

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
AVAILABILITY OF STAFF TECHNICAL POSITION ON
REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
OF THE EXPLORATORY SHAFT FACILITY

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing the availability of NUREG-1439, "Staff Technical Position (STP) on Regulatory Considerations in the Design and Construction of the Exploratory Shaft Facility (ESF)."

ADDRESSES: Copies of NUREG-1439, including the staff disposition of comments from the public on the August 1990 draft technical position (TP) and from the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) on the final draft STP, can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, D. C. 20013-7082. Copies are also available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. A copy of NUREG-1439, is also available for public inspection and/or copying at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street (Lower Level), N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert D. Carlson, Project Manager, Repository Licensing and Quality Assurance Project Directorate, Division of High-Level Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. Telephone 301/492-0435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This STP is undertaken for the purpose of compiling and further clarifying previous staff positions on regulatory considerations in the design and construction of the exploratory shaft facility (ESF) for a potential high-level radioactive waste repository. (DOE now refers to the ESF as the "exploratory studies facility.") The STP covers topics that include certain aspects of the design control process, coordination of ESF design with design of the geologic repository operations area (GROA), consideration of alternatives, excavation methods, test interference, and site characterization. The positions and discussion in this STP are based on the premise that the permanent components of the ESF may become a part of an eventual GROA. Therefore, all 10 CFR Part 60 requirements applicable to the GROA design would be considered applicable to the ESF design. This STP lists the key regulations in 10 CFR Part 60 that should be considered in the design and construction of the ESF and presents the staff position statements and corresponding discussions.

Finally, this STP gives specific guidelines by which the staff plans to assess the U.S. Department of Energy's work on the ESF design and documents related thereto.

On August 14, 1990, the NRC published the "Notice of Availability" for the draft TP and solicited public comments (see 44 FR 33193). As a result, approximately 50 comments were received from three different parties. The NRC staff reviewed the comments and, as a result, changes and clarifications have been incorporated into the draft TP now classified as a "STP." Staff responses to the comments have been documented separately and included as appendices. The STP has been developed after consideration of the ACNW comments on the draft STP as well. The ACNW comments and staff responses to these comments have been documented as an appendix to the STP.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 24th day of May, 1991.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission


Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards