

U.S.NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

**Proposed Rule and Revision to
the Generic Environmental
Impact Statement (GEIS) for
License Renewal of Nuclear
Plants (NUREG-1437)**

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Introductions & Agenda

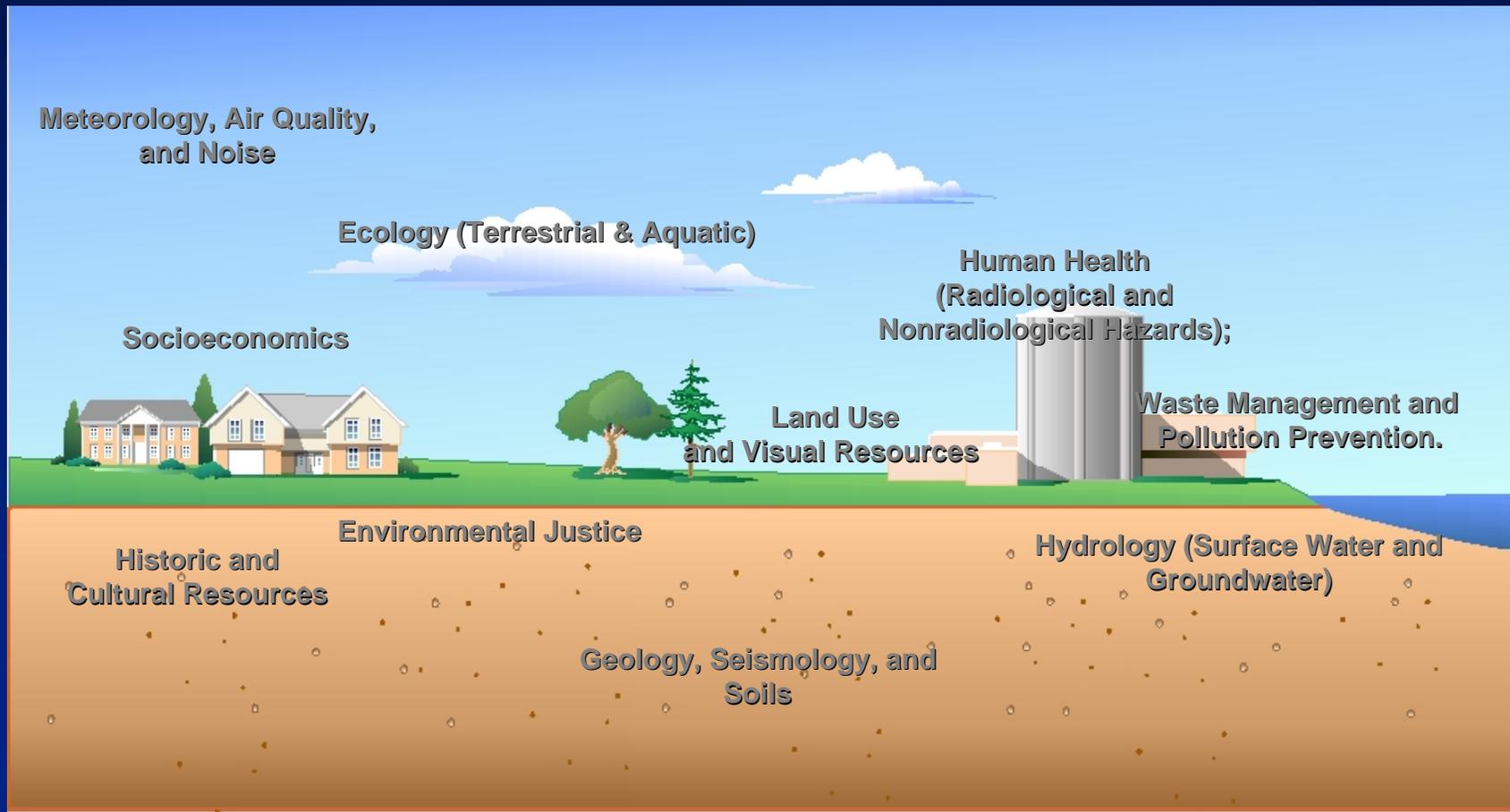
- Welcome and Purpose of Meeting
- Overview of Rulemaking and the GEIS
- Overview of GEIS Update
- Public comment



Purpose of the GEIS

- Evaluate environmental impacts from renewing nuclear power plant operating licenses
- Identify and assess impacts that are expected to be generic (same or similar) at all nuclear plants
- Define the number and scope of environmental impact issues that need to be addressed in plant-specific Environmental Impact Statements

Environmental Impacts





GEIS Update

- Basis for update:
 - 10 CFR Part 51, Appendix B to Subpart A
 - 10-year cycle to review and update if necessary
 - GEIS is technical basis for Appendix B
- GEIS categorization of issues
 - Category 1
 - Impacts the same or similar at all nuclear plants
 - Category 2
 - Generic determination cannot be made, plant-specific analysis required



GEIS Update Process

- Incorporate lessons learned from previous plant-specific environmental reviews
- Assess newly-identified plant-specific and generic environmental impact issues
- Considered all environmental laws and regulations



New Category 1 Issues

- Effects of dredging on water quality
- Effects of dredging on aquatic organisms
- Exposure of terrestrial organisms to radionuclides
- Exposure of aquatic organisms to radionuclides
- Human health impacts from chemicals
- Physical occupational hazards
- Impacts of plants on geology and soils



New Category 2 Issues

- Groundwater and soil contamination, non-radiological
- Radionuclides released to groundwater
- Special status aquatic species and habitats
- Environmental justice
- Cumulative impacts



Category 2 Re-categorized to Category 1

- Housing Impacts
- Public services:
 - Public utilities
 - Education (refurbishment)
 - Transportation
- Offsite land use:
 - Impacts from refurbishment
 - Impacts from license renewal



Summary of Changes

- No issues from the 1996 GEIS were eliminated, but several were combined or regrouped according to similarities
- Environmental issues in the revised GEIS are arranged by resource areas
 - Different approach from 1996 GEIS where issues were arranged by power plant systems (e.g., cooling systems, transmission lines) and activities (e.g., refurbishment)
- Overall reduction in total number of issues from 92 to 78



GEIS Update Milestones

- Scoping began in June 2003
- Scoping Summary Report issued June 2009
- Proposed Rule and GEIS Revision issued July 2009
- Public Comment period ends January 12, 2010
- Final Rule and GEIS Revision to be issued 2011



Points of Contact

Agency points of contact:

- Jeffrey Rikhoff (800) 368-5642, Ext. 1090, or
- Jason Lising, Ext. 3220

Documents are available at:

- Web:
www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/status-prop-rulemknng.html
- NRC's Public Document Room at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD
- www.regulations.gov (NRC-2008-0608)



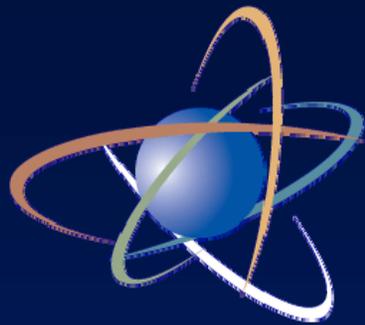
Webcast Archives

- Available for future viewing 48 hours after the close of the meeting
- Location:
“webcast archive” on public website:
www.nrc.gov>Public Meeting and Involvement tab>Meeting Archives link>Webcast Archive link



Public Comments

- Written comments can be sent . . .
 - By mail to:
 - Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 - Washington, DC 20555-0001
 - ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
 - E-mail to:
 - LRGEISUpdate@nrc.gov
 - or
 - Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov
 - Via Web: www.regulations.gov (NRC-2008-0608)



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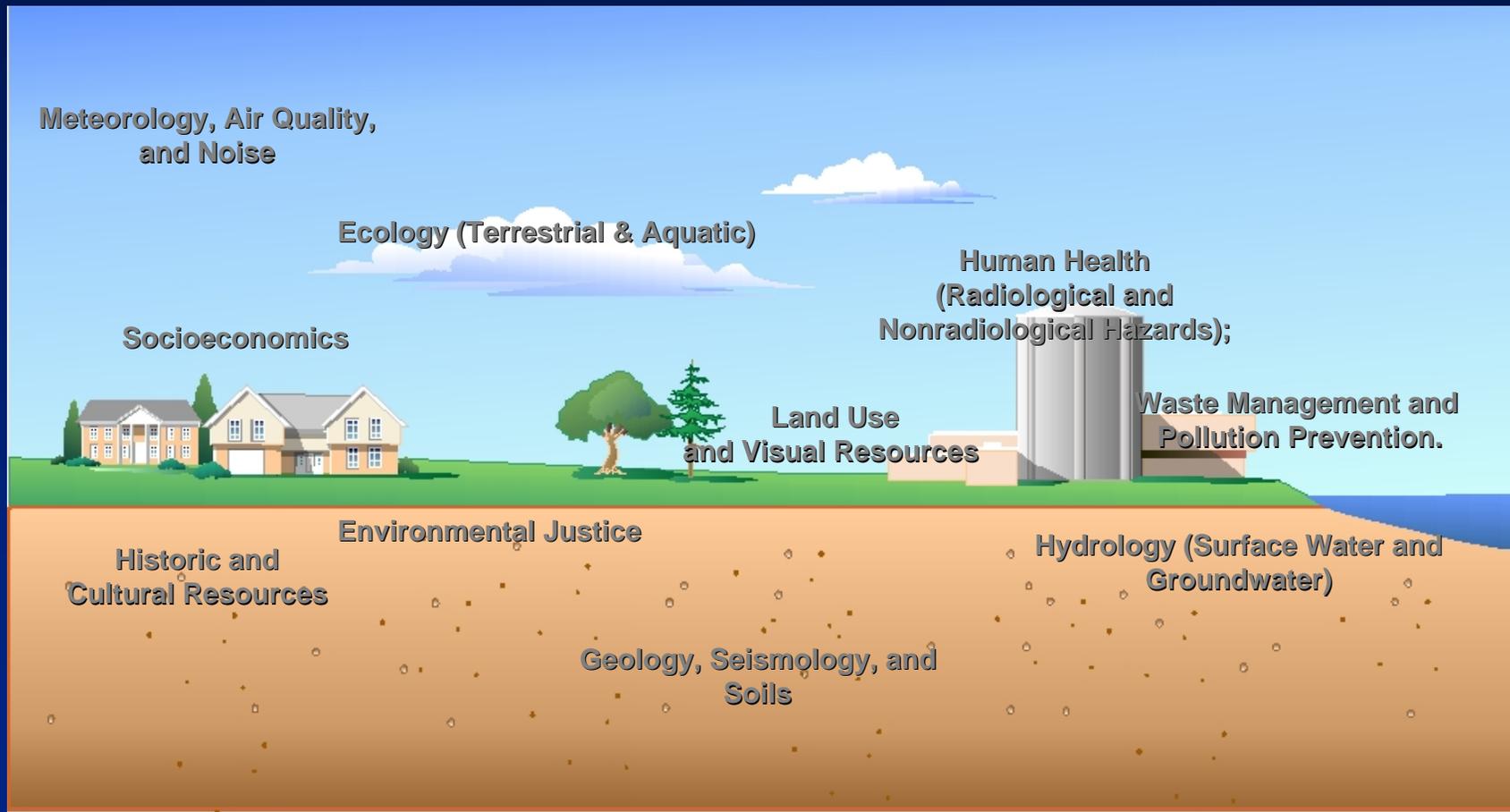
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GEIS Update Process

- Incorporate lessons learned from previous plant-specific environmental reviews
- Assess newly-identified plant-specific and generic environmental impact issues
- Identify changes to environmental laws and regulations



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