



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-0001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

No. 04-089

July 30, 2004

NRC STAFF MAKES ITS YUCCA MOUNTAIN DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff today made available electronically its documentary material concerning a possible future hearing on a potential application from the Department of Energy (DOE) for a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

“As required, the NRC staff has certified that we have provided our documents related to the potential hearing,” said C. William Reamer, director of the agency’s Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety. “This is consistent with the Commission’s interest in assuring the availability of information.”

The agency is still analyzing the July 9 decision regarding Yucca Mountain by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and its possible implications. In the meantime it is moving ahead to make its documents available on the Network in a timely manner.

NRC regulations require all potential participants in the Yucca Mountain proceeding to make their documents available to other potential participants and the public in electronic form. The documents that must be made available consist of the information that a party, potential party or interested government participant intends to rely on in the licensing proceeding for a high-level waste repository, and certain other relevant information.

The NRC has made more than 24,000 documents available to the agency’s on-line Licensing Support Network (LSN), at www.lsnnet.gov. All but about 100 of those documents have been indexed by the LSN and are available through that network. The remaining documents are available through the NRC’s electronic Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> and will be indexed later on the LSN. Help in using ADAMS is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 301/415-4737 or 1/800/397-4209.

NRC regulations require that the NRC technical staff make its documents publicly available within 30 days after DOE certifies that it has made its documents available. DOE made that certification on June 30.

Other potential parties to a hearing must make their documents available no later than 90 days after the DOE certification.

An NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will resolve disputes regarding document submittal. G. Paul Bollwerk III, chief of the agency's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, has named the following to serve on that board: Thomas S. Moore, Chair; Alex S. Karlin and Alan S. Rosenthal.

###