



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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HEARING SET ON NEVADA'S CHALLENGE TO DOE DOCUMENTS CERTIFICATION IN YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROCEEDING

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Pre-License Application Presiding Officer (PAPO) Board will hear oral arguments Dec. 5 in Las Vegas on Nevada's challenge to the Department of Energy's certification of its document collection on the Licensing Support Network (LSN) for the Yucca Mountain proceeding.

DOE's certification, filed Oct. 19, is a milestone in DOE's preparations to file a license application for the proposed high-level waste geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nev., about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The certification is DOE's declaration that it has made available electronically all documents required by NRC regulations generated by DOE or its contractors relating to the license application, for use by potential parties to an adjudicatory hearing. NRC regulations require DOE to certify its document collection at least six months before the department submits its license application.

The PAPO Board, consisting of three judges from the agency's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) Panel, was appointed to hear and rule on LSN-related matters before the application is submitted. The board will hear oral arguments Dec. 5, beginning at 9 a.m., in the NRC's Las Vegas Hearing Facility, Pacific Enterprise Plaza, Building 1, 3250 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas. The hearing room is a multimedia facility constructed in anticipation of the adjudicatory hearing on the Yucca Mountain application in order to provide the people of Nevada maximum access to the hearing.

Cox Communications, Las Vegas, will provide at no cost a live feed of the proceeding via satellite to the NRC and to broadcast media in southern Nevada and nationwide as a public service, and will broadcast the proceedings live on its local access channel, Cox 96. Media outlets desiring access to the feed should contact Juergen Barbusca, manager of communications, at Cox Las Vegas, at (702) 545-1004, or juergen.barbusca@cox.com.

In addition, the proceeding will be available for public viewing at the ASLB hearing room in NRC headquarters, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md., beginning at 12 p.m. Eastern time.

Members of the public wishing to attend the proceeding at either the Las Vegas Hearing Facility or at NRC headquarters should budget enough time to allow for security screening.

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