

NRC's REVIEW OF THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN LICENSE APPLICATION

Presentation to:

**National Association of Regulatory Utility
Commissioners**

**Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Waste
Disposal**

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WHAT IS NRC's ROLE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN?

- Set regulations that are consistent with the Environmental Protection Agency standards for Yucca Mountain
- Conduct public pre-licensing interactions
- Ensure openness and that stakeholders are appropriately informed and involved in the regulatory process
- Review the license application, including repository safety and environmental impact statement
- Decide whether to authorize construction and, later, whether to license receipt of high level waste

SUPPORT FROM THE CENTER FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REGULATORY ANALYSES

- Mission: Support NRC's high-level waste program
- Nationally recognized expertise
- Field studies, laboratory research, computer modeling

NRC REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- NRC staff review of a repository license application uses:
 - 10 CFR 63
 - Yucca Mountain Review Plan
- NRC regulations and regulatory oversight will protect people working and living near the potential repository, during repository operation and after repository closure
- Regulatory framework provides stepwise, informed decision making on whether to:
 - Authorize construction
 - Issue license to receive and possess
 - Grant amendment for closure of the repository
 - Grant amendment to terminate license

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Monitor DOE program and conduct public meetings with DOE to address regulatory issues
- Develop inspection program and enforcement policy
- Ensure staff readiness for license application review and inspections
- Ensure operability of Licensing Support Network to support licensing process

RISK INFORMED PROCESS

- Risk insights enhance understanding of the principal features, events, and processes that influence repository behavior
- Risk insights results are being integrated into various aspects of the HLW program
 - Focus pre-licensing interactions and evaluations
 - Probe areas of greatest risk significance and uncertainty

SAFETY REVIEW

- Review license application
- Conduct independent evaluations if necessary to assess pre-closure and post-closure performance of the proposed repository
- Request more information, if needed
- Document results in a Safety Evaluation Report

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF NRC's REVIEW

- Deny the Application
- Grant authorization to construct, with conditions
- Grant authorization to construct



TRANSPORT OF SPENT FUEL TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN

- NRC to certify transportation package designs as required by the NWPA
- Review DOE's Final Environmental Impact Statement and analyses regarding DOE's decision on routes, modes and number of shipments

SUMMARY

- NRC will review all information objectively based on the facts, make transparent decisions, and maintain an open process
- Formal hearing will follow well-established regulations to ensure an open, objective decision