



Licensing of a Potential Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain

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NRC Responsibilities

NRC has a licensing role for a potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, NV.

Responsibilities include:

- Serve as independent regulator with oversight responsibilities
- Adopt licensing criteria consistent with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards through rulemaking
- Complete safety review of DOE License Application

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NRC Responsibilities (continued)

- Adopt, to the extent practicable, DOE's environmental impact statement, as supplemented
- Conduct formal adjudicatory hearings
- Make a construction authorization decision
- Develop and maintain Licensing Support Network

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Recent Accomplishments

- Docketed DOE License Application for safety review (September 2008)
- Determined that it is practicable to adopt, with further supplementation, DOE's environmental impact statement (September 2008)
- Issued Notice of Hearing on the License Application (October 2008)
- Provided "Answers to intervention & interested government participant Petitions." (February 2009)
- Revised 10 CFR Part 63 regulation to be consistent with EPA post-10,000 years dose standard (March 2009)

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Current NRC Activities

- Performing safety review of the License Application for construction authorization decision
- Preparing safety evaluation report and requesting additional information from DOE, as necessary
- Interacting with DOE in public (telephone calls) to clarify NRC's requests for additional information

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Current NRC Activities (continued)

- Preparing for adjudicatory proceedings
- Maintaining Las Vegas Hearing Facility
- Supplementing and performing monthly certification of NRC document collection on the Licensing Support Network
- Interacting with interested stakeholders, when appropriate

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Continuing/Future NRC Activities

- Continue review of the License Application and develop Safety Evaluation Report
- Conduct hearing activities
- Review DOE's supplement to its EISs on groundwater impacts
- Operate and maintain computer-based electronic system to support high-level waste licensing and adjudicatory processes

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Program Challenges

- Licensing a first geologic repository in the world under a risk-informed, performance-based regulation for the first time
- Adequacy of appropriations from Congress for NRC's safety review
- Knowledge management for the project duration (safety review and hearings)

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Summary

- NRC needs realistic appropriations from Congress to complete its licensing review
- NRC will conduct its regulatory functions in accordance with its strategic goals of safety and security of the public and protection of the environment, and organizational excellence objectives
- NRC is committed to a fair, independent, and open regulatory process

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