



NRC NEWS

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COMMISSION ACTS ON HIGH LEVEL WASTE CONTENTION APPEALS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted 4-0 today to uphold the decisions of three Construction Authorization Boards (CABs) conducting a hearing on the Department of Energy's application to build and operate a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

The Commission's decision includes several rulings, including a rejection of most of the NRC staff's appeal of several admitted contentions, or arguments, as well as the rejection of two Nevada contentions challenging DOE's managerial competence and institutional integrity.

DOE submitted its application June 3, 2008; on Sept. 9, 2008, the NRC staff determined that the 8,600-page application contained sufficient technical information for the agency to docket it and initiate its comprehensive safety review. The NRC announced an opportunity to participate in a hearing in October 2008, and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel created three CABs to examine the 317 contentions filed by 12 petitioners, including the states of Nevada and California, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and other parties.

The Yucca Mountain application, minus some classified portions, is available on the NRC Web site at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/hlw-disposal/yucca-lic-app.html>.

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