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NRC Postpones Ohio, Minnesota Meetings on Waste Confidence Because of Government Shutdown

Due to the continuing government shutdown, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is postponing public meetings scheduled for Oct. 15 in Ohio and Oct. 17 in Minnesota on the agency's proposed rule and environmental study about the extended storage of spent nuclear fuel. The agency intends to reschedule the meetings once the shutdown is resolved.

The proposed rule and generic environmental impact study, collectively known as "waste confidence," were published Sept. 13, with a public comment period to Nov. 27. The agency scheduled 12 meetings around the country to present the findings and receive public comments.

"The continuing government shutdown gives us no option but to postpone these meetings," NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane said. "We want to give as much notice as possible so members of the public who were planning to attend can make other arrangements. Once we resume full operations, we will reschedule the meetings."

The federal shutdown began Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, due to a lapse of appropriations from Congress. The NRC has continued to operate on unexpended funds from previous appropriations, and held the first two public meetings on waste confidence Oct. 1 at agency headquarters in Rockville, Md., and Oct. 3 in Denver. Meetings scheduled for this week in California were postponed. The NRC projects that its funds will run out Thursday, and the agency at that time will begin scaled-down operations focusing on immediate public safety and security issues. For more information about the effect of the partial government shutdown on NRC operations, [see the agency blog](#).

The NRC is also canceling other public meetings scheduled for NRC headquarters and around the country. The status of these meetings will be updated on the agency's [Public Meetings Schedule](#) on the NRC website.

The Oct. 15 waste confidence meeting was scheduled for Perrysburg, Ohio; the Oct. 17 meeting for Minnetonka, Minn. Decisions on [additional waste confidence meetings](#) will be made on a week-by-week basis.