Public Meeting on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for AREVA Enrichment Services LLC Proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility Bonneville County, Idaho

Boise, Idaho – August 9, 2010

Idaho Falls, Idaho – August 12, 2010

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Public Meeting on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for AREVA Enrichment Services LLC Proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

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Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Objectives

- Describe NRC's Roles and Responsibilities
- Describe NRC's Licensing Process
- Summarize Contents of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Receive Public Comments on Draft EIS

NRC's Mission

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- Created by Energy Reorganization Act of 1974
- Independent Federal agency

- Mission: *To regulate the nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment*

NRC's Regulatory Responsibility

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- **Nuclear reactors** - commercial power, research and test; new designs
- **Nuclear materials** - reactor fuel; radioactive materials for medical, industrial, academic use
- **Nuclear waste** – transportation; storage and disposal; decommissioning of facilities
- **Nuclear security** – physical security of nuclear material to protect it from sabotage or attacks

NRC Stakeholders

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- Communication is the key
- Active dialogue with:
  - **You**
  - **Public interest groups**
  - **Native American tribes**
  - **State and local officials**
  - **State agencies**
  - **Other Federal agencies**
  - **Congress**
  - **Nuclear industry groups**
  - **International organizations**

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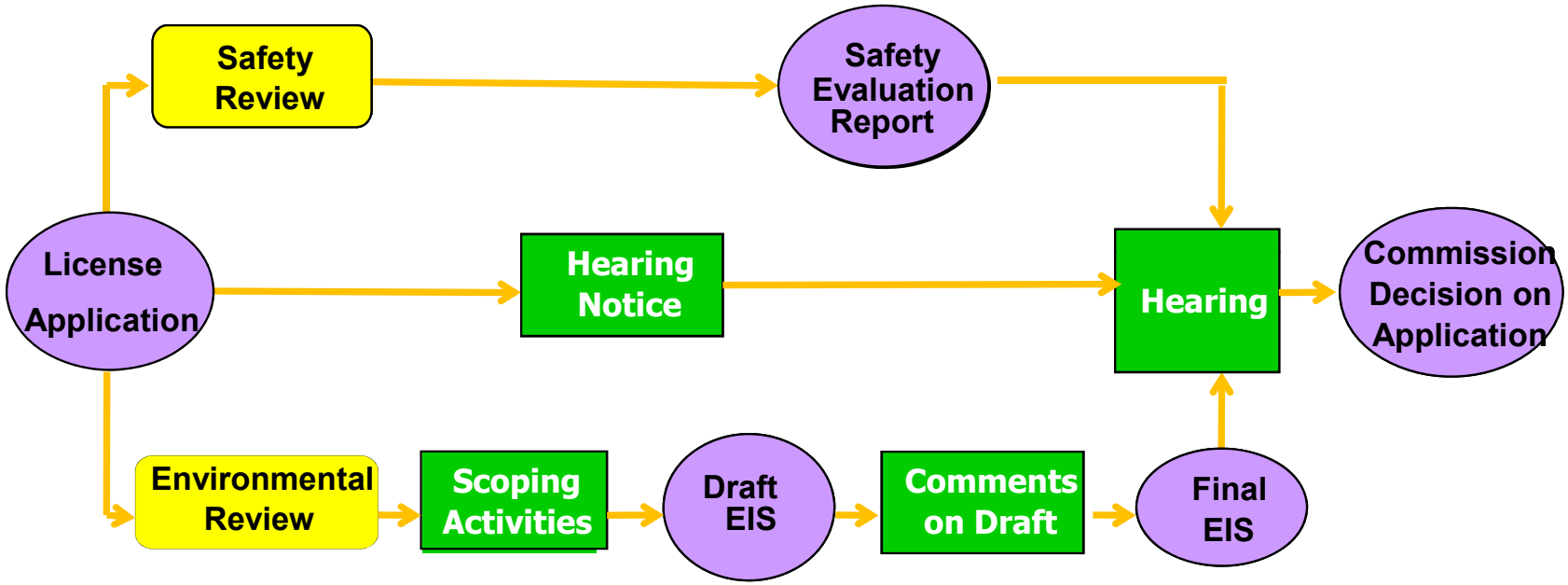
Licensing Review Process for AREVA Enrichment Services LLC Proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

Thomas Hiltz
Chief, Advanced Fuel Cycle, Enrichment and Uranium Conversion Branch
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Proposed Project

- AREVA Enrichment Services LLC (AREVA) proposes to enrich uranium using a gas centrifuge process.
- Facility would be located near Idaho Falls in Bonneville County, Idaho.
- AREVA must meet all safety and environmental requirements before NRC will issue a license.

Licensing Review Process



Licensing Review Schedule

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- Completed Activities:
  - Scoping for EIS
  - Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
  - Requests for Additional Information (RAIs)
  - Response to RAIs
  - Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) for Mandatory Hearing
  - Issuance of Draft EIS

Licensing Review Schedule

- Future Activities:
  - Issue Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER)
  - Issue Final EIS
  - Mandatory Hearing
  - Final NRC Licensing Decision

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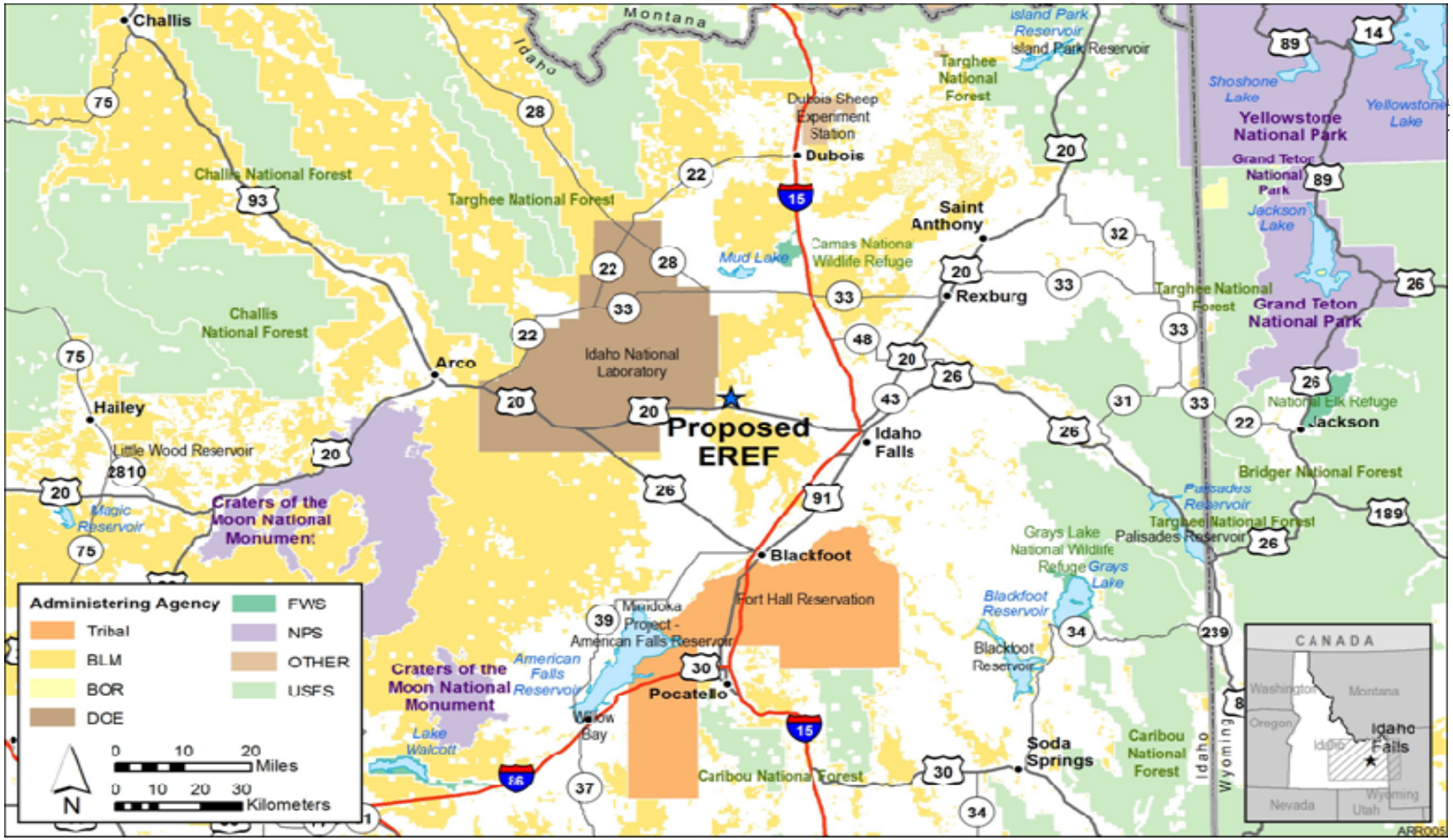
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for AREVA Enrichment Services LLC Proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

Stephen Lemont
Sr. Environmental Project Manager
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

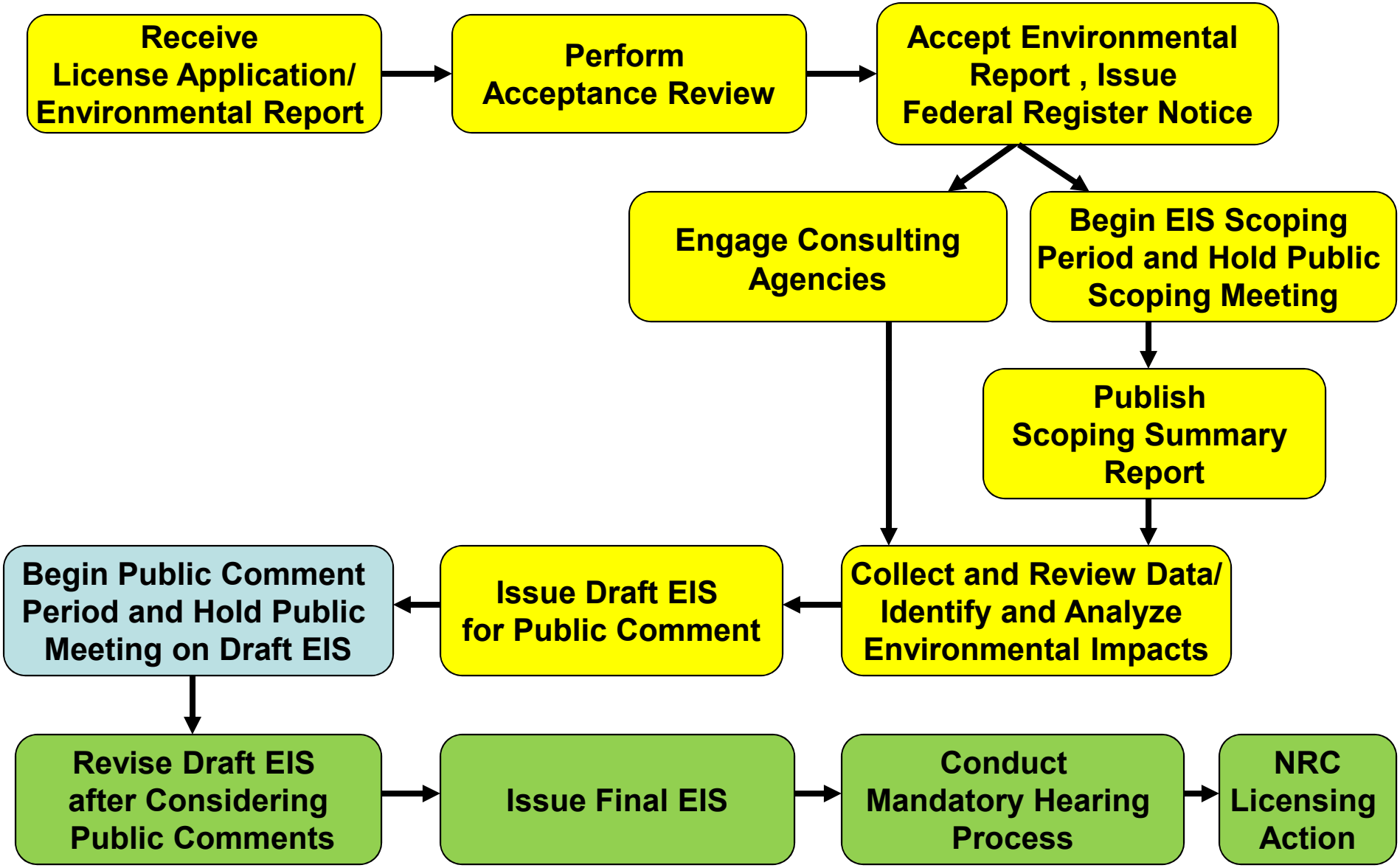
Draft EIS Contents

1. Introduction (Proposed Action, Purpose & Need)
2. Alternatives
3. Affected Environment
4. Environmental Impacts
5. Mitigation
6. Environmental Measurement & Monitoring Programs
7. Benefit-Cost Analysis



Location of Proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility (EREF) Bonneville County, Idaho

NRC Environmental Review Process



The Proposed Action

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- Construct, operate, and decommission a uranium enrichment facility in Bonneville County, Idaho.
- To be located on 460-acres of a 4200-acre parcel, currently used for native rangeland, seeded pasture, and cropland.
- Proposed facility would enrich uranium for use in commercial nuclear fuel for generating electricity at nuclear power plants.
- Proposed facility would employ gas centrifuge process to enrich uranium to up to 5 percent uranium-235 by weight (known as low enriched uranium).

Purpose and Need

The proposed action is intended to fulfill the need for an additional economical domestic source of enriched uranium:

- Supply enriched uranium for nuclear fuel for commercial nuclear power plants to fulfill electricity requirements.
- Provide a domestic supply of enriched uranium for national energy security by eliminating dependence on foreign sources.

Analysis of Alternatives to the Proposed Action

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- Alternatives Considered, But Eliminated From Further Analysis:
  - Alternative sites
  - Alternative sources of low enriched uranium
  - Alternative uranium enrichment technologies
- No-Action Alternative

Environmental Impacts

The NRC defines three impact levels:

- SMALL: *Environmental effects are not detectable or are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.*
- MODERATE: *Environmental effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not destabilize, important attributes of the resource.*
- LARGE: *Environmental effects are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.*

Resource Areas

- Land Use
- Historical and Cultural Resources
- Visual and Scenic Resources
- Air Quality
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Ecology
- Noise
- Transportation
- Public & Occupational Health
- Waste Management
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice

Summary of Draft Environmental Impacts

The NRC staff has preliminarily determined that the environmental impacts of the proposed project would be mostly SMALL, with the exception of:

- SMALL to MODERATE impacts related to increased localized traffic density, primarily from commuting workers on U.S. Highway 20.
- MODERATE impact on an onsite historic resource (John Leopard Homestead) associated with ground disturbance, with mitigation by professional excavation.

Summary of Draft Environmental Impacts (cont'd)

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- MODERATE impacts on visual and scenic resources in the area due to contrast of facility structures with surrounding visual environment.
- MODERATE impacts on onsite vegetation and wildlife due primarily to removal of sagebrush steppe and pasture vegetation.
- Short-term, intermittent, MODERATE to LARGE impacts in the vicinity of the project site associated with fugitive dust released to the air during ground disturbing activities.

Preliminary Conclusions

The NRC staff has preliminarily concluded that the overall benefits of the proposed action outweigh the environmental disadvantages and costs based on:

- The need for an additional economical domestic source of uranium enrichment services; and
- Environmental impacts being mostly SMALL, except for MODERATE localized impacts for certain aspects of transportation and historic, visual/scenic, and ecological resources, and MODERATE to LARGE impacts for fugitive dust emissions to air on a temporary basis in the vicinity of the site.

Preliminary Recommendation

The NRC environmental review staff preliminarily recommends that, unless safety issues mandate otherwise, the proposed license be issued to AREVA.

Draft EIS Availability

- NRC's Public Document Room (PDR):
  One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (1st floor),
  Rockville, MD 20852 (Tel: 800-397-4209; Fax: 301-415-3548;
  pdr.resource@nrc.gov)

- NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): *http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html*
  (Accession Number: ML101890384)

- *http://webwork.nrc.gov:300/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1945/sr1945.pdf*

- Idaho Falls Public Library, 457 West Broadway,
  Idaho Falls, ID 83403 (Tel: 208-612-8460)

Additional Information

- Project Website:
  http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/arevanc.html

- Federal Rulemaking Website (Docket ID: NRC-2009-0187):
  http://www.regulations.gov

- NRC Contacts:
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    Breeda.Reilly@nrc.gov

How to Comment on Draft EIS

- At this meeting, OR
- You may submit comments by one of the following methods (please include Docket ID **NRC-2009-0187** in the subject line):
  - Email to: *EagleRock.EIS@nrc.gov*
  - Mail to:
    Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch (RADB)
    Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M
    U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
    Washington, DC 20555–0001
  - Fax to RADB at: (301) 492-3446
- Comment period ends **September 13, 2010**