



**Q:** *What direction, review, and oversight have been provided for the project?*

**A:** The DOE's work on Yucca Mountain has likely received more oversight than any project in history; is subject to external regulation by other federal agencies; and has been reviewed by national and international professional organizations. Site characterization information for Yucca Mountain was collected under quality assurance plans approved and accepted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Four U.S. national laboratories and the U.S. Geological Survey collected most of the field data and interpreted the results. These laboratories commissioned independent reviews of their results, as did the DOE, often as formal independent peer reviews. Since the start of data collection for site characterization, the DOE has engaged in informal consultation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as contemplated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Also, the amendments to the Act in 1987 created the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, which provides reviews of the Project's technical work. The DOE cannot proceed to develop a repository without getting authorization from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and will be under constant scrutiny by Congress and other elected officials throughout the life of the project.

The DOE is following the path recommended by nearly all the world's organizations of nuclear waste experts. Among these groups are the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In 2001, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences noted that after four decades of study, geologic disposal remains the only scientifically and technically credible long-term solution available to meet the need for safety without reliance on active management.

In more than 20 years of study, the DOE's work on Yucca Mountain has likely received more oversight than any project in history. Oversight bodies include:

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
- Government Accounting Office
- Department of Energy Inspector General
- Congress
- National and international professional organizations