

How to Comment on the Scope of the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Amendment to United Nuclear Corporation's Church Rock Mill Site License to Allow Disposal of Mine Waste from the Northeast Church Rock Mine Site

The NRC is conducting its environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed license amendment that would allow disposal of mine waste from the Northeast Church Rock (NECR) Mine Site within the footprint of the tailings impoundment at the United Church Rock (UNC) Mill Site. The NRC is evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, which will be documented in an environmental impact statement (EIS). The NRC is requesting public comments on the scope and content of this EIS.

Why is the NRC requesting comments?

The NRC announced its intent to conduct scoping and prepare the EIS on February 8, 2019 (84 FR 2935) and seeks public input on the scope of the EIS. The scoping process is intended to: (i) define the proposed action for the EIS; (ii) determine the scope of the EIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth; (iii) identify and eliminate from detailed study issues which are peripheral, are not significant, or which have been covered by prior environmental review; and (iv) identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.

What kind of input is NRC looking for?

The NRC typically includes the following environmental resources in its environmental reviews: air quality, water quality, ecological resources, historic and cultural resources, land use, transportation, soil and geology, socioeconomics and environmental justice, public and occupational health, noise, visual and scenic resources, and waste management.

The NRC is requesting information and input specific to this proposed action regarding what should be included or excluded from the scope of the EIS. Some examples of information NRC is requesting are:

- What issues are most important to analyze in detail in the EIS, and why?
- What reasonable alternatives to the proposed action should be analyzed, and why?
- What site-specific characteristics should be considered in the environmental analysis?
- What local sources of information should the NRC consider? (Examples include local information about subsistence living, important site features, etc.)
- What kind of information should NRC consider with regard to historic properties that may be affected by the proposed action?
- What issues or alternatives should be eliminated from detailed consideration, and why?

The NRC staff will consider comments that address the UNC license amendment request. Comments on other licensing actions will not be considered within the scope of the EIS.

UNC Church Rock Project

Where can I find information about the NRC's review?

The NRC has set up a public webpage for UNC's application for the license amendment at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/decommissioning/uranium/united-nuclear-corporation-unc-.html>. The webpage contains links to the UNC application and the NRC's letter accepting the application for detailed review. The NRC will periodically update the webpage with additional information as its review progresses.

What are the next steps?

After the close of the scoping period, the NRC staff will collect all comments submitted, organize them according to subject, and summarize the input received. The staff will then issue a scoping summary report that provides a concise summary of the NRC's conclusions regarding the scope and content of the EIS, including significant issues identified. The report will be distributed to participants in the scoping process and made available on the NRC's webpage for the UNC application.

Next, the NRC will then take the following steps in its EIS process:

- The NRC will continue preparing the EIS with consideration of the scoping comments.
- The NRC will publish the EIS in draft form for public review and comment.
- The NRC will revise the draft EIS, as appropriate, based on the comments received.
- The NRC will publish a final EIS and make it publicly available.

In parallel to the EIS process, the NRC also is conducting a detailed safety review. The results of that review will be documented in a safety evaluation report. The NRC will make its licensing decision on UNC's application based on the results of both the safety review and the environmental review.

How can I submit my comments?

The NRC is accepting comments in the following ways:

Post comments to the Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2019-0026. Click on the comment icon and complete the web form.

Mail comments to: Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

Email comments to: UNC-ChurchRockEIS.resource@nrc.gov

Comment at a public meeting: Attendees are invited to speak comments on the record at public scoping meetings (transcriptions are publicly available). To see the public meeting schedule, visit <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>

Remember to include Docket ID NRC-2019-0026 in written comments.

Scoping comments should be submitted by April 19, 2019, to ensure consideration. All comments are considered equally, regardless of how they are submitted.