



# NRC NEWS

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## NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST HEARING ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has announced the opportunity to request a hearing on the Department of Energy's application seeking authorization to construct a proposed geologic repository for high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nev.

DOE submitted its application June 3. On Sept. 8, 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. At the same time, the NRC staff adopted DOE's Environmental Impact Statements for the repository, requesting additional information on some groundwater analyses.

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>.

A notice of opportunity for a hearing will be published in the *Federal Register* in the next few days. Petitions to intervene and requests for hearing must be submitted within 60 days of publication of the *Federal Register* notice to the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) system. Petitions to intervene must be filed in accordance with NRC regulations governing electronic filing. Additional guidance and instructions regarding electronic submissions to the NRC EIE system are available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>.

A Pre-License Application Presiding Officer (PAPO) Board has issued rulings to prepare participants for the Yucca Mountain hearing. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel anticipates that several three-judge Boards will be appointed to hear contentions on various subjects regarding the Yucca Mountain application. It is anticipated that hearings will be held at the NRC's Las Vegas Hearing Facility as well as NRC headquarters in Rockville, Md.

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