

**STATE OF NEVADA YUCCA MOUNTAIN SURVEY  
SUMMARY REPORT  
October, 2003**

**Introduction**

The following survey was conducted between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 by Northwest Survey & Data Services based in Eugene, Oregon and affiliated with the University of Oregon.

From a randomly generated list of telephone numbers, 401 completed interviews were obtained. The response rate for the survey was 49.21%, and the margin of error was plus or minus 4.9%.

Just under forty-five percent (45%) of respondents were male and slightly over 55 were female. Seventy-eight percent (78%) were registered voters. Of those 34% were Democrats; 44% Republicans; 8% were Independents; and 4% were affiliated with other parties or declined to answer.

Thirty-four percent (34%) of respondents were between 18 and 39 years of age; 32% were between 40 and 54 years of age; and 33% were 55 and older.

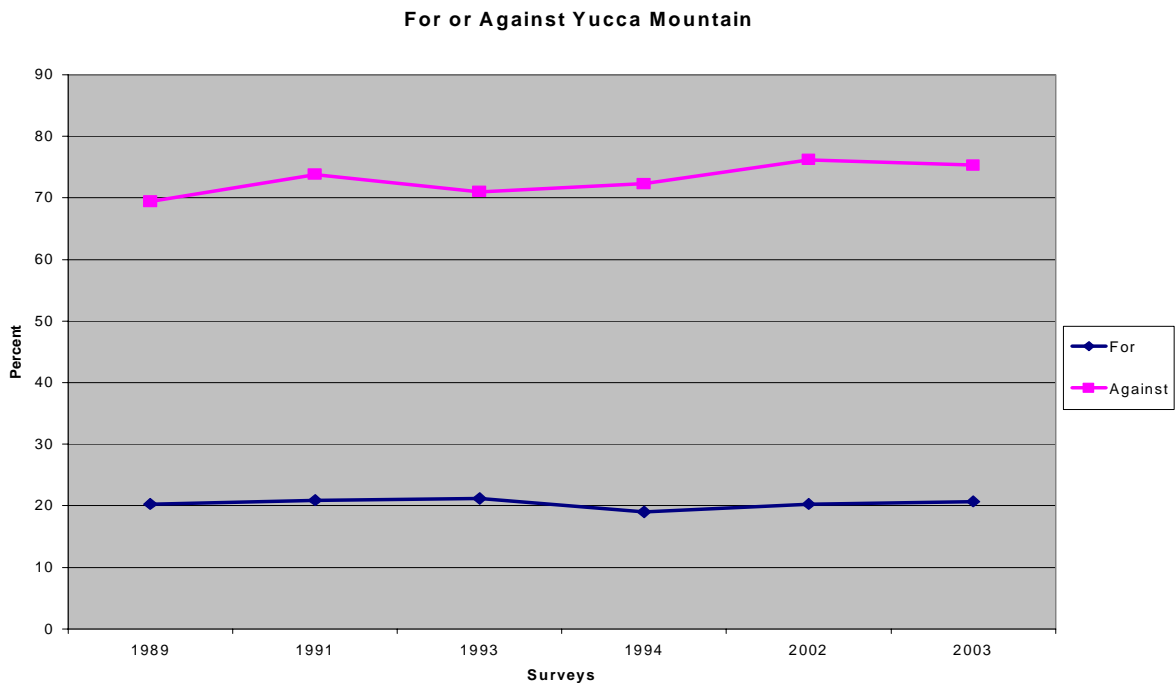
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## Summary of Key Findings

The survey found that, despite Congress' action in 2002 to override Governor Guinn's veto of the Yucca Mountain program and intensified commercial nuclear power industry promotional activities in Nevada, opposition to the program remains very high. Statewide, over 75% of Nevadans oppose locating a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain and would vote against it if given the opportunity. Only slightly more than 20% support the project.

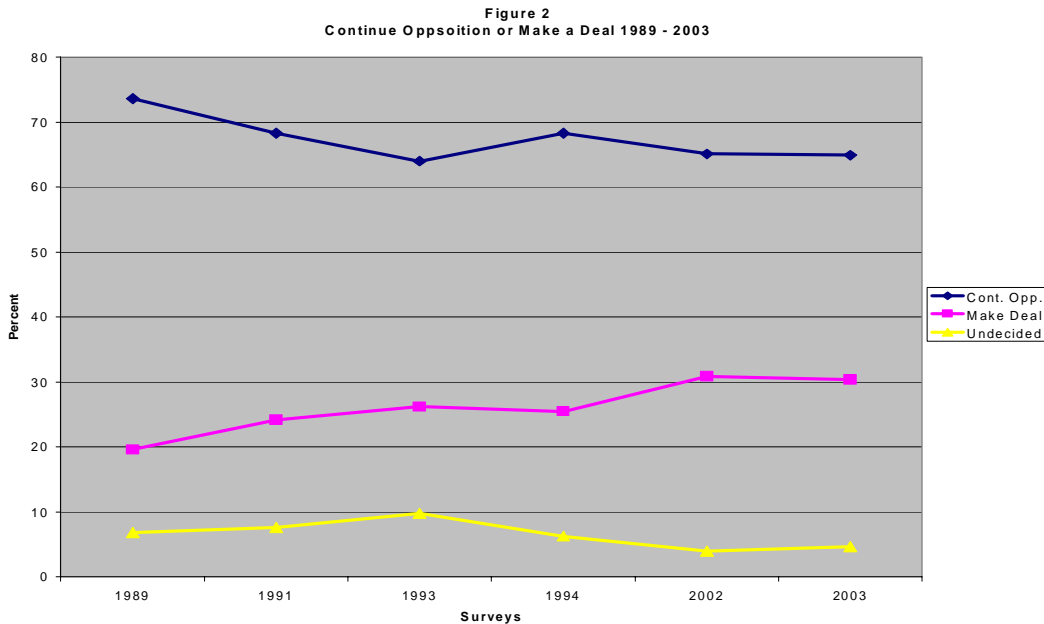
These results are consistent with finding from past surveys conducted since 1989. Figure 1 below shows that the level of opposition to the Yucca Mountain project has remained consistently high for the past 13 years. The figure depicts results for surveys conducted in 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 2002, and 2003.



Nevadans also remain strongly opposed to the State abandoning the fight to stop the Yucca Mountain project. The survey asked people to respond to the following question:

“Some people think Nevada should stop fighting the repository and instead try to make a deal with the federal government for benefits. Other people believe Yucca Mountain is a poor choice, and that state resistance should not be weakened or compromised by entering into a deal for benefits. Do you believe the state should stop its opposition and make a deal, or do you think the state should continue to do all it can to oppose the repository, even if that means turning down benefits that may be offered by the federal government.”

Sixty-Five percent (65%) of the respondents favored continuing State opposition, even if that meant turning down benefits, while just 30% favored making a deal. These survey findings were also remarkably consistent with results for the same question from past surveys (Figure 2).



Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the survey respondents believe Yucca Mountain will have net negative effect on Nevada's economy, while 31% believe the economic effect will be positive.

By a 2 to 1 margin, Nevadans do not believe DOE can be trusted to live up to any benefits agreement it might make with the state (64.3% said DOE cannot be trusted, while 32.2% said DOE could be trusted).

By more than 2 to 1, respondents are in agreement with the State filing lawsuits to stop the project, with 65.6% supporting the lawsuits and 32.4% disagreeing.

In terms of the risks that the Yucca Mountain project would mean for Nevada, respondents overwhelmingly identified rail and truck shipments to the repository as the greatest risk (82.6% rated this as moderate to high risk). The second highest risk is seen as the risk of radioactive contamination from the repository (77.8%), followed by the risk of property value losses to homes and businesses (76.8%), adverse health effects for Nevada residents (68.6%), risk of damaging Nevada's reputation (63.8%), risk of economic damage to major Nevada industries (60.6%), and risk of loss of public revenues (60.4%).

Question-by-question results for these and other survey questions, including questions about what other actions the state might take with respect to the Yucca Mountain program, are presented below.

## Question-by-Question Survey Results: Statewide and Clark County Samples

### Question 1:

The federal Department of Energy (DOE) wants to build the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada. If given the opportunity to vote on this matter, would you vote for or against locating a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain?

			<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Clark County</u>
VOTE FOR	1	83	20.7%	21.5%
VOTE AGAINST	2	302	75.31%	75.5%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	14	3.49%	3.0% <sup>1</sup>
NO ANSWER <sup>9</sup>		1	0.25%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

### Question 2:

Some people think Nevada should stop fighting the repository and instead try to make a deal with the federal government for benefits. Other people believe Yucca Mountain is a poor choice, and that state resistance should not be weakened or compromised by entering into a deal for benefits. Do you believe the state should stop its opposition and make a deal, or do you think the state should continue to do all it can to oppose the repository, even if that means turning down benefits that may be offered by the federal government.

MAKE A DEAL	1	122	30.42%	29.4%
CONTINUE OPPOSITION	2	260	64.84%	65.3%
DON'T KNOW	8	18	4.49%	5.3%
NO ANSWER <sup>9</sup>		1	0.25%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

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<sup>1</sup> For the Clark County sample, "Don't know", "Refused" and "Did Not Answer" responses are lumped together under the "Don't Know" category.

Question 3:

Public discussion of the economic effects of Yucca Mountain presents to opposite views. One position says that DOE employment and spending in Nevada will provide significant economic benefits to Nevada. The other position says that development of the repository and transportation of high-level radioactive wastes through the state will stigmatize Nevada as a place to visit, move to, or invest in, leading to significant economic losses. Do you think the Yucca Mountain project will have:

POSITIVE	1	125	31.17%	29.8%
NEGATIVE	2	233	58.1%	61.1%
REFUSED	7	2	0.5%	
DON'T KNOW	8	33	8.23%	9.1%
NO ANSWER9		8	2%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 4:

Supporters of the Yucca Mountain program say that the Department of Energy (DOE) can be trusted to live up to any benefits agreement the federal government would make with Nevada. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with this claim?

STRONGLY AGREE	1	9	2.24%	3.0%
AGREE	2	120	29.93%	30.9%
DISAGREE	3	141	35.16%	34.0%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4	117	29.18%	27.9%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	13	3.24%	4.2%
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 5:

In addition to Governor Guinn's veto of the recommendation to develop Yucca Mountain there are a number of other actions that could be taken. Please tell me if you would strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following actions. The first one is, filing law suits in the courts to stop the project. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with this step?

STRONGLY AGREE	1	90	22.44%	24.5%
AGREE	2	173	43.14%	41.5%
DISAGREE	3	97	24.19%	23.4%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4	33	8.23%	8.3%
DON'T KNOW	8	7	1.75%	2.3%
NO ANSWER9	1	0.25%		
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 6:

Calling out the Nevada National Guard to stop the Department of Energy (DOE) from proceeding with activities at the site

STRONGLY AGREE	1	35	8.73%	10.2%
AGREE	2	111	27.68%	29.4%
DISAGREE	3	168	41.9%	40.0%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4	69	17.21%	16.6%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	12	2.99%	3.8%
NO ANSWER9		5	1.25%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 7:

Denying the Department of Energy (DOE) water permits it needs for the project

STRONGLY AGREE	1	74	18.45%	21.1%
AGREE	2	172	42.89%	41.9%
DISAGREE	3	115	28.68%	28.7%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4	31	7.73%	6.8%
DON'T KNOW	8	6	1.5%	1.5%
NO ANSWER9		3	0.75%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 8:

Taking action to stop DOE's other activities at the NTS in protest

STRONGLY AGREE	1	44	10.97%	12.1%
AGREE	2	179	44.64%	44.9%
DISAGREE	3	124	30.92%	31.7%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4	39	9.73%	9.4%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	11	2.74%	1.9%
NO ANSWER9		3	0.75%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 9:

Using the Highway Patrol to stop shipments of high-level nuclear waste in Nevada

STRONGLY AGREE	1	63	15.71%	18.9%
AGREE	2	132	32.92%	34.3%
DISAGREE	3	143	35.66%	33.2%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4	48	11.97%	9.8%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	12	2.99%	3.8%
NO ANSWER9		2	0.5%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 10:

The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. I am going to read a short list and I would like you to tell me if you, personally, think these are items with little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk. The first one is, rail and truck shipments of up to 100,000 casks of high-level radioactive wastes across the country to Nevada. Do you think this item is of little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	26	6.48%	5.7%
SLIGHT RISK	2	38	9.48%	10.6%
MODERATE RISK	3	67	16.71%	14.3%
HIGH RISK	4	264	65.84%	67.9%
DON'T KNOW	8	5	1.25%	1.5%
NO ANSWER9		1	0.25%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 11:

Risk of radioactive contamination by radioactive emissions into the air and water over the next 10,000 years

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	37	9.23%	9.1%
SLIGHT RISK	2	38	9.48%	8.3%
MODERATE RISK	3	54	13.47%	14.0%
HIGH RISK	4	258	64.34%	66.4%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	13	3.24%	2.2%
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 12:

Risk of economic damage to major industries such as gaming and conventions because people avoid Nevada as the "Nuclear Dump State"

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	112	27.93%	25.7%
SLIGHT RISK	2	40	9.98%	9.1%
MODERATE RISK	3	90	22.44%	24.1%
HIGH RISK	4	153	38.15%	40.4%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	5	1.25%	.7%
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 13:

Risk of damaging Nevada's reputation as a place to vacation or live

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	101	25.19%	23.8%
SLIGHT RISK	2	40	9.98%	9.1%
MODERATE RISK	3	83	20.7%	21.1%
HIGH RISK	4	173	43.14%	45.3%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	3	0.75%	.7%
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 14:

Risk of loss of public revenues because of a reduced number of visitors

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	107	26.68%	24.5%
SLIGHT RISK	2	45	11.22%	10.6%
MODERATE RISK	3	93	23.19%	23.4%
HIGH RISK	4	149	37.16%	40.0%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW	8	6	1.5%	1.5%
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 15:

Risk of adverse health effects for Nevada residents from transportation and operations of the repository

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	63	15.71%	14.7%
SLIGHT RISK	2	51	12.72%	12.8%
MODERATE RISK	3	67	16.71%	14.7%
HIGH RISK	4	208	51.87%	54.7%
REFUSED	7	2	0.5%	
DON'T KNOW	8	8	2%	3.1%
NO ANSWER		2	0.5%	
MISSING		0	0%	
TOTAL		401	100%	

Question 16:

Risk of losses to property value for homes and businesses located near highways and railroads used for shipping nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain

LITTLE OR NO RISK	1	42	10.47%	8.3%
SLIGHT RISK	2	46	11.47%	11.3%
MODERATE RISK	3	69	17.21%	16.6%
HIGH RISK	4	239	59.6%	62.7%
REFUSED	7	1	0.25%	
DON'T KNOW		8	4	1%
MISSING		0	0%	1.1%
TOTAL		401	100%	