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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Evidentiary Hearing on Proposed Expansion of Crow Butte Uranium Recovery Facility

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold an evidentiary hearing Oct. 30, in Crawford, Neb., regarding a contention raised by the Oglala Sioux Tribe challenging the proposed expansion of Crow Butte Resources' uranium recovery facility in Dawes County.

The board is an adjudicatory body of three administrative judges, independent of the NRC staff and Commission. The contention challenges Crow Butte's May 2012 application to the NRC for authorization to construct and operate a satellite in situ uranium recovery facility called the Marsland Expansion Area. The contention argues that the application and environmental assessment did not provide sufficient information regarding the effects of the proposed expansion on adjacent surface and groundwater resources.

The evidentiary hearing will begin at 8:30 a.m., Mountain Time, on Oct. 30, at the Crawford Community Building, 1005 1st St., in Crawford, and will continue until concluded. Only representatives and witnesses of the parties – the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the NRC staff, and Crow Butte Resources – will be permitted to participate.

In addition, the board will conduct a "limited appearance" session on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 2-4 p.m., Mountain Time, in the Scottsbluff Room of the Chadron State College Student Center, 1000 Main St., in Chadron, Neb. In this session, interested members of the public who are not parties to the adjudicatory hearing may make brief oral statements to the judges regarding the issues. Those preferring to make an oral statement on Oct. 28 are strongly urged to register in advance by 5 p.m., Eastern Time on Oct. 12. If there is insufficient interest in making oral statements, the board may cancel the Oct. 28 session.

Requests to make oral statements may be sent to Administrative Judge G. Paul Bollwerk III, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3A02, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001; by fax to 301-415-5205; or by email to paul.bollwerk@nrc.gov and sarah.ladin@nrc.gov.

In addition, anyone preferring to submit a written statement may do so at the above addresses, including the Office of the Secretary, Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001; fax to 301-415-1101; or email to hearingdocket@nrc.gov.

Those interested in submitting an audio-recorded statement may do so by emailing the recording as an .mp3, .mp4, or .dss file, not exceeding 17 megabytes, to paul.bollwerk@nrc.gov, or by submitting the recording via U.S. mail on a CD or DVD to Administrative Judge G. Paul Bollwerk III, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3A02, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001.

A Notice of Hearing, with detailed information on the evidentiary hearing, as well as the oral, written, and audio-recorded limited appearance statements, was published Aug. 2, in the [*Federal Register*](#).