

November 17, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: James Rubenstone, Acting Director
Yucca Mountain Directorate
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Christine Pineda, Project Manager /RA/
Yucca Mountain Directorate
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 12 PUBLIC MEETING ON THE NRC
STAFF'S DRAFT SUPPLEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY'S EIS FOR THE PROPOSED REPOSITORY AT YUCCA
MOUNTAIN, NEVADA

On Thursday, November 12, 2015, members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a Category 3 public meeting via teleconference. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the NRC staff's draft supplement to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) environmental impact statements for the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and to accept public comments on the document. Participants also had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions about the NRC's environmental review process.

The public meeting began at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time and concluded at approximately 4:00 p.m. The meeting began with an introduction of NRC staff and a review of meeting ground rules, followed by a presentation on the draft supplement. Meeting attendees were then given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions on the NRC's environmental review process and present their comments on the draft supplement. The transcript for the meeting is available in ADAMS at Accession No. ML15321A414.

Approximately 31 people attended the meeting, and 12 people gave comments one or more times during the meeting. Meeting attendees included members of the public, members of federal, tribal, state, and local government organizations, and members of media organizations and public advocacy groups. A list of meeting attendees is attached to this summary.

One attendee requested clarification about the circumstances under which the licensing process for the proposed repository was stopped. Another attendee asked whether the NRC staff considered the potential for a catastrophic event to occur at the proposed repository.

Topics and concerns that were raised included: the scope of the supplement; the potential for disproportionate impacts on minority and low-income populations, especially Native Americans; the potential for infiltration of rainwater into the repository tunnels and for flooding of the tunnels; and the potential for leakage of spent nuclear fuel storage containers.

Some comments expressed general opposition to nuclear power and calls to shut down nuclear power plants. Other comments concerned the suitability of Yucca Mountain as a site for high-

level radioactive waste disposal and the possibility that the Yucca Mountain site is being “resurrected” as a possible location for high-level waste disposal. Some commenters stated that the waste should be kept in hardened dry storage at existing sites or repackaged as an alternative to a repository at Yucca Mountain; others expressed support for other technologies as alternatives to disposal at Yucca Mountain.

Commenters expressed concerns about the need for repackaging spent fuel in dry storage at reactor sites without a pool; the level of protection against radiation for workers; the safety of future generations; the safety of dry cask storage; the potential for accidents and other risks associated with transporting spent fuel, including by rail and barge; and concern that the NRC does not appear to be using data from the Fukushima accident in NRC evaluations for power reactors.

A commenter called for the federal government to improve the transfer of knowledge and information to local governments and citizens and for better government representation of U.S. citizens. Commenters expressed concern about the Price-Anderson Act and its effect on the costs of nuclear power; and how historical decisions in the U.S. about radioactive materials disproportionately affect Native American and low-income populations. Another comment called for interested stakeholders to provide information about Yucca Mountain to contribute to an “engineering tribute” to be held after the next presidential inauguration.

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Enclosure: Meeting Attendees List

CONTACT: Christine Pineda, NMSS/YMD
(301) 415-6789

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CSafford (OGC)

AGendelman (OGC)

Miriam Juckett (mjuckett@swri.org)

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OFFICE	NMSS/YMD	OGC	NMSS/YMD
NAME	CPineda	AGendelman via email	JRubenstone via email
DATE	11/16/2015	11/17/2015	11/16/2015

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List of Attendees
Public Meeting on the NRC Staff's Draft Supplement to the
Department of Energy Environmental Impact Statements for the
Proposed Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada
November 12, 2015; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

	First Name	Last Name	Organization or Affiliation (if known)
1	Jana	Bergman	Curtis Wright
2	Jan	Boudart	Nuclear Energy Information Service of Chicago
3	Mary Beth	Brangan	Ecological Options Network
4	Michael	Callahan	Government Strategies Incorporated
5	Susan	Carpenter	Cape Downwinders
6	Lorie	Cartwright	New England Coalition
7	Patrick	Dostie	State of Maine
8	Kenneth	Freelain	International Definition
9	Maureen	Headington	Stand Up Save Lives Campaign
10	Catherine	Heaney	Citizen
11	Ace	Hoffman	Citizen
12	Elaine	Kabala	Inyo County, California
13	Kevin	Kamps	Beyond Nuclear
14	Whitedove	Kennedy	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
15	Phil	Klevatorick	Clark County Nuclear Waste Division
16	John	LaForge	NukeWatch
17	Marvin	Lewis	Citizen
18	Martin	Malsch	Egan Malsch Fitzpatrick
19	Bette	Pierman	Michigan Safe Energy Future
20	Ethyl	Rivera	Citizen
21	Judy	Treichel	Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
22	Toby	Walter	Neil R. Gross & Company (transcriber)
23	Lissa	Weinmann	World Policy Institute
24	Chip	Cameron	Zero Gravity Group (facilitator)
25	Miriam	Juckett	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
26	David	Decker	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
27	Randy	Fedors	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
28	Adam	Gendelman	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
29	David	McIntyre	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
30	Christine	Pineda	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
31	James	Rubenstein	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission