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### **New Survey Shows Strong Yucca Opposition**

Despite intensive efforts over the past year on the part of the commercial nuclear power industry to soften opposition to the proposed Yucca Mountain high-level nuclear waste facility and to convince Nevadans of its inevitability, almost two-thirds of the State's residents favor continuing opposition to the project and rejecting any negotiations for benefits.

That's a key finding of a public opinion survey conducted between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> by Northwest Survey and Data Services of Eugene, Oregon. When asked whether State officials should enter into negotiations with the federal government for benefits in exchange for going along with the project or continue to oppose the program even if that means turning down benefits, 65% would rather fight than deal. That is almost exactly the same percentage of Nevadans (65.1%) who favored continuing to oppose the project in June, 2002. The survey has a margin of error of 4.9%.

The survey also found that over 75% of the State's residents would vote against the Yucca Mountain project if afforded the opportunity, and almost two-thirds (64.3%) don't believe DOE can be trusted to live up to any deal it might make in any case.

"These [survey] results should put to rest any notion that Nevadans are prepared to give up the fight and meekly accept a project that is both unsafe and unnecessary," said Robert Loux, executive director of the Governor's Agency for Nuclear Projects.

"When you look at these survey findings and compare them with past survey results, the people of Nevada are sending a clear and consistent message to DOE and the commercial nuclear power industry. They are saying unequivocally, 'We don't want this facility and we will not be fooled by enticements to cut deals,'" Loux said.

Loux pointed out that opposition to Yucca Mountain among Nevadans has remained at 70% or more since surveys were begun in 1989, and during that time Nevadans have been just as consistent in opposing any deals that would weaken the State's opposition, despite all the money and public relations resources the nuclear industry has pour into Nevada.

“In the early 1990s, the industry spent millions of dollars on a statewide media campaign aimed at convincing Nevadans that Yucca Mountain and nuclear waste are good for them,” Loux noted. “That campaign was a colossal failure, but they’ve, nevertheless, kept pouring money and propaganda into Nevada over the years. It’s pretty clear that Nevadans aren’t buying what the industry and DOE have to sell.”

In addition to reaffirming strong opposition to Yucca Mountain and support for continuing the fight in general, the survey also shows that Nevadans overwhelmingly support the State’s lawsuits aimed at stopping the project in the courts (66%) and the State water engineer’s denial of water permits for the Yucca project (63%).

People in Nevada continue to view Yucca Mountain as risky to public health, safety and the Nevada economy. 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 due to declines in tourists and visitors (60.4%).

A report of the full survey is attached.