

**COLLABORATIVE PROCESS
DIALOGUES: A PATH
FORWARD TO STORAGE AND
DISPOSAL**

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PROLOGUE

Yucca Mountain on ice

The Courts –

In re Aiken County

State of New York v. NRC

BRC CHARTER

ensuring that Commission decisions are open and transparent, with broad participation

BRC PRACTICE

Formal meetings (D.C. and regional),
public comments, transcripts

Wide availability of information on website

Opportunities to comment on draft reports

Good on “what we heard”

Stakeholder focus group discussions

BRC: ON STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

the new waste management organization should include mechanisms to facilitate stakeholder participation, to wit:

a **stakeholder advisory committee** and a **special subcommittee** to provide specific guidance on the siting process as a conduit for stakeholder input

LOTS OF HEAT BUT

The DOE Strategy Paper

“represents an initial basis for discussions among the Administration, Congress, and other stakeholders”

The NRC EIS Process on Waste Confidence

Scoping on the EIS provides a good roadmap to stakeholders and issues

Future regional meetings on the draft EIS

CONGRESS

Senate - Feinstein, Alexander, Murkowski,
Wyden

DOE Appropriations bill to authorize a pilot
program for interim storage

Comprehensive bill with “linkage” of storage
and disposal generally, and Yucca

House – no companion bill unless tied to
disposal at Yucca Mountain –

A PROPOSAL

Convene a multi-party collaborative process NOW among the affected and concerned interests (“stakeholders”) to address storage, disposal and transportation issues

Develop bipartisan solutions for policymakers and legislators before decisions are made by the Congress, existing agencies, or ultimately a new Management and Disposal Organization

COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES

Brings together stakeholders, for a dialogue, and hopefully, consensus, on an issue

Inclusive, early in the decision-making process

Has been used successfully on many controversial and complex issues

Even where consensus is not reached, collaboration can produce positive results in identifying important issues, narrowing the range of disagreement, and identifying what outcomes might be acceptable

HOW?

Convening – assessing who should be at the table and what issues should be addressed – “three dimensional chess”

Designing a format and agenda for the meetings

Facilitating the meetings to assist in keeping the discussion relevant and focused; identifying participant interests; dealing with interpersonal dynamics; helping to develop creative solutions

WHO ?

Federal agencies

State ,local, Tribal governments, regional groups

Industry and business interests

Activists/advocacy groups

Associations – e.g., National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners, National Congress of
American Indians, Energy Communities Alliance

Unions

WHAT ?

Agenda setting – issues, timing, priorities

The consent based process, including intergovernmental conflicts and the compensation scheme

The NRC/EPA licensing standards for permanent disposal

The siting criteria for interim consolidated storage

The structure and funding of a new Management and Disposal Organization

RESOURCES

For convening, planning, facilitating; logistical support for the meetings; participant travel

Coalition of funders – government, industry, other

Foundation support

ONE MODEL

The Partnership for Collaborative Governance

A 501(c)(3) non-profit

Decision-making in the hands of citizens - direct participation of stakeholders from the wide range of affected groups and perspectives to craft implementable and sustainable decisions that can be ultimately codified and implemented by our lawmakers and regulators