

**COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS
YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT
MINERAL COUNTY, NEVADA**

July 2003

**Prepared For:
Mineral County
Board of County Commissioners**

**Prepared By:
Mineral County
Office of Nuclear Projects**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The characterization of Yucca Mountain as a potential site for the first high-level nuclear repository is strongly opposed by the State of Nevada. Surveys conducted by the State indicate that roughly 70 percent of Nevadans oppose the development of the repository at Yucca Mountain. The State survey results strongly reflect the opinions of Clark County, Nevada due to the population distribution in the State and the survey methodology. For example, in the 1991 State telephone survey only 19 of the 504 respondents were from AULGs other than Clark County. It is possible that none of the respondents in the 2002 State survey were from Mineral County.

The State survey was intended to represent the views of the State in general, but provides little or no insight about the opinions and beliefs held by Mineral County residents with respect to the repository program. To date, no survey work has been completed for the Mineral County repository program. As part of the impact assessment and oversight program, Mineral County Board of Commissioners decided to initiate a their public opinion survey in the Spring of 2003. Survey questions were directly related to the Yucca Mountain project and associated transportation elements. Survey questions can be found in Appendix A.

1.2 Methodology

Approximately 280 face to face or telephone surveys were conducted in order to ascertain the views of residents in Mineral County communities. The survey questions duplicated many of those used by the State of Nevada in their efforts over the last several years. Using similar questions allows for comparability with other survey results concerning the Yucca Mountain project. Such comparisons can be found in Section 3.0.

Survey respondents were selected randomly and contacted until successful completion of survey questions. A total of 280 surveys were conducted which represents about 13 percent of the households in Mineral County. Mineral County High School students were responsible for the administration of the survey instrument and compilation of data.

This report is divided into 4 sections. Section 2.0 shows simple tabulations of survey results and frequency tabulations. Section 3.0 compares the Mineral County results against responses to a statewide survey conducted by the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects. Section 3.0 also contains a limited number of comparative results from surveys conducted by other affected units of local government. Finally, Section 4.0 contains survey findings based upon demographic characteristics of Mineral County respondents.

1.3 Summary of Findings

This section summarizes the views of Mineral County residents based upon 2003 survey results. When asked whether Mineral County survey respondents would vote for or against a repository at Yucca Mountain, the majority, 63.1 percent said they would oppose the repository (See Table 2-1). The percentage of those opposing the repository in Mineral County is somewhat lower than statewide opposition at 76.2 percent (Table 3-1). For the most part Mineral County survey respondents were more supportive of negotiations with DOE for benefits. In fact, the majority of survey respondents (56 percent) believed that the State should stop opposition to the repository and make an agreement for benefits. That percentage reaches nearly 70 percent when only looking at only those who answered the question directly. Approximately 60 percent of the survey respondents indicated that challenging the technical merits of the repository while simultaneously negotiating for mitigation and benefits was a far better approach than opposition to the repository at all costs (See Table 2-12, 2-13, and 2-14).

Mineral County survey respondents also viewed the repository as having less overall risk to various economic and social elements within Nevada. Overall, relatively fewer Mineral County survey respondents believe the Yucca Mountain project poses significant risks associated with waste transportation, economic damage to the State, its reputation as a place to live, loss of public revenues, and adverse health impacts. (See Tables 3-2 to 3-7).

The majority of survey respondents also did not believe the State of Nevada will be successful in its efforts to challenge the repository from a legal, technical or political perspectives. This belief may shape some of the views of Mineral County survey respondents. It may account for a higher percentage of respondents who believe that the State ought to negotiate for benefits and make a mitigation agreement with DOE (Table 3-6).

2.0 SURVEY RESULTS

Section 2.0 contains the survey results for Mineral County. Frequency tabulations are shown for each survey question beginning with Question 1. A complete survey can be found in Appendix A.

Question 1 Suppose the Department of Energy selected the Yucca Mountain site for the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository, but it would not be located there unless state residents voted in favor of it. If this were the case would you vote for it or against it?

Table 2-1		
Response	Freq.	Percent
For	84	29.8
Against	178	63.1
Wouldn't Vote	1	0.4
No Answer	18	6.4
Don't Know	1	0.4

Question 2. You have said you would vote "against" the Yucca Mountain Project. Would you say you are somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the repository?

Table 2-2		
Response	Freq.	Percent
Somewhat Opposed	62	31.8
Strongly Opposed	112	57.4
Don't Know	4	2.1
No Answer	16	8.2

Question 3. If the repository were eventually built, I believe that overall the benefits would outweigh the harms. Do you strongly disagree, somewhat

disagree, neither agree or disagree, agree, or strongly agree with this statement?

Table 2-3		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	83	29.4
Somewhat Disagree	66	23.4
Neither	14	5.0
Agree	60	21.3
Strongly Agree	33	11.7
Don't Know	20	7.1
No Answer	5	1.8

Question 4. Do you think nuclear waste could be transported by truck in a way that would be acceptably safe?

Table 2-4		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	96	34.4
No	215	57.1
Don't Know	67	8.2
No Answer	3	0.4

Question 5. Do you think nuclear waste could be transported by rail in a way that would be acceptably safe?

Table 2-5		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	125	44.3
No	138	48.9
Don't Know	19	6.8

Question 6 Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: The repository at Yucca Mountain is inevitable. It will be built whether the

State of Nevada opposes it or not. Would you say that you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	19	6.7
Somewhat Disagree	27	9.6
Neither	10	3.5
Agree	95	33.7
Strongly Agree	119	42.2
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	10	3.5
No Answer	1	0.4

Question 7 The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. The first one is rail and truck shipments of up to 100,000 casks of high-level radioactive wastes across the country to Nevada. Do you think this item is little or not risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Little or no Risk	28	9.9
Slight Risk	26	9.2
Moderate Risk	83	29.4
High Risk	138	48.9
Don't Know	7	2.5
No Answer	0	0.0

Question 7A The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Economic

damage to the major industries such as gaming and conventions because people avoid Nevada as the “Nuclear Dump State”. Do you think this item is little or no risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 2-8		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Little or no Risk	92	32.6
Slight Risk	52	18.4
Moderate Risk	52	18.4
High Risk	79	28.0
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	6	2.1
No Answer	0	0.0

Question 7B The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Damage to the reputation of Nevada as a place to vacation or live. Do you think this item is little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 2-9		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Little or no Risk	76	27.0
Slight Risk	53	18.8
Moderate Risk	58	20.6
High Risk	90	31.9
Don't Know	8	1.8
No Answer	4	1.0

Question 7C The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Loss of public revenues because of reduced numbers of visitors and tourists.

Do you think this item is little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 2-10		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Little or no Risk	79	28.0
Slight Risk	51	18.1
Moderate Risk	57	20.2
High Risk	89	31.6
Don't Know	6	2.1

Question 7D The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Adverse health effects for Nevada residents from transportation and operations of a repository. Do you think this item is little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 2-11		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Little or no Risk	48	17.0
Slight Risk	46	16.3
Moderate Risk	67	23.8
High Risk	114	40.4
Refused	0	0.0
Don't Know	7	2.5
No Answer	0	0.0

Question 8 Some people think Nevada should stop opposition to the repository and instead try to make an agreement with the federal government for benefits. Other people believe Yucca Mountain is a poor choice, and that

state resistance should not be weakened or compromised by entering into an agreement for benefits. Do you believe the state should stop its opposition and make an agreement, or do you think the state should continue to do all it can to oppose the repository, even if that means turning down benefits that may be offered by the federal government.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Stop Opposition/ Make Agreement	159	56.0
Continue Opposition	98	34.8
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	14	5.0
No Answer	10	3.5

Eliminating the “Don’t Know” and the “No Answer” responses and considering only those who answered directly yields a full 62 percent of respondents who believe the State should stop opposition and make an agreement with DOE.

Question 8A Alternatively, do you think it is possible for the State of Nevada and local governments to continue challenging the suitability of Yucca Mountain while simultaneously developing a mitigation and benefits package for Nevada?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	152	53.9
No	93	33.0
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	30	10.6
No Answer	6	2.1

Question 8B Do you believe that challenging the suitability of the repository while simultaneously developing a mitigation and benefits agreement is a better approach than opposition to the repository at all costs?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	169	59.9
No	73	25.9
Don't Know	35	12.2
No Answer	5	2.0

Again, 70 percent of those who directly answered the question and did not respond with "Don't Know" or no answer favored a mitigation and benefits agreement approach instead of an opposition at all costs.

Question 9. The U.S. Congress recently overrode Nevada Governor Guinn's veto of the Department of Energy (DOE) proposal to build a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain. The state now plans to vigorously challenge the project in the federal courts. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with lawsuits by the State of Nevada against the federal government?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	92	32.6
Agree	62	22.0
Disagree	43	15.2
Strongly Disagree	61	21.6
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	15	5.3
No Answer	8	2.8

Question 10. Do you believe the state will be successful in its efforts to legally oppose the repository?

Table 2-16		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	33	11.7
No	195	69.1
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	53	18.8

Nearly 20 percent of those who responded to this question indicated that they did not know. Of those answering “yes” or “no” a full 86 percent did not believe the State would be successful.

Question 11. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission must evaluate the technical suitability of the repository before granting final permission to construct and operate the facility. The State plans to vigorously challenge DOE’s technical findings presented to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Do you believe the State will be successful in its efforts to challenge the technical suitability of the Yucca Mountain site as the nation’s first repository?

Table 2-17		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	54	19.2
No	172	61.2
Refused	1	0.4
Don't Know	52	18.5
No Answer	2	0.7

Again, a large number of respondents were uncertain of the outcome.

Question 12. The U.S. Department of Energy is planning to evaluate several rail spur alternatives to Yucca Mountain. Should Mineral County and other local governments in Nevada work to minimize the impacts of rail construction and operation and maximize potential benefits, or withdraw from the rail planning efforts altogether?

Table 2-18			
Response		Frequency	Percent
Minimize Impacts and maximize benefits	and	197	70.1
Withdraw for Planning Efforts		53	18.9
Refused		2	0.7
Don't Know		21	7.5
No Answer		8	2.8

A full 79 percent of those who directly answered the question believe Mineral County and other affected units of local government should work to minimize the impacts of rail construction and maximize the potential benefits.

3.0 COMPARISON OF SURVEY RESULTS

Section 3.0 compares the results from the 2003 Mineral County survey against the results of the State of Nevada survey conducted in the Summer of 2002. The Mineral County survey utilized several questions from the State survey for comparison purposes.

Question 1 Suppose the Department of Energy selected the Yucca Mountain site for the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository, but it would not be located there unless state residents voted in favor of it. If this were the case would you vote for it or against it?

Table 3-1 Question 1	Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent
For	29.8	20.30
Against	63.1	76.24
Refused	0.4	
No Answer	6.4	3.22
Don't Know	0.4	0.25

Question 7 The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. The first one is rail and truck shipments of up to 100,000 casks of high-level radioactive wastes across the country to Nevada. Do you think this item is little or not risk, slight risk , moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 3-2 Question 7	Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent.	Percent
Little or no Risk	9.9	7.18
Slight Risk	9.2	2.72
Moderate Risk	29.4	19.55
High Risk	48.9	69.55
Don't Know	2.5	.99
No Answer	0.0	1.0

Question 7A The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Economic damage to the major industries such as gaming and conventions because people avoid Nevada as the “Nuclear Dump State”. Do you think this item is little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 3-3 Question 7A	Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent
Little or no Risk	32.6	25.7
Slight Risk	18.4	9.4
Moderate Risk	18.4	22.0
High Risk	28.0	41.3
Refused	0.4	0.1
Don't Know	2.1	1.5
No Answer	0.0	0.0

Question 7B The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Damage to the reputation of Nevada as a place to vacation or live. Do you think this item is little or not risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 3-4 Question 7B	Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent
Little or no Risk	27.0	21.5
Slight Risk	18.8	8.4
Moderate Risk	20.6	20.8
High Risk	31.9	48.5
Don't Know	1.8	.8
No Answer	1.0	0.0

Question 7C The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Loss of public revenues because of reduced numbers of visitors and tourists. Do you think this item is little or not risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 3-5 Question 7C	Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent
Little or no Risk	28.0	26.24
Slight Risk	18.1	8.91
Moderate Risk	20.2	20.54
High Risk	31.6	43.07
Don't Know	2.1	0.99

Question 7D The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. Adverse health effects for Nevada residents from transportation and operations of a repository. Do you think this item is little or not risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

Table 3-6 Question 7D	Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent
Little or no Risk	17.0	16.6
Slight Risk	16.3	8.9
Moderate Risk	23.8	19.6
High Risk	40.4	53.2
Don't Know	2.5	1.7

Question 8 Some people think Nevada should stop opposition to the repository and instead try to make an agreement with the federal government for benefits. Other people believe Yucca Mountain is a poor choice, and that state resistance should not be weakened or compromised by entering into an agreement for benefits. Do you believe the state should stop its opposition and make an agreement, or do you think the state should continue to do all it can to oppose the repository, even if that means turning down benefits that may be offered by the federal government?

Table 3-7 Question 8		Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent	
Stop Opposition/ Make Agreement	56.0	30.9	
Continue Opposition	34.8	65.1	
Refused	0.4	0.3	
Don't Know	5.0	3.7	
No Answer	3.5	0.0	

Question 9. The U.S. Congress recently overrode Nevada Governor Guinn's veto of the Department of Energy (DOE) proposal to build a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain. The state now plans to vigorously challenge the project in the federal courts. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with lawsuits by the State of Nevada against the federal government?

Table 3-8 Question 9		Mineral County 2003	State Survey 2002
Response	Percent	Percent	
Strongly Agree	32.6	37.9	
Agree	22.0	31.4	
Disagree	15.2	16.8	
Strongly Disagree	21.6	10.6	
Refused	0.4	0.5	
Don't Know	5.3	2.5	
No Answer	2.8	0.3	

There are important differences in the survey results from Mineral County as compared against results from statewide survey efforts. The differences include:

- Mineral County survey respondents are much more inclined to support benefit agreements or negotiations for benefit agreements as compared to the statewide survey respondents. As shown in Table 2-6 more than 58 percent of the survey respondents indicated that the State of Nevada should stop opposition and make an agreement for benefits, about 25 percent more than statewide survey respondents. This difference in results is probably due to Mineral County survey respondent's view of the State's ability to stop the project. A majority of Mineral County survey respondents do not believe the State of Nevada will be successful with legal challenges or challenges to the technical merits of the repository program. Mineral County residents also have a fundamentally different view of the benefits issue. As shown in Table 2-12, 2-13 and 2-14, a vast majority of survey respondents believe that the State of Nevada could continue to fight the repository and negotiate for benefits. Respondents did not support an opposition at all cost approach.
- Overall, relatively fewer Mineral County survey respondents believe the Yucca Mountain project poses significant risks associated with waste transportation, economic damage to the State, its reputation as a place to live, loss of public revenues, and adverse health impacts. Differences in opinion between the State survey results and those in Mineral County may be difficult to explain. One potential source for the difference could be attributed to the operation of a major federal facility, Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, that has been the largest employer in the region. Also, the Depot stores significant amounts of conventional weapons. Mineral County residents, particularly those in the Hawthorne area, live and work in an environment that already creates a certain level of risk. The risk associated with the Depot has been fairly well managed with participation by local residents. Such an experience with risk related federal facility operations, may explain some of the differences between survey responses from Mineral County and those from statewide survey efforts.

Over the past several years, surveys concerning the Yucca Mountain project have been conducted throughout much of Nevada. In addition to survey comparisons among Mineral County and State respondents, surveys conducted in 1994 in Churchill and Lander County were also included.

Tables 3-9, 3-10, and 3-11 compare survey results from the same or similar questions on previous surveys regarding Yucca Mountain.

Question In 1989, the Nevada State Legislature passed legislation opposing the Yucca Mountain repository and making storage of high-level radioactive waste illegal in the State. Would you say that you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree?

Table 3-9	State of Nevada-Variou			Churchill	Mineral	State of
	Years					
Response	1989	1991	1993	1994	2003	2002
For	14.4%	15.4%	23.4%	12.9%	29.8%	20.30%
Against	69.4	80.2	69.4	76.4	63.1	76.24
Wouldn't	7.4	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.4	
Vote						
Don't	1.0	3.8	6.2	9.4	6.4	3.22
Know						
No Answer	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.25

The survey question and response in Table 3-9 relates to the general opposition to the repository program.

Table 3-10 shows the results of various survey responses to questions concerning whether or not waste can be transported in an acceptably safe manner.

Table 3-10: Can nuclear waste be transported in a manner that is acceptably safe?						
Response	Amargosa	Beatty	Pahrump	Indian	City of	Churchill
	Valley			Springs	Caliente	Co.
Yes	86.0%	87.5%	63.3%	73.9%	54.4%	25.2%
No	14.0	12.5	36.7	26.1	45.6	56.4
Don't	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.6
Know						

A solid majority of survey respondents from communities directly surrounding the Yucca Mountain site thought waste could be transported in a manner that is acceptably safe. Mineral County respondents were asked the same question but in two parts focusing on

trucks and rail shipments. Only 34.4 percent of Mineral County respondents thought nuclear waste could be transported by truck in an acceptably safe manner whereas 44.3 percent thought waste could be transported by rail in an acceptably safe manner.

Similar survey questions asked whether State and local governments should negotiate for benefits (Table 3-11). There is a clear distinction between the State responses and those from other counties that show a higher level of support for benefit negotiations.

Table 3-11	Churchill County 1994	State of Nevada 1993	State of Nevada 2002	Mineral County 2003
Yes	64.6%	28.0%	31%	56.0%
No	17.8	63.8	65%	34.8
Don't Know	15.2	8.2	4.0	5.0
No Answer	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.9

4.0 SURVEY RESULTS BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Section 4.0 shows survey results by demographic characteristics. The following results are reported by age of householder and length of residence in Mineral County for survey questions 1 and 8.

Question 1: Suppose the Department of Energy selected the Yucca Mountain Site for the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository, but it would not be located there unless state residents voted in favor of it. If this were the case would you vote for it or against it?

Table 4-1: Question 1- Age of Householder				
Response	<u>Age of Householder</u>			
	19-25	25-35	35-65	65+
For	14.3%	41.2%	36.3%	10.2%
Against	75.0	47.1	58.9	85.7
Wouldn't Vote	0.0	0.0	0.7	0
Don't Know	10.7	11.8	4.1	4.1
No Answer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 4-2: Question 1-percent by Length of Residence			
Response	<u>Length of Residence (Years)</u>		
	<10	10<20	20+
For	22.9%	37.3%	28.5%
Against	68.8	52.5	66.1
Don't Know	0.0	0.0	0.6
No Answer	8.3	10.2	4.8

In Mineral County, those respondents age 25 to 65 appear to be less opposed to a repository at Yucca Mountain. Overall 29.8 percent of the respondents would vote for

the repository in Question 1 lower than the 41.2 percent of respondents age 25 to 35 and 36.3 percent of respondents age 35 to 65 that said they would vote for the repository. Similarly, the length of residence appeared to have only a minor influence on opposition to the repository. Those living in Mineral County for a period of 10 to 20 years are less likely to be opposed to the repository as compared to the population as a whole.

Question 8: Some people think Nevada should stop opposition to the repository and instead try to make an agreement with the federal government for benefits. Other people believe Yucca Mountain is a poor choice, and that state resistance should not be weakened or compromised by entering into an agreement for benefits. Do you believe the state should stop its opposition and make an agreement, or do you think the state should continue to do all it can to oppose the repository, even if that means turning down benefits that may be offered by the federal government.

Response	<u>Age of Householder</u>			
	19-25	25-35	35-65	65+
Stop Opposition	57.1%	60.8%	55.5%	48.0%
Make Agreement				
Continue Opposition	32.1	21.6	38.4	38.4
Refused	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7
Don't Know	10.7	9.8	2.7	2.7
No Answer	0.0	7.8	2.7	2.7

Response	<u>Length of Residence (Years)</u>		
	<10	10<20	20+
Stop Opposition	58.3%	64.4%	50.9%
Continue Opposition	27.1	27.1	41.2
Refused	0.0	0.0	0.6
Don't Know	10.4	6.8	3.0
No Answer	4.2	1.7	4.2

Responses to Question 8 by age of householder and length of residents is again similar to those responses to Question 1. Younger heads of households and those living in

Mineral County for less than 20 years are more supportive of stopping opposition to the repository and to negotiate an agreement for benefits.

Appendix A:

1. My name is _____ and I'm a student at Mineral County. We are conducting a survey for Mineral County regarding the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain Nevada.

2. Are you the head of the household?

3. If no, ask for someone who is and repeat 1.

4. If yes, do you have about five minutes to answer some survey questions. All responses will remain confidential.

Are you aware of the federal government's plans to build a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada.

If no –end survey

If yes –continue survey

Question 1:

The federal Department of Energy (DOE) wants to build the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada. If given the opportunity to vote on this matter, would you vote for or against locating a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain?

- 1 Vote For
- 2 Vote Against
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 2:

You have said that you would vote "no" on the referendum indicating that you support the Yucca Mountain repository project. Would you say that you somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the repository?

- 1 somewhat oppose
- 2 strongly opposed
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 3:

If the repository were eventually built, I believe that overall the benefits would outweigh the harms. Do you strongly agree, disagree, neither agree or disagree, agree or strongly agree.

- 1 strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly Agree
- 7 Refused
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer

Question 4:

Do you think nuclear waste could be transported by truck in a way that would be acceptably safe?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 Refused
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer

Question 5:

Do you think nuclear waste could be transported by rail in a way that would be acceptably safe?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 Refused
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer

Question 6:

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: The repository at Yucca Mountain is inevitable. It will be built whether the State of Nevada opposes it or not. Would you say that you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat agree or strongly agree?

- 1 strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly Agree
- 7 Refused
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer

Question 7

The federal government and the State of Nevada have identified several risks presented by the Yucca Mountain repository program. I am going to read a short list and I would like you to tell me if you, personally, think these are items with little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk. The first one is, rail and truck shipments of up to 100,000 casks of high-level radioactive wastes across the country to Nevada.

Do you think this item is of little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

- 1 Little or no risk
- 2 Slight risk
- 3 Moderate risk
- 4 High risk
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 8A:

Economic damage to the major industries such as gaming and conventions because people avoid Nevada as the "Nuclear Dump State". Do you think this item is of little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

- 1 Little or no risk
- 2 Slight risk
- 3 Moderate risk
- 4 High risk
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 8B:

Damage to the reputation of Nevada as a place to vacation or live.
Do you think this item is of little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

- 1 Little or no risk
- 2 Slight risk
- 3 Moderate risk
- 4 High risk
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 8C:

Loss of public revenues because of reduced numbers of visitors and tourists.
Do you think this item is of little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

- 1 Little or no risk
- 2 Slight risk
- 3 Moderate risk
- 4 High risk
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 8D:

Adverse health effects for Nevada residents from transportation and operations of a repository.
Do you think this item is of little or no risk, slight risk, moderate risk, or high risk?

- 1 Little or no risk
- 2 Slight risk
- 3 Moderate risk
- 4 High risk

- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 9:

Some people think Nevada should stop fighting the repository and instead try to make an agreement with the federal government for benefits. Other people believe Yucca Mountain is a poor choice, and that state resistance should not be weakened or compromised by entering into an agreement for benefits. Do you believe the state should stop its opposition and make an agreement, or do you think the state should continue to do all it can to oppose the repository, even if that means turning down benefits that may be offered by the federal government.

- 1 Stop opposition and make an agreement
- 2 Continue opposition/turn down benefits
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 9A:

Alternatively, do you think it is possible for the state and local governments to continue challenging the technical merits of the Yucca Mountain while simultaneously developing a mitigation and benefits package for Nevada?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 9B:

Do you believe that challenging the technical merits while simultaneously developing a mitigation and benefits agreement is a better approach than opposition at all costs.

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 10:

The U.S. Congress recently overrode Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn's veto of the Department of Energy (DOE) proposal to build a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain. The state now plans to vigorously challenge the project in the federal courts. Would you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with lawsuits by the state of Nevada against the federal government?

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 11:

The state plans to vigorously challenge the project in the federal courts. Do you believe the state will be successful in its efforts to oppose the repository?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 12:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission must evaluate the technical merits of the repository before granting final permission to construct and operate the facility. The state plans to vigorously challenge DOE's technical findings presented to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Do you believe the State will be successful in its efforts to challenge the technical merits of the Yucca Mountain site?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 REFUSED
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 NO ANSWER

Question 13

The U.S. Department of Energy is planning to evaluate several rail spur alternatives to Yucca Mountain. Should Mineral County and other local government in Nevada work to minimize the impacts of rail construction and operation and maximize potential benefits, or withdrawn from the rail planning efforts altogether?

1. Cooperate with Planning efforts
2. Withdraw from Planning Efforts
7. Refused
8. Don't Know
9. No ANSWER

Demographic Questions

Age of Householder

19-25 _____years old

25-35 _____

35-65 _____

65+ _____

How Long have you lived in Nevada?

Less than 10 years _____

10 to 20 years _____

More than 20 years _____

Number of related household members currently live in your household _____?

Number of minor children living in your household _____?

Familial Status

Single _____

Divorced _____

Married _____