

EGAN, FITZPATRICK & MALSCH, PLLC

Counselors at Law

2001 K Street, N.W. • Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 662-2103
Fax: (202) 662-2105

www.nuclearlawyer.com

12500 San Pedro Avenue • Suite 555
San Antonio, TX 78216
Tel: (210) 496-5001
Fax: (210) 496-5011

Joseph R. Egan
Martin G. Malsch

Charles J. Fitzpatrick

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bob Loux
Agency for Nuclear Projects
(775) 687-3744

Charles J. Fitzpatrick
Egan, Fitzpatrick & Malsch, PLLC
(210) 496-5001

Nevada's Yucca Law Firm Makes Changes

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Veteran nuclear law firm Egan, Fitzpatrick & Malsch, the firm hired in 2001 by Nevada to represent it before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in licensing proceedings for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, has made changes to address the departure of its founder and lead attorney, Joe Egan. Egan has battled terminal stomach cancer for over two years, and will henceforth play only an advisory role in the Yucca case.

Effective May 1, the role of Lead Licensing Counsel was assumed by Mr. Martin G. Malsch, a 30-year veteran of nuclear law and the former Acting General Counsel of NRC. Mr. Charles Fitzpatrick, the firm's current Managing Director and veteran of 25 years of nuclear power plant lawsuits, assumed the role of Lead Litigation Counsel for the firm.

The firm also announces it has engaged other counsel with extensive nuclear licensing experience to work on the Yucca proceeding; details will be provided shortly.

Egan's firm has engaged a phalanx of technical experts and has been in the process of beefing up its licensing staff with new associates and paralegals as it prepares for a four-year proceeding scheduled to commence when the Energy Department files its Yucca Mountain license application with NRC in June 2008. "We are ready," Egan said, "and we expect to win."

Nevada opposes the nuclear waste repository proposed for Yucca Mountain, about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. For more information on Nevada's battle against the proposed nuclear waste dump, visit www.state.nv.us/nucwaste.

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