

INTERIM SUMMARY OF THE  
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT  
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND SAFETY CONSCIOUS WORK ENVIRONMENT  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
MAY 19, 2005

**Introduction**

On May 19, 2005, staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, held a Technical Exchange that was open to the public. The purpose of the Technical Exchange was to allow DOE to present its revised performance indicators for the Yucca Mountain Project and the results of its most recent Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) survey. The agenda for this meeting can be found in Enclosure 1.

The Technical Exchange was held at the DOE facilities in Las Vegas, Nevada, with videoconferencing provided for NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) in San Antonio, Texas. Those in attendance included representatives from the NRC, DOE, CNWRA, Bechtel SAIC Company, State of Nevada, and members of the public. Enclosure 2 is the list of attendees who were present at the above noted locations.

During opening remarks, NRC staff stated that this was a Category 1 meeting and that there would be opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting for public comments and questions. NRC then stated its interest in understanding the performance indicators and how they would be meaningful during the license review phase of the application, should one be submitted. NRC also stressed the importance of a SCWE that creates a work atmosphere where all workers are encouraged and are willing to identify and raise their concerns without fear of retaliation. In addition, NRC expressed its interest in hearing the Project's overall assessment of the SCWE, of which the survey results are just one factor.

During the presentations, DOE and DOE contractor staff discussed the basis for a new set of performance indicators and went into further detail with the performance indicator for human performance. DOE and DOE contractor staff then presented a summary of the results from DOE's latest SCWE survey, taken in the fall of 2004, and compared these results to the results from past Project surveys and to those from other U.S. institutional norms. Finally, DOE staff presented the Project's plans for acting on the survey results. DOE's general assessment was that it has an effective SCWE as indicated by a "green" performance indicator for its SCWE. In addition to questions from NRC, members of the public provided questions and comments at the end of the meeting. Enclosure 3 contains the slides presented by DOE. A more detailed summary will be issued within 30 days of the meeting.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. List of Attendees
3. Presentations