

AREVA NC Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility Licensing

December 10, 2008

NRC Participants

- **Tom Hiltz**
- **Breeda Reilly**
- **Gloria Kulesa**
- **Brian Smith**
- **Carrie Safford**
- **Roger Hannah**

Tonight's Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Licensing Process (15 minutes)**
- **Environmental Impact Statement Development Process (15 minutes)**
- **Public Questions and Comments**
- **Wrap up (15 minutes)**
- **Adjourn @ 9:30 pm**

NRC Mission

- **Public health and safety**
- **Common defense and security**
- **Protect the environment**

We accomplish this mission through the promulgation of regulations, the licensing of activities, and the inspection of licensees to verify compliance with the regulations.

Who is the NRC?

- **NRC is an independent agency**
- **NRC is not an advocate of the proposed enrichment plant or any other facility**

Objectives

- **Provide brief summary of**
 - **Proposed AREVA NC Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility license application**
 - **NRC licensing process**
 - **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process**
- **Answer public questions**

Review Schedule

- 30 Month Planned
- Potential Factors Influencing Schedule
 - Budget
 - Quality of application and timeliness of responses
 - Contested hearing
 - Lessons learned from previous review experience

Licensing Process

Breeda Reilly, NRC
Licensing Project Manager

Project Background

- **Location: Bonneville County, ID**
(about 18 miles west of Idaho Falls)
- **Name: Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility**
- **Technology: Centrifuge technology**
- **Product: Enriched uranium for fuel for nuclear power plants**

Project Background

- **After mining and initial processing of ores, uranium is converted into uranium hexafluoride.**
- **Uranium hexafluoride is shipped to an enrichment plant.**
- **The centrifuges separate the U-235 and U-238 isotopes and increases the U-235 content from 0.7 percent to up to 5 percent.**

Project Background

- **The enriched uranium is then shipped to a fuel fabricator that will produce fuel pellets and fuel assemblies for nuclear power plants.**

NRC Licensing Process

- **AREVA expects to submit a license application by the end of 2008.**
- **NRC will perform a technical review of the application to ensure it meets NRC health and safety requirements (10 CFR Parts 40 and 70).**
- **NRC will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.**
- **By regulation, construction does not begin until a license for construction and operation is issued.**

NRC Licensing Process

- **NRC technical review is expected to take 18 months.**
 - **NRC will review application**
 - **Request additional information**
 - **Document safety review in a Safety Evaluation Report**
- **Hearing is required for uranium enrichment plants**

Review Scope

- **Applicant's qualifications, safety programs, accident sequences, and decommissioning plans.**
- **Example review areas include:**
 - **Management organization and administrative policies**
 - **Integrated safety analysis**
 - **Radiation, nuclear criticality, chemical safety, and fire protection programs**
 - **Physical protection**
- **Reviews address both normal operating and accident conditions**

Public will have several opportunities to provide input to the licensing process.

- Opportunity to petition for a hearing will be offered shortly after application is submitted**
- Environmental review process**
 - Scoping meeting**
 - Draft EIS**

NRC Licensing Process

- **Staff will conduct a public meeting to discuss results of the Final EIS and Safety Evaluation Report.**
- **If license is issued, staff will conduct a public meeting to discuss its inspection program for facility construction.**

NRC Web Sites:



- <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/ur-enrichment.html>
- <http://www/nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/arevanc.html>

Environmental Review Process

Gloria Kulesa, NRC
Environmental Project Manager

Laws, Regulations, and Guidance

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of certain actions
- NRC implements NEPA with Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR 51)*
- Staff procedures for implementing 10 CFR 51 are described in environmental review guidance (NUREG-1748)

What is an EIS?

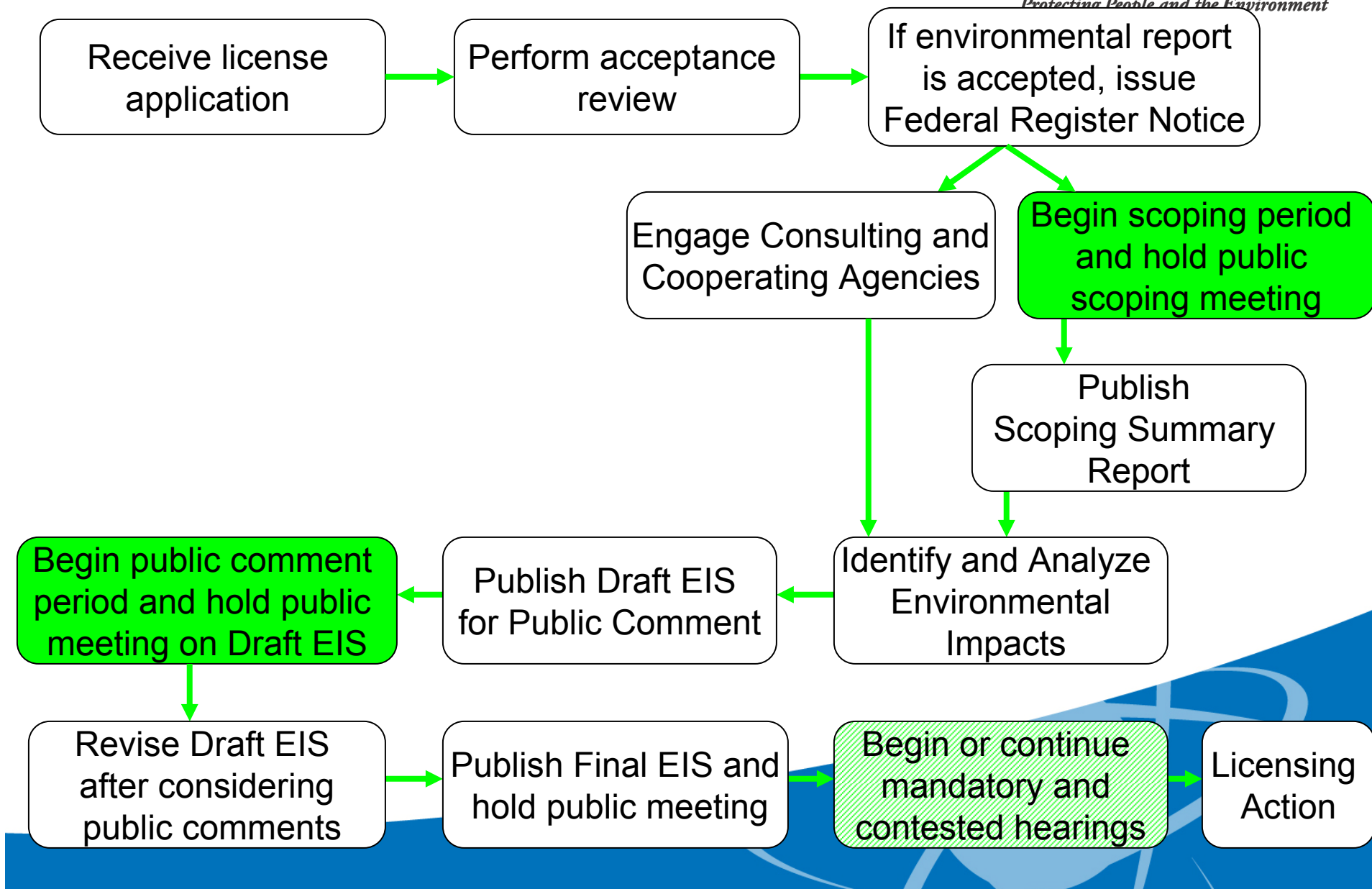
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and its alternatives
- An EIS provides information for the public and agency decision makers
- An EIS addresses five main topics
 - The proposed action, including its purpose and the need it meets
 - Alternatives, including no action
 - The affected environment
 - Environmental impacts
 - Mitigative measures

Review Scope

- Reviews address the effects of facility construction, operation, and decommissioning
- Example review areas include effects on
 - Air, water, soils, plants, and animals
 - Public and worker health
 - Historic, archaeological, or architectural property and artifacts
 - Economic resources, cultural resources, and social services
 - Environmental justice
- Reviews address direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts

Public input is essential to our scoping process

Environmental Review Process



Questions and Comments

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