

Yucca Mountain Licensing Update

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensing Process

National Association of Regulatory Commissioners
Summer Committee Meetings
Portland, Oregon
July 21, 2008

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Presentation

- Licensing Steps
- “Model” Timetable

Licensing Support Network (LSN)

- DOE certified its LSN document production October 2007
- All LSN document production complete January 2008

t_0 : Yucca Mountain License Application (LA) Submitted

- DOE filed LA with NRC on June 3, 2008
- Marks start of process
- NRC Staff acceptance review underway
- LA available to public on LSN

+ 3 Months: LA Docketed by NRC

- NRC Staff begins its formal technical review of Yucca Mountain repository LA
- Begins 3-4 year licensing period prescribed by Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA)
- Notice of Hearing (hearing required by NWPA) published in Federal Register at about +4.3 months (~ October 13, 2008)
- License proceeding conducted by independent, three-person, NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB)

+5.3 Months (~ November 10, 2008): Requests to Participate in Hearings

- Nevada and affected units of local government
- Others, individuals and groups, with an interest that might be affected by the repository may also participate
- Anticipated parties/petitioners: DOE; NRC Staff; Nevada; NEI; Las Vegas; NV Counties -- Clark, Nye, Esmeralda, Mineral, Churchill, Lander, Eureka, White Pine, Lincoln; California Energy Commission; California Department of Justice; California County -- Inyo

+7.5 Months (~ January 19, 2009): ASLB Rules on Hearing Requests

- Establishes parties
- Sets issues

+24.5 Months (~ June 2010): Discovery Complete

- ASLB finalizes issues to be heard
- ASLB sets hearing schedule

+28 Months (~ October 2010): Evidentiary Hearing Begins

- Considers issues raised by parties
- Like a “Perry-Mason-type” trial
- Involves testimony by witnesses, cross-examination, etc.
- In effect, hearing constitutes a “double-whammy” on DOE
 - 1st, NRC Staff review
 - 2nd, ASLB hearing

+31 Months (January 2011): Hearing Ends

- Parties file proposed findings
- ASLB prepares decision

+36 Months (June 2011): ASLB Issues Initial Decision

- Addresses issues litigated during hearing
- Based on the record of the hearing

+39 Months (September 2011): Commission Supervisory Review Complete

- Construction Authorization issued
- Tolls running of 3-4 year NWPA licensing period