

**INTERIM SUMMARY OF
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
TECHNICAL EXCHANGE AND MANAGEMENT MEETING ON
DESIGN CHANGES APPROVED THROUGH DOE'S CRITICAL DECISION-1 PROCESS
August 29, 2006
Las Vegas, Nevada**

INTRODUCTION

On August 29, 2006, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Department of Energy (DOE) met in Las Vegas, Nevada, to discuss "Design Changes Approved Through DOE's Critical Decision-1 (CD-1) Process¹." The meeting was held at the NRC Las Vegas Hearing Facility, and was open to the public. The meeting agenda is provided in Enclosure 1.

To support staff and stakeholder interactions, the meeting included video connection to NRC offices in Rockville, Maryland, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas, and the offices of Bechtel-SAIC Company, LLC, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Teleconference connections were also available to interested stakeholders.

Participants included representatives of the NRC, DOE, State of Nevada, Affected Units of Local Government, Nuclear Energy Institute, other industry representatives, and members of the public. Enclosure 2 contains the list of attendees who were present at the above locations.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING AND TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss changes to the DOE plans for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as recently approved through DOE's CD-1 process. Additionally, the NRC was to present regulatory considerations for DOE's proposed use of Transport, Aging, and Disposal (TAD) canisters.

NRC presented information on the regulatory requirements for transportation, storage, aging, and disposal of commercial spent nuclear fuel, under 10 CFR Parts 50, 71, 72, and 63. Three topics were highlighted: the regulatory framework for DOE's proposed TAD canister, examples of technical areas where use of a TAD canister may affect the Part 63 analysis, and the importance of applying the appropriate Quality Assurance requirements throughout the process of developing and implementing a TAD canister.

DOE provided an overview of changes to the facility designs and preclosure operations, as a result of DOE's CD-1 process. DOE discussed design control, proposed changes to site layout and waste handling process to incorporate the TAD canister, plans for phased construction and operation, and the layout and preliminary hazard analyses for the four principal waste handling facilities. DOE also gave a brief discussion of potential impacts of the TAD canister approach on the understanding of repository postclosure performance.

¹DOE's Critical Decision process as mandated by DOE Order 413.3A provides the department with project management direction for capital asset acquisition projects having a total project cost greater than or equal to \$20 Million. The goal of this Order is to deliver projects on schedule, within budget, and fully capable of meeting mission performance, safeguards and security, and environmental, safety, and health standards.

The presentations by NRC and DOE are provided in Enclosure 3.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. Attendees
3. Presentations