

Transportation System

Q: How will DOE interact with interested parties as transportation decisions are made?

The NWPA established a stepwise approach for making decisions related to the approval, licensing, operation, and eventual closure of the repository. DOE is committed to a similar stepwise approach to transportation planning, as outlined in DOE's *Strategic Plan for the Safe Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste to Yucca Mountain: A Guide to Stakeholder Interactions* (available online at <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/wat/pdf/tsp.pdf>).

DOE's experience with transportation programs related to WIPP, foreign spent nuclear fuel, U.S. naval reactor fuel, and others has proven that interaction and collaborative planning with interested parties is critical to mission success.

Through a collaborative planning process, DOE is working with states, tribes, and other interested parties to develop specific policies and procedures and to make transportation decisions. The collaborative process will incorporate successful elements from transportation systems developed for other DOE programs.

Interactions with interested parties on the national level take place primarily through the Transportation External Coordination Working Group, whose membership includes representatives from

- State, local, and tribal organizations
- Police, fire, and medical professional and technical associations and unions
- Industry
- Federal agencies and oversight groups

DOE also interacts with individual parties, as appropriate, when specific issues of mutual concern arise.

