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NRC Issues Final Supplement to Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published the staff's final environmental impact statement supplement on a proposed permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The supplement analyzes potential impacts on groundwater and surface groundwater discharges and determines all impacts would be "small."

The document supplements environmental impact statements the Department of Energy prepared on the proposed repository. DOE issued the final EIS in 2002, then supplemented it in June 2008 when it submitted a construction authorization application to the NRC. Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the NRC is to adopt DOE's EIS to the extent practicable. The NRC staff recommended adoption of DOE's EISs in September 2008, but noted the need to supplement the study of groundwater effects in the Yucca Mountain aquifer beyond DOE's analyzed location at the site boundary. DOE ultimately deferred to the NRC to prepare the supplement.

The NRC published a draft of the supplement for public comment last August. During the 91-day comment period, NRC staff conducted public meetings to present the report and receive comments in Rockville, Md., and in Las Vegas and Amargosa Valley, Nev. Including comment letters and oral comments, the NRC received more than 1,200 comments on the draft supplement. The NRC staff's responses to these comments, and descriptions of changes made to the final report in response to comments, are in Appendix B of the supplement.

The supplement to the [Yucca Mountain EIS](#) is available on the NRC website.