



NRC NEWS

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NRC HISTORIAN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR YUCCA MOUNTAIN BOOK

J. Samuel Walker, an NRC historian for more than 30 years, has been awarded the Richard W. Leopold Prize for his book "Yucca Mountain: The Development of Radioactive Waste Policy in the U.S." The prize is given every two years by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for the best book written by a government historian.

In the book, published by University of California Press, Walker traces the U.S. government's efforts to deal with radioactive waste from the Manhattan Project through the 1987 designation of Yucca Mountain as a high-level waste repository. According to the OAH, the book is "solidly researched and effectively written" and makes "an original and insightful contribution to understanding this important story." The OAH also noted the book includes "perspectives beyond the government, especially interest groups and protest movements."

"We are very proud of the contribution Sam has made to the openness and transparency by which the NRC conducts its business," said NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko. "His work has done much to help the public understand radioactive material regulation in general and how the NRC works in particular."

This is the last of five books Walker wrote or co-wrote during his tenure at the NRC. As historian, it is his job to write and publish scholarly histories of the regulation of commercial nuclear energy. He is retiring later this year.

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