



**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC)  
Role in the Review of the  
DOE Regulatory Processes  
for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant**

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**Tank Waste Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board  
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# Outline

- Who is the NRC?
- What has the NRC been tasked to do?
- How are we conducting our review?
- When are some key dates?
- Status of NRC review efforts
- Next steps
- Summary



## Who is the NRC?

- Independent regulatory agency
- Separate from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- NRC licenses and regulates civilian use of radioactive material
  - To ensure adequate protection of public health and safety
  - To promote common defense and security
  - To protect the environment
- NRC does not have statutory authority to license or otherwise regulate DOE's activities at the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant



## What has the NRC been tasked to do?

- NRC has been tasked to conduct a review
  - The Report for the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008 states:
    - “In cooperation with the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is directed to review the regulatory processes of the Department for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant and report its assessment and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 180 days of enactment.”



## How is NRC Conducting its Review?

- Evaluation of DOE regulations, requirements, orders and guidance
  - Relative to NRC's regulatory framework
- Review is limited
  - Safety and environmental programs and activities



## How is NRC Conducting its Review? (continued)

- Review is not
  - A detailed design or license review
  - A detailed audit of implementation of DOE's requirements
  - An assessment of security or vulnerability
- NRC will not review
  - Security
  - Material control and accountability (MC&A)
  - Emergency planning
  - Management of plant output
  - Decommissioning

## When are some key dates?

- Late December 2007
  - Omnibus Appropriation Bill enacted
- February 13, 2008
  - NRC public meeting on our review effort
- End of June
  - NRC's report due to Congress



## Status of NRC's review effort

- Meeting with DOE at Hanford
- Interacting with Hanford Waste Treatment Plant stakeholders
- NRC staff reviewing relevant information



## Next steps

- Complete site visits
- Conduct public meeting on February 13, 2008
- NRC staff conducting their review
- Develop draft report



## Summary

- NRC is independent regulator
- Required by Congress to complete a review of DOE's regulatory processes at the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant by the end of June
- NRC is conducting its independent review
- NRC is informing stakeholders of its efforts