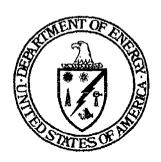
## OCRWM Strategy for Complying with the National Environmental Policy Act

Christopher Kouts
Director, Regulatory Integration Division
(NEPA Compliance Officer)

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management U.S. Department of Energy



Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board January 10, 1995 Beatty, Nevada

### **Overview**

- OCRWM NEPA Approach
- Programmatic EIS Decision
- EIS Schedule
- Estimated EIS Costs of NEPA Compliance
- Coordination within OCRWM
- Coordination with Other DOE NEPA Activities
- Coordination with Other Agencies
- Summary

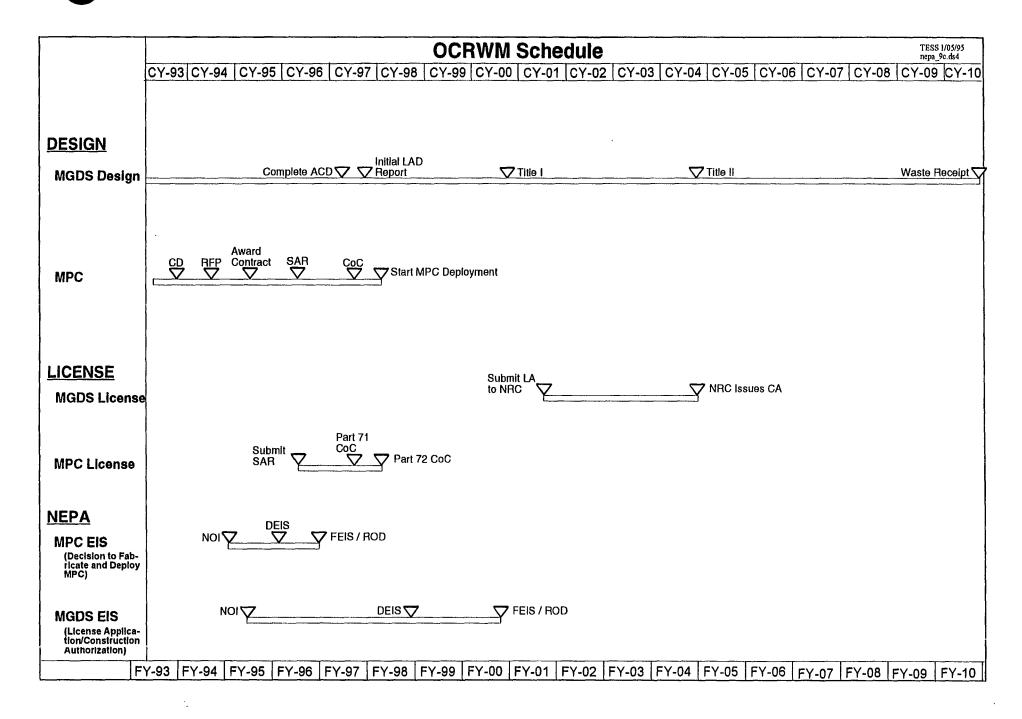
## **OCRWM NEPA Approach**

#### **Our NEPA Approach:**

- Is dictated by Congress in the NWPA with the addition of the MPC EIS
- Anticipates two\* major NEPA documents
  - MPC EIS (will address non site-specific issues)
  - Repository EIS (will address site-specific issues)
  - \* MRS EIS (if sited, will address site-specific issues)
- Builds upon previous NEPA documents and incorporates data and evaluations of earlier documents

### Programmatic EIS Issue

- OCRWM is still evaluating this issue, however currently we do not feel that such a document is necessary
- PEISs are usually prepared at a Federal agency's discretion, when an agency lacks specific guidance regarding NEPA requirements
- Congress, through the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, specified which program actions are major Federal actions and the types of NEPA documents required to support those actions
- Congressional intent was to limit NEPA documents to certain program actions



#### OCRWM NEPA Schedule

TESS 1/5/95 NEPA\_9d.ds4

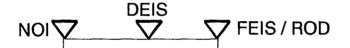
▼ FEIS / ROD

FY-01

FY-02

#### **MPC EIS**

(Decision to Fabricate and Deploy MPC)



FY-96

FY-97

NOI

FY-95

#### **MGDS EIS**

(License Application/Construction Authorization)

FY-93

FY-94

FY-98

FY-99

FY-00

DEIS 🔽

## Estimated Costs of NEPA Compliance

- NEPA Compliance for Headquarters includes:
  - Participation and review and comment in other appropriate DOE NEPA documents
  - Preparation of OCRWM NEPA Procedures
  - Guidance to and oversight of OCRWM Project Offices
  - Liaison between OCRWM and other DOE Offices
  - Provide NEPA training for OCRWM personnel
- NEPA Compliance for Project Offices includes:
  - Preparation of EIS and, if necessary, mitigation of impacts

# Estimated Costs (in millions of dollars) of NEPA Compliance

	FY 95	Expected budget at completion
Headquarters	1.0	Continual Effort
MPC EIS	4.1	7.5
MRS EIS	unknown	unknown
Repository	2.5	30

### Coordination within OCRWM

- NEPA process is a team effort
- Tele- and videoconferences among Repository, MPC, and Program Support staff
- Meetings on specific issues
  - Transportation analyses
  - Environmental justice
  - Scoping process
  - NEPA procedures
  - Other issues
- Interdisciplinary coordination
  - Regulatory/environmental
  - Systems
  - Design

## Coordination within OCRWM (continued)

- OCRWM utilizes EIS Integration Groups to bring in support and review from other areas both within and outside of OCRWM
- EIS Integration Groups
  - chaired by the NEPA Document Manager
  - comprised of OCRWM staff, contractors, and other interested DOE offices
  - integrates and coordinates the preparation of the EIS with other OCRWM and DOE offices
  - provides technical advice and information
- MPC EIS Integration Group (chartered 6/94)
- Repository EIS Integration Group (will be chartered)

## Coordination within OCRWM (continued)

- Other DOE Offices represented in the EIS integration groups
  - Office of General Counsel
  - Office of Environment, Safety and Health
  - Office of Environmental Management
  - As needed, Office of Defense Programs and Office of Nuclear Materials Disposition
  - Other offices on selected topics as needed (e.g. Congressional Programs, Naval Reactors)

Ø

## Coordination with Other DOE NEPA Activities

- OCRWM participates in the review of other DOE EISs
  - Attends the EIS Executive Meetings on the DOE Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement
  - Reviews, provides comments, attends public meetings, and participates in teleconferences
    - » Nevada Test Site EIS
    - » Environmental Management PEIS
    - » F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions EIS
    - » Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials PEIS
  - OCRWM program is a potential ultimate disposition for the material covered in these EISs

# Coordination with Other Agencies

- Consultations with other Federal agencies are arranged
  - Council on Environmental Quality (NEPA)
  - Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NWPA)
  - Environmental Protection Agency (Clean Air Act)
- Open invitations are sent to other Federal agencies, state agencies, and tribal governments to participate in public meetings

## **Summary**

#### **OCRWM NEPA Approach:**

- Follows the Congressional roadmap of the NWPA
- Utilizes intra-departmental integration groups to coordinate OCRWM EISs with other DOE EISs
- Consults with other Federal agencies
- Solicits public input through scoping meetings and comments on draft documents