

# RIC 2004

## Spent Fuel Storage, Transportation and Disposal

### Session T-13

#### STATUS OF NRC'S REGULATORY PROGRAM FOR A POTENTIAL GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

Martin J. Virgilio, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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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 to support NRC high-level waste program
- Nationally recognized expertise
- Field studies, laboratory research, computer modeling

# NRC's 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 NRC 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 Informing NRC Program

- 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

# NRC Staff 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





# **NRC's Role in Transportation of Spent Fuel to Yucca Mountain**

- 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