



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ASLB TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS ON LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION OF WYOMING URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITY

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will hear oral arguments June 9 on two challenges to a license renewal application by Cogema Mining Inc. for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch in-situ uranium recovery facilities in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

Oral arguments by lawyers for the parties will be heard in the Presentation Hall (Room 136) of the Whitney Building on the campus of Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyo. The proceedings will continue on June 10 if necessary.

Cogema submitted an application for a 10-year renewal of the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch recovery facilities on May 31, 2008. The facilities, which are under a single license, have not been operational since 2002; however, on Sept. 30, 2008, the NRC approved Cogema's request to return the facilities to operational status.

The agency received petitions from the Oglala Delegation of the Great Sioux Nation Treaty Council and the Powder River Basin Resource Council, raising various contentions challenging Cogema's application. The oral arguments will discuss the standing of the petitioners and the admissibility of their contentions under NRC regulations. Lawyers from the NRC staff and Cogema will also participate.

Members of the public and media are welcome to observe the oral arguments, and should treat the hearing as they would a court proceeding. Signs, banners, posters and other displays are prohibited. Members of the public should arrive at least 15 minutes early to allow for security screening. Any broadcast media wishing to film during the proceeding are urged to contact the NRC's Office of Public Affairs at (301) 415-8200 to facilitate their arrival and filming.

The ASLB is a quasi-judicial arm of the NRC that conducts legal hearings on major licensing actions. More information about the ASLB is available on the NRC Web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/aslbpfundesc.html>.

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