

**STATUS OF  
DRAFT PROPOSED NRC REGULATIONS FOR THE  
DISPOSAL OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN A  
PROPOSED GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN**



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**Presented to U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
Las Vegas, Nevada January 26, 1999**

## **STAFF ACTIVITIES PRECEDING DEVELOPMENT OF SITE-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS FOR YUCCA MOUNTAIN (10 CFR PART 63)**

- **Interactions with EPA on the development of protective and scientifically demonstrable standards for Yucca Mountain**
- **Extensive experience gained from conducting performance assessments (PAs) and reviewing DOE's PAs applicable to development of site-specific, performance-based regulations**
- **Staff proposed strategy (SECY-97-300) for developing regulations in December 1997, Commission approved in March 1998**

## **WHY PROCEED WITH 10 CFR PART 63 NOW?**

- **EnPA requires NRC to conform its technical requirements to final EPA Yucca Mountain standards within one year of their issuance**
  - **NRC staff must develop its rule in parallel with EPA standards development**
  - **although Staff may not know all details of EPA's final standards at this time, NAS recommendations have been available for 3 years**
- **NRC has refocused its HLW program on those issues most important to performance.**
  - **tie to specific regulatory requirements important to continuing the focusing effort on those aspects that are most important**
- **NRC will modify part 63 to be consistent with Final EPA standards**

## STATUS

- Commission approved making proposed draft publicly available on web site (<http://techconf.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/topics>) - October 7, 1998
- Commission approved release of proposed 10 CFR Part 63 for public comment (January 12, 1999)
- Anticipate publication of proposed rule in Federal Register in early February
- Facilitate review and comment on proposed rule via public outreach program (tentatively for March 1999)
- Incorporate public comments and complete final 10 CFR Part 63 by fall of 1999

## **PROPOSED PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR 10 CFR 63**

**OBJECTIVE:** To facilitate public participation in NRC's development of its site-specific regulation for the disposal of HLW

### **FORMAT:**

- **NRC staff presentations to explain various aspects of Part 63 and listen to comments**
- **Public meetings would be facilitated and transcribed**

### **APPROACH:**

- **Two meetings (Las Vegas and Amargosa Valley)**