

NARUC Tour of Yucca Mountain

Who: State utility commissioners and key staff involved with nuclear issues

What: Tour of the proposed geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel

When: To be determined—likely in March or April

Where: Yucca Mountain, NV (via Las Vegas)

Why: Ratepayers in 40 States that generate or use nuclear-generated electricity have been paying, via their utility, fees into the Nuclear Waste Fund in the U.S. Treasury for the purpose of building a safe, permanent central disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel and other high-level radioactive waste. Yucca Mountain is the site approved by Congress for the repository, although construction needs to be licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Nuclear waste disposal, although mandated to begin in 1998, will begin sometime after 2012, if the license is issued by the NRC.

The Deal:

NARUC is supported by a cooperative agreement with the Department of Energy, which is responsible for planning and development of the repository. That agreement serves to help keep State utility commissions informed on progress of this important and contentious program. The agreement also provides for financial assistance and operation of tours of Yucca Mountain presented by DOE and arranged by NARUC's Nuclear Waste Program Office.

A detailed schedule will be provided later, but the basic plan entails arriving in Las Vegas, (day 1), having an informal group dinner that evening. The group then assembles at our hotel at 6:30 AM (day 2) for travel to the site by bus (90 miles from Las Vegas) for the tour, which takes most of the day. We will return by 4:00 PM for possible evening departures or have the evening free for departure the next day.

NARUC will provide for all but your air travel and personal expenses in Las Vegas. We will book two nights lodging at a non-casino hotel and provide meals (day 1) night and during the tour (breakfast and lunch) as well as provide transportation and the tour itself, which is conducted by expert DOE scientific staff personnel.

If you are interested in this tour please contact Brian O'Connell at NARUC:

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