



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC NAMES PRE-LICENSE APPLICATION PRESIDING OFFICER TO RESOLVE DISPUTES ON SUBMITTAL OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN DOCUMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an order designating G. Paul Bollwerk III, chief of the agency's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, as Pre-License Application Presiding Officer for Yucca Mountain. The Commission order expressly authorizes Judge Bollwerk to delegate that authority.

The Pre-License Application Presiding Officer will be responsible for resolving any disputes concerning certification of the electronic availability of documents for a future hearing on the Department of Energy's expected application for a license for a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

"The Commission is interested in assuring the prompt availability of information, so we quickly established the Pre-License Application Presiding Officer to address and resolve disputes," said NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz.

NRC regulations require all potential participants in the license application hearing process to make their documents available to other potential participants and the public in electronic form through the Licensing Support Network website, <http://www.lsnnet.gov>. The documents that must be made available on this network consist of the information that a party, potential party or interested government participant intends to rely on in the licensing proceeding for a high-level waste repository, and certain other relevant information.

Requiring participants to make pertinent documents available through the Licensing Support Network for use by the other participants eliminates the need for the traditional means of document discovery and will allow potential parties to use some part of the pre-application period to review documents and prepare contentions for filing in petitions to intervene in the hearing.

NRC regulations require the Department of Energy (DOE) to make its material available no later than six months before submitting its license application to the NRC. On June 30, DOE certified to the NRC the public availability of its documents.

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