

No: 15-048

August 6, 2015

CONTACT: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Take Public Comment, Hold Hearing Aug. 24 on Crow Butte Uranium Recovery Facility

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold a hearing beginning Aug. 24 in Crawford, Neb., on challenges to the license renewal for Crow Butte Energy Resources Inc.'s uranium recovery facility near Crawford. The board is the independent body within the NRC that conducts adjudicatory hearings and renders decisions on legal challenges to licensing actions. The NRC renewed the facility license in 2014, with an expiration date of Nov. 5, 2024.

Evidence to be presented in the hearing will address nine contentions filed by several local residents and the Western Nebraska Resources Council, known as consolidated intervenors, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The board will hear arguments on four technical contentions and five related to the environmental review. The contentions challenge the adequacy of the evaluation and protection of historical resources at the site, and the NRC's analysis of the facility's impacts on surface water, groundwater, and the ecosystem.

The hearing will run 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Crawford Community Center, 1005 1st St., in Crawford, from Aug. 24 until all evidence has been heard. Members of the public and media are welcome to observe the evidentiary hearing, but participation will be limited to the parties, lawyers and witnesses. Those planning to attend should arrive at least 15 minutes early to allow time for security screening, including possible pat-downs and searches of hand-carried items such as briefcases or backpacks. No signs or weapons will be permitted in the building.

The board is also asking for written comments from interested members of the public. These statements are not testimony or evidence, but may aid the board and the parties in considering the issues in the hearing. Written statements should be submitted by Aug. 28. They may be sent by mail to: Administrative Judge Michael M. Gibson, c/o Nicholas Sciretta and Sachin Desai, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; by fax to 301-415-5599; or by email to nicholas.sciretta@nrc.gov and sachin.desai@nrc.gov.

A copy of the written statement should also be sent by mail to: Office of the Secretary, Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; by fax to 301-415-1101; or by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov.

Documents related to the Crow Butte license renewal application are available on the [NRC website](#). Documents regarding this ASLB proceeding are available on the NRC's [Electronic Hearing Docket](#) by clicking on the folder entitled "Crow_Butte_Rsrces_40-8943-OLA" on the left side of the page. More information about the role of the ASLB in the licensing process is available on the [NRC website](#).