

AREVA NC Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility Licensing

December 10, 2008

NRC Participants

- **Tom Hiltz**
- **Breeda Reilly**
- **Gloria Kulesa**
- **Brian Smith**
- **Carrie Safford**
- **Roger Hannah**

Tonight's Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Licensing Process (15 minutes)**
- **Environmental Impact Statement Development Process (15 minutes)**
- **Public Questions and Comments**
- **Wrap up (15 minutes)**
- **Adjourn @ 9:30 pm**

NRC Mission

- **Public health and safety**
- **Common defense and security**
- **Protect the environment**

We accomplish this mission through the promulgation of regulations, the licensing of activities, and the inspection of licensees to verify compliance with the regulations.

Who is the NRC?

- **NRC is an independent agency**
- **NRC is not an advocate of the proposed enrichment plant or any other facility**

Objectives

- **Provide brief summary of**
 - **Proposed AREVA NC Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility license application**
 - **NRC licensing process**
 - **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process**
- **Answer public questions**

Review Schedule

- 30 Month Planned
- Potential Factors Influencing Schedule
 - Budget
 - Quality of application and timeliness of responses
 - Contested hearing
 - Lessons learned from previous review experience

Licensing Process

Breeda Reilly, NRC
Licensing Project Manager

Project Background

- **Location: Bonneville County, ID**
(about 18 miles west of Idaho Falls)
- **Name: Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility**
- **Technology: Centrifuge technology**
- **Product: Enriched uranium for fuel for nuclear power plants**

Project Background

- **After mining and initial processing of ores, uranium is converted into uranium hexafluoride.**
- **Uranium hexafluoride is shipped to an enrichment plant.**
- **The centrifuges separate the U-235 and U-238 isotopes and increases the U-235 content from 0.7 percent to up to 5 percent.**

Project Background

- **The enriched uranium is then shipped to a fuel fabricator that will produce fuel pellets and fuel assemblies for nuclear power plants.**

NRC Licensing Process

- **AREVA expects to submit a license application by the end of 2008.**
- **NRC will perform a technical review of the application to ensure it meets NRC health and safety requirements (10 CFR Parts 40 and 70).**
- **NRC will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.**
- **By regulation, construction does not begin until a license for construction and operation is issued.**

NRC Licensing Process

- **NRC technical review is expected to take 18 months.**
 - **NRC will review application**
 - **Request additional information**
 - **Document safety review in a Safety Evaluation Report**
- **Hearing is required for uranium enrichment plants**

Review Scope

- **Applicant's qualifications, safety programs, accident sequences, and decommissioning plans.**
- **Example review areas include:**
 - **Management organization and administrative policies**
 - **Integrated safety analysis**
 - **Radiation, nuclear criticality, chemical safety, and fire protection programs**
 - **Physical protection**
- **Reviews address both normal operating and accident conditions**

Public will have several opportunities to provide input to the licensing process.

- Opportunity to petition for a hearing will be offered shortly after application is submitted**
- Environmental review process**
 - Scoping meeting**
 - Draft EIS**

NRC Licensing Process

- **Staff will conduct a public meeting to discuss results of the Final EIS and Safety Evaluation Report.**
- **If license is issued, staff will conduct a public meeting to discuss its inspection program for facility construction.**

NRC Web Sites:



- <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/ur-enrichment.html>
- <http://www/nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/arevanc.html>

Environmental Review Process

Gloria Kulesa, NRC
Environmental Project Manager

Laws, Regulations, and Guidance

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of certain actions
- NRC implements NEPA with Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR 51)*
- Staff procedures for implementing 10 CFR 51 are described in environmental review guidance (NUREG-1748)

What is an EIS?

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and its alternatives
- An EIS provides information for the public and agency decision makers
- An EIS addresses five main topics
 - The proposed action, including its purpose and the need it meets
 - Alternatives, including no action
 - The affected environment
 - Environmental impacts
 - Mitigative measures

Review Scope

- Reviews address the effects of facility construction, operation, and decommissioning
- Example review areas include effects on
 - Air, water, soils, plants, and animals
 - Public and worker health
 - Historic, archaeological, or architectural property and artifacts
 - Economic resources, cultural resources, and social services
 - Environmental justice
- Reviews address direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts

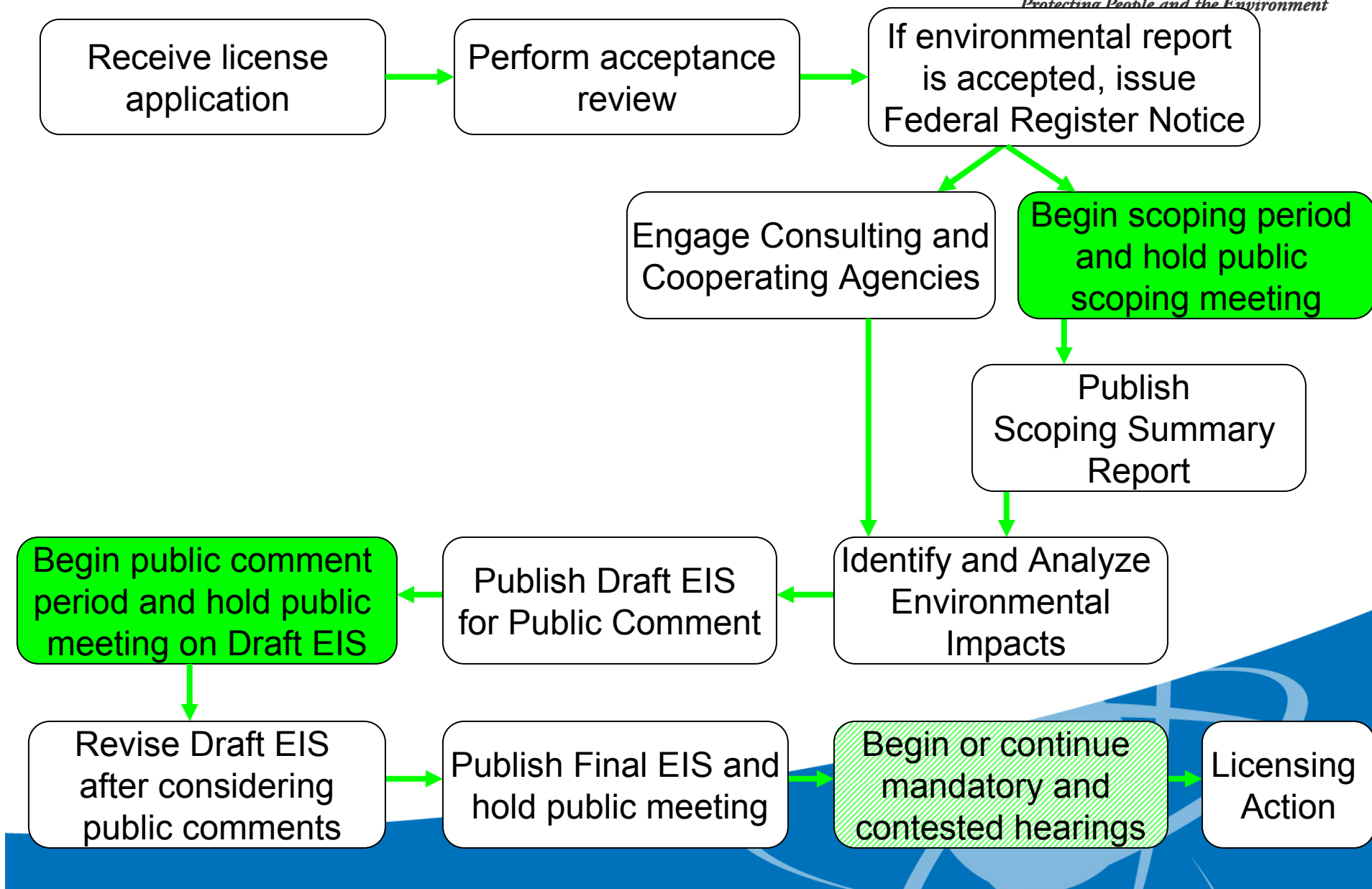
Public input is essential to our scoping process

Environmental Review Process



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment



Questions and Comments

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