

# USNIC NEWS

October 16, 2014

## **Statement by the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council**

*Regarding the release by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of the pivotal Volume 3 Safety Evaluation Report on repository safety after permanent closure pertinent to the U.S. Department of Energy's pending license application for the operation of Yucca Mountain as the Nation's national repository for commercial fuel and high-level waste*

The NRC's report validating the safety of Yucca Mountain and its ability to meet public health and safety requirements for a million years is a watershed turning point for a national repository and the back-end of the U.S. fuel cycle program.

It is a triumph of science and the rule of law over politics as usual -- and a tangible return on the \$10 billion and more than two decades of study invested in Yucca Mountain.

The confirmation of the safety and feasibility of Yucca Mountain by the Nation's top independent nuclear regulatory authority cannot be understated as it establishes waste confidence by providing a disposal path forward for legacy fuel management and future nuclear energy plants.

It is good news for the current operating fleet and for a resurgence of American nuclear energy – and vindication for those in the Congress, the states, the courts and the nuclear energy community who stood steadfastly by Yucca Mountain in the face of political expediency. It is also a lasting testament to the thousands of government, national laboratory and contractor employees who worked on the license application and review.

We applaud the NRC for issuing Volume III with dispatch to meet the court-ordered resumption of the Yucca Mountain review and trust they will move forward with urgency with the issuance of the remaining companion safety reports.

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It is time for both the Congress and the Obama Administration to move ahead with additional funding and programmatic implementation of the next phase of the Yucca Mountain licensing process.

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The USNIC ([www.usnic.org](http://www.usnic.org)) is the leading business consortium advocate for new nuclear energy and the involvement of the American supply chain globally. While the above statement represents the consensus views of the Council, it does not necessarily represent specific views of individual member companies and organizations.