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Waste Confidence:
Proposed Rule and Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Waste Confidence Directorate
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Agenda

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- Background
- Generic Environmental Impact Statement
- Proposed Rule
- Comment Submittal
- Public Comments
- Closing

What is Waste Confidence?

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- Waste Confidence is
  - A generic environmental analysis
  - A generic determination that fuel can be stored safely until a repository becomes available

What is Waste Confidence? - continued

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- Waste Confidence does not
  - License any particular site or facility
  - Allow for long-term storage of spent fuel at any site

History

- The NRC adopted the original Waste Confidence Rule in 1984
- Most recent update in 2010
- 2010 Rule vacated and remanded by the Court of Appeals in 2012

Generic Environmental Impact Statement

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- Describes the environmental impacts of continuing to store spent fuel beyond the licensed life for operations of a reactor
- Includes spent fuel storage at reactor sites and at other NRC-licensed spent fuel storage facilities

Generic Environmental Impact Statement

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- The GEIS describes:
  - Why NRC is revisiting waste confidence
  - How NRC evaluated environmental impacts
  - What U.S. facilities were considered
  - Alternatives to proposed action
  - Environmental impacts of continued storage

Generic Environmental Impact Statement

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- Environmental impacts are assessed for three timeframes of continued storage
  - Short-term
  - Long-term
  - Indefinite

Generic Environmental Impact Statement

- The GEIS provides the regulatory basis for the proposed revision to the Waste Confidence rule
- The environmental impacts of continued storage are generically addressed and will not be revisited in future site-specific licensing proceedings

Proposed Rule – 10 CFR 51.23

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- The analysis in the GEIS generically addresses the environmental impacts of storage of spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor
- The analysis supports the Commission's determinations that it is feasible to:
  - safely store spent nuclear fuel following licensed life for operation of a reactor
  - have a mined geologic repository within 60 years following the licensed life for operation of a reactor

Comment Submittal

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- At this meeting: spoken or written
- Federal Rulemaking Web site: http://www.regulations.gov
- E-mail to: Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov
- Fax: Secretary, NRC at 301-415-1101
- Mail to: Secretary, U.S. NRC, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff