State of Nevada conducted extensive independent evaluations of the proposed repository and its impacts on the State, local communities, and the nation. The State prepared a major Yucca Mountain Impact Report<sup>1</sup> that was submitted to the Secretary of Energy and the President in February, 2002. That report is available on the State of Nevada nuclear waste web site at: <http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/yucca/impactreport.pdf>.

The Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects (Agency) has been carrying out socioeconomic research and monitoring studies since 1987. These studies have covered the entire spectrum of possible economic and social/cultural impacts that might be associated with a repository and related activities (such as the transport of radioactive materials) as well as the potential vulnerabilities of Nevada and its communities to negative repository effects. The Agency's efforts have involved a multi-disciplinary research team that operated with advice from a Technical Review Committee made up of nationally regarded experts in various socioeconomic-related disciplines.<sup>2</sup> Information about the various studies that have been undertaken can be found on the "Socioeconomics and Health Effects" section of the State's nuclear waste web site at: <http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste>.

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<sup>1</sup>"A Mountain of Trouble: A Nation at Risk - Report on Impacts of the Proposed Yucca Mountain High-Level Nuclear Waste Program," by the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, February 2002.

<sup>2</sup>The Technical Review Committee (TRC) is a group of 10 nationally-known experts in various socioeconomic-transportation fields which has provided peer review and technical oversight for the socioeconomic studies since 1987. The TRC had input into all of the State studies and reviewed all work products.

## Description of the Services Required

This solicitation seeks to identify firms or organizations to provide services related to maintaining/updating baseline information and monitoring selected socioeconomic impacts identified in the Impact Report that would be associated with the location and operation of a HLW repository at Yucca Mountain, including impacts from the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and HLW to such a facility in Nevada and nationally. The solicitation also contemplates that additional research and/or data collection will be necessary to provide support for legal cases involving certain aspects of the Yucca Mountain program and the State's activities associated with NRC's licensing proceedings.

It is expected that the contractor selected will utilize data and findings from the Impact Report and from the extensive socioeconomic impact assessment research since 1987 to perform ongoing monitoring and baseline updates in selected impact areas to be identified by the Agency. These impact areas include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Impacts to Nevada's key economic sectors, especially the tourism and gaming sectors, including impacts associated with risk perception and stigma that have been documented through past research;
- Impacts to property values along prospective spent fuel and high-level waste shipping routes;
- National impacts of the Yucca Mountain project;
- Impacts to the federal budget associated with the escalating cost of the project;
- Transportation impact studies;
- Radiological health and accident consequence assessments;
- Assessments of consequences associated with terrorism against shipments;
- Other impact areas identified by the Agency for monitoring/study.

The contractor will also be expected to provide research/data collection services in support of certain litigation brought by the State of Nevada and State activities related to the NRC's licensing proceedings. This could include follow up studies on selected issues related to DOE's final Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement<sup>3</sup> and various issues related to the transportation of spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste, both in Nevada and nationally.

Types of research and/or studies that may be required include survey research on public opinion and risk perceptions; property valuation studies; tourism/visitor impact studies (i.e., specialized studies to track potential stigma impacts associated with the Yucca Mountain program); studies addressing the consequences (radiological, health effects, economic) of both routine transportation of spent fuel and high-level waste and accidents or terrorism involving such shipments; cask safety/cask performance evaluations; highway, rail, and barge routing

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<sup>3</sup>DOE's Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yucca Mountain project can be found on DOE's Yucca Mountain web site at: [http://www.ymp.gov/documents/feis\\_a/index.htm](http://www.ymp.gov/documents/feis_a/index.htm) .

analyses; cost evaluations; seminars and/or workshops to develop information/evaluate data on key repository or transportation issues; etc. Work under the contract will be implemented through task orders issued by the Agency.

## **Required Qualifications**

It is expected that firms or other organizations responding to this solicitation will have a demonstrable record of accomplishments in managing and carrying out similar projects of comparable complexity during the past five years. In addition, applicants must be able to demonstrate extensive knowledge of the federal high-level nuclear waste disposal program, the State of Nevada and surrounding region, and prior State and local government socioeconomic activities. It would be exceedingly difficult for a company or other entity to carry out the work envisioned under this RFP without having had fairly extensive experience with the federal HLW program and socioeconomic impact assessment related to the State of Nevada and nuclear waste facilities. The Agency does not contemplate paying for an extensive learning curve on the part of a prospective contractor. Work will be assigned, managed and carried out through individual task orders. It is expected the work will necessitate the use of subcontractors who are specialists in the various subject/topical areas. As such, responding firms/organizations should have a demonstrated ability and administrative capacity to identify, employ, and manage the work of multiple subcontractors. The work also requires sensitivity to and experience working with state, local, and tribal governments and an understanding of their interrelationships.

Specific qualifications include:

- Extensive knowledge of the federal high-level radioactive waste management program and with federal nuclear waste activities in Nevada;
- Extensive knowledge of and familiarity with the State of Nevada, especially southern Nevada (Clark County) and the communities likely to be impacted by the federal program.
- Familiarity and experience with major socioeconomic impact assessment and monitoring programs, especially in the context of highly controversial facilities/programs where both “standard” and “special”, or risk-induced, impacts were of concern;
- An administrative system capable of effectively and efficiently managing the subcontracting, reporting and supervisory requirements of the project;
- Professional staff with demonstrated experience in project management and implementation of multi-disciplinary studies or activities;

- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with peer review panels or other oversight bodies; and,
- An understanding of the national, state and local policy implications of studies related to the impacts of nuclear waste facilities.

### **Type of Contract**

The Agency anticipates awarding a fee-based contract for the provision of the services described above. The Agency prefers to award one contract for the entire effort but may, at its discretion, award multiple contracts to different contractors in order to obtain the services required. It is anticipated that the duration of the initial contract(s) will be for one year, from October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003, with provision for renewal for additional work should that be indicated. Funding for each year of the contract(s) will be subject to availability of State general fund revenues.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Applicants are required to disclose, as part of their RFP submissions, any relationships (past or present) with *any* U.S. Department of Energy departments or contractors. The Agency will review such relationships to determine if potential conflicts of interest exist. Applicants with current or past (i.e., the last 5 years) contractual or other ties to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), DOE's Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (YMSCO), or any firm/organization that is presently doing work for OCRWM or YMSCO - or that has, in the past, done work for these organizations - may not be considered for this solicitation. Decisions as to whether or not conflicts of interest exist will be made solely by the Agency.

### **Supplemental Information**

Additional information that may be useful in responding to this solicitation can be found on the State of Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects' Internet web page at <http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste>. Summary information regarding past State-sponsored research on socioeconomic impacts of the federal HLW program can be found at the following specific web pages:

<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/yucca/sebian95.htm>  
<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/yucca/socio01.htm>  
<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/eis/yucca/ymeisapp01.pdf>  
<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/eis/yucca/ymeisapp02.pdf>

Information on legal cases related to the Yucca Mountain project and the federal high-level radioactive waste program can be found on the State web page at:

<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/policy.htm> .

### **Submission of Proposal Statements**

Applicants must submit five (5) copies of a Proposal Statement that will include the following: (1) A description of the applicant's proposed approach for implementing the tasks identified above (sufficient to demonstrate an understanding of the tasks and the activities needed to implement them), together with a proposed cost for completing the tasks; (2) a statement of qualifications showing how the applicant's experience and expertise meet the requirements set forth above; and (3) a statement disclosing past DOE relationships, if applicable. The Proposal Statement should be accompanied by vitae of key personnel, should not exceed fifteen (15) double-spaced pages (excluding vitae), and must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm (Pacific Daylight Time), Tuesday, September 3, 2002.

Proposal Statements should be sent to:

#### Regular Mail and Overnight Delivery:

Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects  
Nuclear Waste Project Office  
1802 N. Carson Street, Suite 252  
Carson City, NV 89710  
(775) 687-3744

ATTENTION: Mr. Joseph C. Strolin  
Administrator, Planning Division

#### E-Mail:

Proposal Statements may also be sent via e-mail to: [jstrolin@nuc.state.nv.us](mailto:jstrolin@nuc.state.nv.us). Statements should be sent as attached files in either MS Word or Word Perfect format.

Questions concerning this solicitation can be directed to Mr. Strolin or Mr. Robert Loux, Executive Director of the Agency, at (775) 687-3744 (Phone) or (775) 687-5277 (Fax).

### **Selection Process**

The Agency will select one or more contractors based upon a review of the Proposal Statement submitted in response to this solicitation and the applicant's proposed billing rate/fees. Specific evaluation criteria are as follows:

Quality and adequacy of proposals for implementing tasks (understanding of the work and activities required to implement the tasks)	30 points
Proposed cost for implementing the tasks	15 points
Qualifications:	
Knowledge of the federal high-level radioactive waste management program and federal nuclear waste activities in Nevada	10 points
Familiarity with the State of Nevada, especially southern Nevada (Clark County) and the communities likely to be impacted by the federal program	10 points
Familiarity and experience with major socioeconomic impact assessment and monitoring programs, especially those involving “special” or risk-induced impacts	10 points
Administrative systems capable of effectively managing the project, including subcontracting and accounting	10 points
Experience of professional staff	5 points
Ability to work effectively with peer review panels and other oversight bodies	5 points
Understanding of the national, state and local policy implications of impacts related to the impacts of nuclear waste facilities	5 points

Should there be responding applicants with expertise and qualifications specific to individual areas discussed in this RFP, the Agency may, at its discretion, select more than one applicant and divide the work accordingly. However, the Agency prefers to select a single firm or organization capable of carrying out the work needed to develop both major reports.