

The Legacy Project

PVMirror—Amargosa Valley residents are being given an opportunity to participate in a national first. They are being invited to be the first community to establish a baseline of independent data recorded prior to shipments of radioactive waste to be stored at the proposed Yucca Mountain repository.

Probably one of the greatest mistakes of the past century was the lack of reference measurements of possible health and welfare consequences on adjacent areas prior to the nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site. This is now recognized as a global oversight for which the total impact on the environment can never be known.

The first phase of the Legacy Project was recently announced by Jennifer Viereck, Director of H.O.M.E., a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the earth and all living things. This first phase partially funded by a grant for the Citizen's Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund, administered by Resolve, Inc. of Washington D.C. This will involve locating and archiving existing data and conducting independent water sampling for future comparison in the Amargosa Valley area to established baseline levels of radionuclides and other carcinogens in the groundwater.

The database will allow risk analyses from Yucca Mountain operation and are specific to local sites on down gradient flow of groundwater. This baseline will act as a reference for comparison of future changes in water contamination from source such as the Nevada Test Site making it possible for short range prediction of impending impacts to residents of Amargosa Valley.

The water test will be conducted by hydrologists contracted under the grant provisions to provide basic data on a number of radiological and non-radiological elements identified as potential contaminants to the groundwater.

A later phase of this project will include a disease registry to help assess health issues of the future. Although incidences of disease can be affected by standards of living, changes in climate or food sources, population density, etc. it could also resolve issues such as experienced by Fallon Nevada and the high rate of leukemia among children.

These tests and the personnel involved have no connection to the Department of Energy or any other governmental agency, making this a truly independent database uncolored by governmental bias.

Although ~~this~~ the Legacy Project is funded in part by independent grants individual donations are needed and appreciated to ensure continuity of the effort to establish, document and archive the baseline data.

Sampling tests of both domestic and agricultural wells are needed for the baseline project. To obtain application forms to be included in these databases contact Shelly Kadrmas or call 775-372-5459 for additional information.