



NRC NEWS

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ASLB OFFERS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN HEARING ON IDAHO URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROJECT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is offering interested governmental agencies an opportunity to participate in the agency's mandatory hearing on the environmental review of AREVA Enrichment Service's (AES) application to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility in Bonneville County, Idaho.

In a *Federal Register* notice published March 2 the Board invited interested state, local or federally recognized tribal governments to file a statement of any issues or questions regarding the environmental portion of the hearing process. The Board will accept such submissions through April 4, and use them in preparing its questions for the NRC staff and AES in the hearing, which is expected to occur in mid-to-late June or mid-July in Idaho.

AES submitted an application to construct and operate the facility on Dec. 30, 2008. The facility would use gas centrifuge technology to enrich uranium hexafluoride up to 5 percent in the isotope uranium-235. The enriched uranium would be used to manufacture nuclear fuel for commercial nuclear power reactors.

The NRC staff issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) ([NUREG-1945](#)) on the application in February, concluding that no significant environmental impacts would preclude licensing the facility. The staff's review and the FEIS will be the subject of the hearing in Idaho. The Board held an evidentiary hearing in January concerning the staff's technical review of the safety aspects of the application, and has not yet issued its findings.

Government agencies wishing to file with the Board should use the NRC's [electronic filing system](#).

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