

INTERIM SUMMARY OF THE  
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT MEETING  
IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Introduction

The staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held a quarterly management meeting open to the public on February 17, 2005. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the progress of the project regarding the proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The meeting was hosted at the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC offices in Las Vegas, Nevada, with video and audio connections to NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas.

During opening remarks, Mr. Jack Strosnider (NRC) recognized the resignation of Dr. Margaret Chu (DOE) and welcomed DOE managers, members of the public, and all other stakeholders. Mr. C. William Reamer (NRC) presented the NRC program update and discussed the need for the NRC to understand DOE's path forward toward submitting a License Application (LA). Mr. Reamer discussed the Court of Appeals rejection of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 10,000-year standard; key technical issue (KTI) agreement items status, NRC's increased attention toward technical design issues; implementation of the DOE Quality Assurance (QA) program; the need for DOE to recertify its compliance with the Licensing Support Network (LSN) requirements; the public hearing process for the LA; and DOE's Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE).

Dr. Chu recognized the new DOE Secretary of Energy, Dr. Samuel Bodman, and stated that his strong technical background is a helpful addition to the position. Dr. Chu addressed the new EPA standard; the DOE LSN recertification effort; the budget for fiscal year 2006; and her resignation.

Mr. John Arthur (DOE) gave an update on the Yucca Mountain Project and summarized DOE's continuing improvements and accomplishments since the November 22, 2004, Management Meeting. He discussed the status of DOE's preparations to submit the LA and complete the supporting documentation; DOE's Concerns Program; LA development, progress, and schedule; EPA's standard regarding a post-10,000-year compliance period; current LA work underway; postclosure and preclosure enhancements; status of supporting documentation for the LA; supporting data qualification, software qualification, and model validation; preclosure safety and engineering documentation; confidence in design and preclosure safety documentation; efforts related to the submitting the LA; LSN certification status; KTI agreements; waste package prototype status; underground access status; Performance Indicator (PI) Program Status; Corrective Action Program status; and DOE's SCWE.

DOE staff presented project information and status. Mr. Joseph Ziegler reported on the plans for LA submittal, the status of the KTI agreements, planning for NRC/DOE interactions, and recent accomplishments. Mr. Richard Craun provided an overview of preclosure design activities, including discussion of design status, design products alignment, and future activities.

Mr. Denny Brown provided an update on QA activities. Mr. Gary Lanthrum summarized the DOE approach to acquiring cask systems.

The status of open action items was discussed; Mr. Strosnider, Dr. Chu, and Mr. Arthur provided closing remarks; and several members of the public provided questions and comments.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda for the February 17, 2005, U.S NRC/U.S. DOE Quarterly Mgmt Mtg in LV, NV
2. Attendee List for the February 17, 2005, U.S NRC/U.S. DOE Quarterly Mgmt Mtg in LV, NV
3. Presentation Slides for the February 17, 2005, U.S NRC/U.S. DOE Quarterly Mgmt Mtg in LV, NV

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