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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NRC PRESIDING OFFICER SCHEDULES CONFERENCE  
ON SEQUOYAH FUELS LICENSE WITHDRAWAL

A Presiding Officer of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has scheduled a conference on October 7 in Bethesda, MD, in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission proceeding involving Sequoyah Fuels Corporation's (SFC) license renewal application for its uranium processing plant near Gore, Oklahoma. SFC has filed a motion to withdraw the application and terminate the proceeding.

The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the NRC Public Hearing Room, Fifth Floor, 4350 East-West Highway.

In February of this year, SFC notified the NRC of its decision to terminate production activities at the uranium processing facility. At that time, the licensee also submitted a Preliminary Plan for Completion of Decommissioning.

In July, SFC filed a motion with the Presiding Officer to withdraw the license renewal application and to terminate the proceeding.

The purpose of the conference is to obtain answers to questions about pleadings, filed by parties to the proceeding, related to the withdrawal motion.

The Presiding Officer also will question the parties concerning the applicability of NRC decommissioning regulations to situations such as those involved in the Sequoyah case, the differing nature of decommissioning of material processing facilities such as Sequoyah from that involving nuclear power facilities and the scope of the Presiding Officer's authority to establish conditions on withdrawals of license applications.

The intervenors in this proceeding are Native Americans for a Clean Environment and the Cherokee Nation. The State of Oklahoma's Department of Wildlife Conservation is a participant in the proceeding. Representatives of the intervenors, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the NRC staff and the licensee will participate in the conference.

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The Presiding Officer in the proceeding is James P. Gleason, an Administrative Judge from the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

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