MEETING SUMMARY

NRC'S LICENSING PROCESS: JUDGING THE SAFETY OF A PROPOSED REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, Information Workshop for Affected Units of Local Government

On Thursday, August 26, 2004, staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Division of High-level Waste Repository Safety, Office of General Counsel, Spent Fuel Project Office and Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel conducted an all-day workshop on NRC's hearing process. The workshop was held at the Mountain Crest Neighborhood Services Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. NRC staff organized the workshop, in response to a request from Eureka and Clark Counties, in Nevada, to provide a forum for the Affected Units of Local Government to obtain information and ask questions of NRC staff. The Counties requested the workshop to help them as they prepare to decide how best to participate in an NRC hearing, should NRC receive an application from the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to build a repository at Yucca Mountain.

NRC staff members spoke about NRC's licensing process, the formal hearing process, criteria governing NRC's adoption of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for a potential repository at Yucca Mountain, NRC's role in the safe transport of spent nuclear fuel, and the role and use of NRC's Licensing Support Network. NRC staff explained that AULGs may participate in the NRC hearing process in either of two ways, as an intervenor, or as an interested government participant. The distinction between these two roles, along with the rights and duties associated with each, under NRC's rules of practice for licensing proceedings, were described. NRC's special counsel for public liaison facilitated the meeting and after each presentation, participants had opportunities for questions and discussion. The workshop was open to public observation. Participants included representatives from 9 counties in Nevada and California identified as Affected Units of Local Government in accord with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. Also present were representatives of the State of Nevada, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Nevada legislature, and Bechtel/SAIC, DOE's contractor at Yucca Mountain.

For access to a multimedia presentation on NRC's role in the safe transport of spent nuclear fuel, please contact Mr. Earl Easton at EXE@nrc.gov.

Enclosures:
1. Agenda
2. Attendees
3. Presentations
   - NRC Licensing Process "Judging the Safety of a Proposed Repository"
   - NRC's Licensing Support Network