

UPDATE TO THE TRANSPORTATION ACQUISITION APPROACH

On September 30, 2002, the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management issued a draft Statement of Work (SOW) for the acquisition of a Transportation Integration Contractor (TIC) to support the shipment of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to a Yucca Mountain repository. The Draft SOW was made available in order to solicit comments regarding changes in the approach for the acquisition of these services from that contained in the program's previous acquisition strategy, which relied upon the use of Regional Service Contractors for the provision of waste acceptance and transportation services. It was indicated that DOE intended to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for these services in 2003.

Many comments were received in response to the Draft SOW for a TIC. While the comments were generally supportive of the TIC approach for the planning and development of the transportation national infrastructure, a number of concerns were raised regarding the implementation of the TIC approach and the need for the procurement of such services at this time. The DOE is currently reviewing these comments and concerns, and intends to further revise its acquisition approach to address the issues raised. It is expected that the revised approach may be substantially different from that as described in the Draft SOW. Therefore, we do not anticipate that an RFP will be released during FY03. We will provide further information on our approach as it is further developed.