INTERIM SUMMARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON THE DESIGN OF THE SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE FACILITIES AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2004 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

INTRODUCTION

On September 14-15, 2004, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held a public Technical Exchange (TE) to discuss the potential design of the surface and subsurface facilities for Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This TE was a follow-up to TEs held in February and May of this year. The meeting was held at the Bechtel SAIC offices in Las Vegas, Nevada. The agenda for this meeting can be found in Enclosure 1.

To support staff and stakeholder interactions, the TE included video connections at NRC offices in Rockville, Maryland and at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas. Tele conference connections were also made available to interested stakeholders.

Participants included representatives of the NRC, DOE, State of Nevada, Affected Units of Local Government, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, Nuclear Energy Institute and other industry representatives, and members of the public. Enclosure 2 contains the list of attendees who were present at the above noted locations. Enclosure 3 contains the slides presented by DOE and NRC. A more detailed summary will be issued within 30 days of the meeting.

During this TE DOE discussed the types of technical information that it intends to provide in a potential License Application (LA). DOE provided the design bases and criteria for several system, structures, and components (SSCs) for both the surface and subsurface facilities. In addition, DOE provided examples of how it was applying its methodology for performing the Preclosure Safety Analysis.

However, the NRC staff has questions concerning the level of design detail relating to: (1) the type of storage cask that will be used at the proposed Aging Facility; and (2) the power source for SSCs important to safety during a Category 1 event sequence.

In addition, DOE has not completed its aircraft hazards analysis and has not completed its seismic design analysis to support the final design criteria of the preclosure facilities.

The NRC staff is also concerned that DOE may not have adequately evaluated the failure of the subsurface ventilation system which is not important to safety but may be important to waste isolation.

For NRC to get a better understanding of how DOE will address these last three concerns in the LA, DOE agreed to discuss further interactions with NRC. The focus of future interactions would be to ensure that NRC clearly understands DOE's position on these issues so that the staff can better prepare to perform an acceptance review of a potential LA.

Enclosures:
1. Agenda
2. Attendees
3. Presentations

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