



NRC NEWS

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD TO HOLD HEARING ON PROPOSED URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT IN OHIO

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will hold a hearing beginning March 13 in Rockville, Md., on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's review of a license application by USEC, Inc., to build and operate a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant near Piketon, Ohio.

Three judges of the ASLB panel will hear testimony regarding the sufficiency of USEC's application and the NRC staff's licensing review regarding both technical safety and environmental impacts of the proposed facility. The board will consider whether the staff review conformed with NRC regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act, and whether the license should be issued, denied or appropriately conditioned. There are no contentions raised by members of the public before the board at this time.

The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on March 13 in the ASLB hearing room on the third floor of Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. Members of the public wishing to attend are urged to arrive early to facilitate security checks. The hearing will continue until March 19 and day-to-day thereafter until concluded. Portions of the hearing will be closed to the public when privileged information is discussed.

Information about USEC's application, including the NRC staff's Environmental Impact Statement and Safety Evaluation Report, are available on the NRC Web site at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/usecfacility.html>.

The ASLB panel consists of administrative judges and administrative law judges with science, engineering or legal expertise, who are independent of the NRC staff. The board conducts adjudicatory hearings on matters in the licensing of nuclear reactors, nuclear materials, and nuclear material facilities such as the proposed USEC enrichment plant. Board rulings may be appealed to the five-member Commission that heads the agency.

General information on the ASLB Panel can be found at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/aslbfuncdesc.html>. Information on the NRC's hearing process is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing.html>.

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