



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:**  
**SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT**  
USEC'S PROPOSED  
AMERICAN CENTRIFUGE PLANT

October 18, 2006

Piketon, Ohio

# Objectives

- Provide brief summary of
  - Safety Evaluation Report (SER)
  - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Discuss future project milestones
- Answer public questions

# NRC Licensing Process

- NRC is an independent agency responsible for ensuring protection of public and workers health and safety in use of radioactive materials
- NRC is not a promoter of proposed project
- Enrichment facility construction can not begin until a license for construction and operation is issued
- Hearing is required for uranium enrichment facility (10 CFR Part 2)

# Project Background

- USEC is proposing to enrich uranium using a gas centrifuge process in Piketon, Ohio
- Enriched uranium is needed for fuel for nuclear power plants
- License application submitted in August 2004
- NRC's environmental review completed in April 2006; safety review completed in September 2006

# NRC Review Process

- Used safety, environmental, and security review staff, as well as contractors
- Followed a standard review plan, NUREG-1520, “Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility”
- Issued requests for additional information and conducted conference calls and meetings
- Conducted on-site reviews

# NRC Review Process (cont'd)

- USEC revised license application accordingly
- Documented review in the safety evaluation report (SER) and the final environmental impact statement (FEIS)

# NRC's Safety Evaluation Report (SER)

- NRC conducted safety reviews in the following areas:
  - General Information
  - Organization and Administration
  - Integrated Safety Analysis
  - Radiation Protection
  - Nuclear Criticality Safety
  - Chemical Safety
  - Fire Safety
  - Management Measures
  - Emergency Management

# NRC's Safety Evaluation Report (SER) (cont'd)

- Environmental Protection
- Decommissioning
- Material Control and Accounting
- Physical Protection
- Transportation Security
- NRC's safety evaluation report documents the results of the safety review of the above areas

# General Information

- General facility function and site information
- Financial qualifications
- Classified information security
- Foreign ownership and control
- Liability insurance

# Organization and Administration

- Organization and management capable of performing safety functions
- Management and staff will have proper training and qualifications

# Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA)

- Performed by USEC and WSMS
- ISA Summary reviewed by NRC staff during safety review
- Comprehensive evaluation of radiological and chemical risk from potential accidents
- Identifies measures to prevent or mitigate potential accidents

# ISA Process

- Key elements
  - Determination of performance requirements
  - Evaluation of potential accident sequences and consequences
  - Identification of IROFS
  - Determination of management measures
  - Formulation of plant change process
  - Assurance of experience feedback to ISA

# 10 CFR 70.61 Performance Requirements

	Highly Unlikely	Unlikely	Not unlikely
<b>High Consequence</b> Publ Dose > 25 rem Worker Dose > 100 rem	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Not Acceptable
<b>Medium Consequence</b> Publ Dose 5 - 25 rem Worker Dose 25 - 100 rem Env releases > 5000 Tbl 2	Acceptable	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
<b>Low Consequence</b> Publ Dose < 5 rem Worker Dose < 25 rem	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable

# Categories of Events Evaluated

- Fire
- Explosion
- Loss of containment/confinement
- Direct radiological – chemical exposure
- Nuclear criticality
- External hazards
- Natural phenomena

# Items Relied on for Safety (IROFS)

- Must be in place for higher-risk accident sequences
- Prevent or mitigate the consequences of such accidents
- Includes systems, structures, equipment, components, and personnel actions
- Management measures in place to ensure availability and reliability
- USEC provided adequate information about IROFS

# ISA Review

- NRC staff reviewed the USEC ISA Summary and supporting documentation including the License Application
- Staff visited the Portsmouth site and conducted detailed reviews of various accident sequences and hazard/event categories

# ISA Review Results

- USEC provided sufficient information about the site, facility processes, hazards, and types of accident sequences
- The ISA was performed using an approved hazard evaluation method by a qualified team
- USEC identified suitable IROFS and management measures to ensure the IROFS availability and reliability to perform their safety function

# Radiation Protection

- USEC has an adequate program for protecting workers and members of the public from exposure to radiation
- Program includes testing, monitoring and surveys to assure that radiation control is adequate
- Training and procedures will be used to meet 10 CFR 19 and 10 CFR 20 requirements and ensure that worker and public doses are as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)

# Criticality Safety

- Facility design and operating procedures assume 10% enrichment, facility will only enrich to 5% presently and in the foreseeable future
- USEC has an adequate program for preventing criticalities, mitigation is not permitted as a protection strategy
- USEC performed hazard analyses that identified and evaluated potential criticality accidents
- Analyses included assumptions of two unlikely, independent, concurrent events to ensure against a criticality accident (double contingency principle)

# Chemical Safety

- USEC has adequately described and assessed chemical accident consequences
- USEC performed hazard analyses that identified and evaluated chemical processes and potential accidents
- USEC established safety controls for potential accidents that meet regulatory requirements

# Fire Safety

- USEC has a program in place that uses building design, automatic and manual fire suppression and administrative measures to protect against fire hazards
- Program uses compliance with NFPA codes and other national consensus standards to meet baseline design criteria requirements
- Fire safety strategy uses multiple IROFS and defense-in-depth philosophy to protect public from credible high consequence fire events

# Management Measures

- USEC provided adequate information about measures that will be applied to the project, including:
  - Overall change process and policy
  - Maintenance program
  - Training program
  - Process for development, approval, and implementation of procedures

# Emergency Management

- USEC provided an adequate Emergency Plan (EP) for the facility
- USEC commits to maintaining and executing the EP for responding to chemical and radiological hazards if they occur
- EP requirements are implemented through approved written procedures and in coordination with local response organizations

# Environmental Protection

- USEC has an adequate program for protecting the environment
- Program includes environment and effluent monitoring
- Program includes controls to maintain effluent releases as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)

# Decommissioning

- USEC proposed an adequate decommissioning funding plan (DFP)
- DFP provides a reasonable cost estimate for decommissioning
- DFP addresses costs for decontaminating the facility and for waste management, include dispositioning of depleted uranium tails

# Security

- USEC provided adequate programs for
  - Physical security of the facility – includes classified information and enriched material
  - Controlling and accounting for enriched material
  - Transportation of enriched materials

# Future Project Milestones

- Mandatory hearings Winter 2006
- Licensing Board public Dec 2006  
limited appearance meeting
- Licensing Board decision Feb 2007
- License issued, if Feb 2007  
positive decision
- Construction begins Spring 2007
- Operation begins 2009
- Full production 2011

# NRC Contacts

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# Information Locations

- SER is available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1851/>

- FEIS is available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1834/>

- NRC has USEC project and gas centrifuge websites:

<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/usecfacility.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/gas-centrifuge.html>

# Summary

- Provide Brief Summary of
  - Safety Evaluation Report
  - Environmental Impact Statement
- Discuss future project milestones



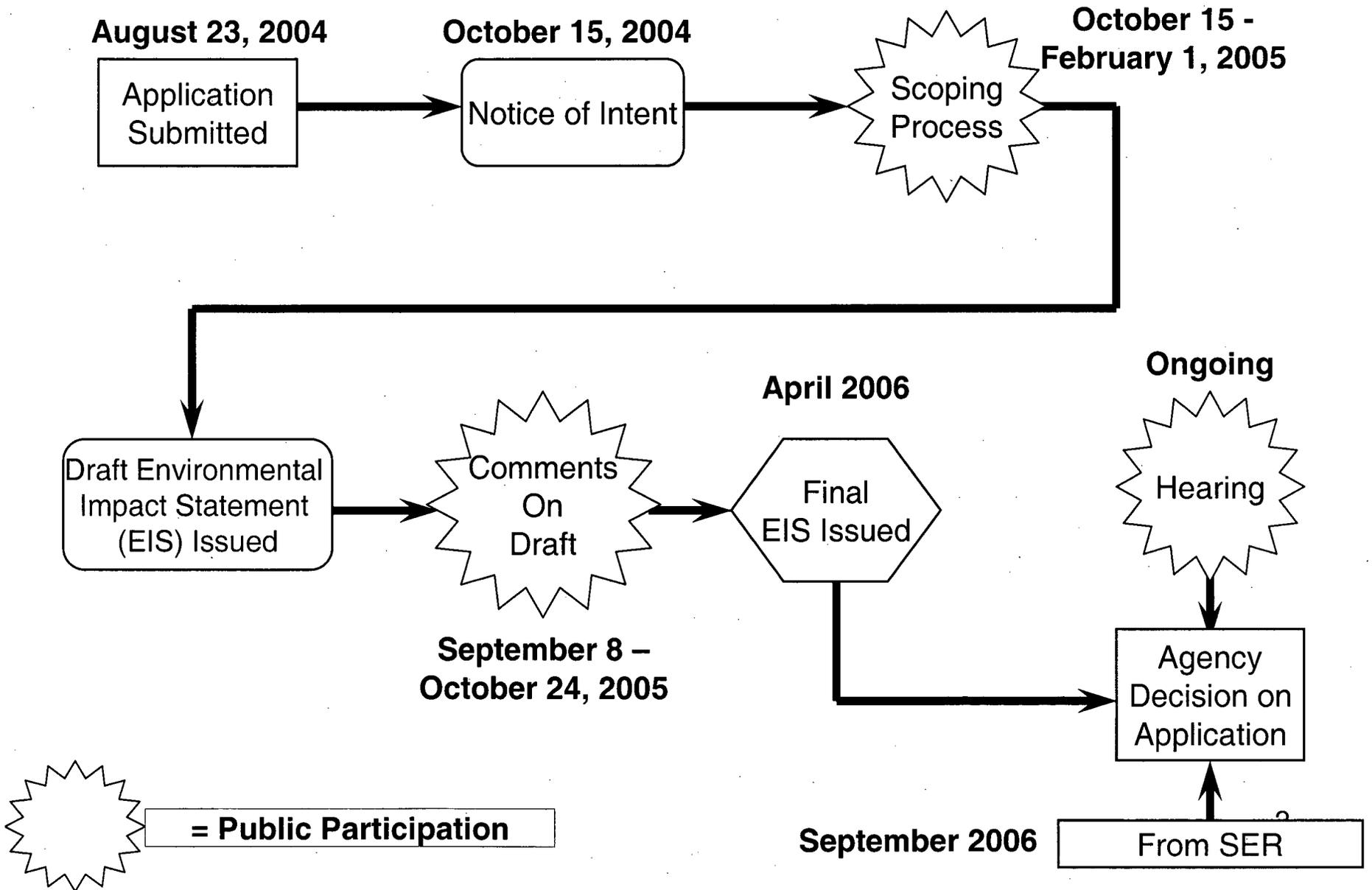
**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:  
SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT  
AND  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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# Environmental Review Process



# Environmental Review

- Draft EIS published in September 2005
  - 300 comments
    - 17 individuals at public meeting
    - 15 individuals submitted letters
- Final EIS published in April 2006
  - Comment responses in Appendix J

# Areas Evaluated in Final EIS

- Water Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Ecological Resources
- Public and Occupational Health
- Air Quality
- Waste Management
- Noise
- Socioeconomics
- Land Use
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Transportation
- Visual and Scenic Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Cumulative Effects

# Evaluation of Impacts

- Impacts from construction, routine operations, transportation, decommissioning, and credible accidents are analyzed
- The possible impact categories were small, moderate, or large
- Impacts can be negative or positive
- Mitigation measures are described

# Categories of Environmental Impacts

- Small: Not detectable or are so minor that they would neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource
- Moderate: Sufficient to noticeably alter but not destabilize important attributes of the resource
- Large: Clearly noticeable and sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource

# Small Impacts of the Proposed Action

- Land use
- Historical and cultural resources
- Visual and scenic resources
- Geology and soils
- Water resources
- Ecological resources
- Environmental justice
- Noise

# Small to Moderate Impacts of the Proposed Action

- Air quality
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Public and occupational health
- Waste management

# Air Quality

- Short-term increases in particulate matter during construction phase
  - Primarily from construction equipment
  - Recent mitigation measures should reduce this impact to SMALL
- Operational emissions of HF and uranium considered SMALL

# Socioeconomics

- Analyzed employment, population, housing, public services and finances
- Employment would increase moderately
- Impacts to population, housing, and public services would be small

# Transportation

- Impacts during construction would be moderate, due to increased traffic on Highways 23 and 32
- Impacts of transportation accidents would be moderate
  - Probability of severe transportation accident is very unlikely

# Public and Occupational Health

- Analyzed non-radiological and radiological impacts for both the public and workers
- Non-radiological and radiological impacts for construction, normal operations, and decommissioning are small
- Radiological impacts during operations:
  - less than 1 mrem/yr for the nearest member of public
- Impacts for accidents are small to moderate
  - safety procedures make severe accidents highly unlikely

# Waste Management

- Evaluated non-radiological and radiological waste
- Impacts from construction, operations, and decommissioning are small because there is adequate capacity at associated disposal facilities
- Moderate impacts to depleted uranium conversion facility