



U.S.NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

RIC 2007

**Update on the Licensing of the Proposed
DOE Repository at Yucca Mountain**

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- **Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982**
 - **NRC responsible for developing and implementing regulations to license and operate the repository**
 - **EPA responsible for establishing environmental protection standards for the repository**
 - **DOE responsible for design, construction, and operation of the repository**

- 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act
- 1998 DOE Viability Assessment
- 2002 Site Recommendation
- 2008 DOE LA Submittal (est.)
- 2011 NRC CA Decision (est.)

Preparatory Activities Continue in Several Areas:

- **Regulatory**
 - Revise Part 63 Regulations
 - Supplement the Yucca Mountain Review Plan, as needed

- **Technical**
 - Assess remaining pre-licensing technical issues
 - Finalize independent review capabilities and strategies

- **Administrative**
 - Develop/refine organizational readiness
 - Continue public outreach

Upcoming NRC Activities

- Perform acceptance review of DOE LA
- Make decision on DOE EIS adoption
- Conduct license review
- Develop safety evaluation report
- Conduct formal adjudicatory hearings
- Make CA decision on DOE LA in 3-4 yrs

Program Uncertainties

- Establishment of a final regulatory framework
- Date of DOE document certification for LSN
(est. December 2007)
- Date for submission of DOE LA
(est. June 2008)
- Quality of DOE LA and supporting data
- Number and complexity of issues for hearing

SUMMARY

- NRC has a program in place to conduct a fair and independent review of a DOE LA for a proposed geologic repository at YM
- NRC is actively engaging DOE, during the pre-licensing phase, to address and resolve technical and regulatory issues relevant to NRC meeting its statutory responsibilities