



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 00-096

June 14, 2000

NRC LICENSING BOARD REVISES SCHEDULE FOR HEARING IN UTAH ON PROPOSED NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE FACILITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has revised the schedule for its hearing this month in Salt Lake City on the application of Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (PFS) for a license to construct and operate a spent nuclear reactor fuel storage facility. The facility is proposed to be located on the reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians in Skull Valley, Utah, about 85 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

As previously announced, the formal hearing will begin Monday, June 19, in Salt Lake City at 9:30 a.m. In addition, the Board is providing an opportunity for members of the public to make brief oral statements on June 23 and 24 in Salt Lake City. All sessions will be held at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel Salt Lake City (formerly the Hilton Salt Lake City), Wasatch Room, Mezzanine Level, 150 West 500 South, Salt Lake City.

A session scheduled for public oral statements on June 30 and potentially July 1 in Tooele, Utah, has been postponed and will be announced later.

Beginning on Monday, June 19, the Board will receive testimony and exhibits and allow cross-examination of witnesses by the parties who have been admitted to the hearing: the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, Ohngo Gaudadeh Devia, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the State of Utah, Private Fuel Storage and the NRC staff.

Three issues that will be considered during this phase of the hearing are emergency planning, financial assurance, and decommissioning costs. The hearing will be open to members of the public for observation during presentation of the emergency planning issue, which will be considered first. All or part of the sessions on the other two issues may be closed to the public because they may involve the discussion of confidential proprietary information.

The sessions at which members of the public may make brief oral presentations (known as "oral limited appearance statements") are as follows:

--Friday, June 23 - - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (MDT) and 7:00 to 9:30 p.m

--Saturday, June 24 - - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Each statement normally will be no more than five minutes, but may be further limited, depending on the number of requests to make an oral statement. The Board may terminate a session early if all presentations are completed.

Any person not a party to the proceeding will be able to express their concern relating to this proceeding. Although these statements do not constitute testimony or evidence, they may help in the Board's deliberations.

Persons who submit written requests to make an oral statement will be given priority. The Board will continue to accept such written requests until close of business June 19. The request should specify the date (June 23 or 24) and, for the June 23 session, the time on that day (afternoon or evening) when the requester wishes to speak. Later requests may be registered on-site at the session on a first-come, first-served basis as time allows.

Written requests should be submitted by mail to the Office of the Secretary, Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov ; or by fax to 301/415-1101.

In addition, a copy should be sent by mail to Administrative Judge G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; by e-mail to gpb@nrc.gov ; or by fax to 301/415-5599.

The Licensing Board also will accept written statements submitted at any time. Such statements should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, with a copy to Judge Bollwerk, as stated above.

Documents relating to this proceeding currently are on file at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20003-1527, and at the University of Utah, Marriott Library, Documents Division, 295 S. 1500 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0860. Additionally, documents submitted in this proceeding after November 1, 1999, are available electronically through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), with access to the public through the NRC's Internet web site Public Electronic Reading Room Link at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> . Assistance in using this system is available by calling 202/634-3273.

Licensing Board members are G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chairman; Dr. Jerry R. Kline; and Dr. Peter S. Lam.

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