



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-0001 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. 03-024

February 21, 2003

NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT ON SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL TRANSPORTATION TEST PROPOSALS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct four public meetings: on March 6, in Bethesda, Maryland; on March 12 and 13, in Las Vegas and Pahrump, Nevada, respectively; and on March 19, in Rosemont, Illinois, to obtain comments on a proposal to test casks for transporting radioactive spent fuel by rail and by truck.

The proposal is part of the Package Performance Study (PPS) that focuses research on the possibilities and consequences of severe transportation accidents. The proposals are described in a test protocols report that outlines full-scale, high speed spent fuel cask impact and fire testing experiments that NRC is considering sponsoring over the next few years.

The March 6 workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., in the NRC Two White Flint North Auditorium at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The March 12 workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., at the Clark County Building Department, Russell/Cameron Office, 4701 West Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The March 13 public meeting/seminar will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Mountain View Casino and Bowl, 1750 South Pahrump Valley Boulevard, Pahrump, Nevada.

The March 19 workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel O'Hare, 5500 N. River Road, Rosemont, Illinois.

The workshops will be conducted in a roundtable format with a limited number of invited participants. A facilitator will ensure participation by a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including citizen and environmental groups, nuclear and transportation industries, academia, and governmental representatives at the Federal, State and local level. Others are welcome to attend and will have opportunities to comment on each agenda item to be discussed by roundtable participants.

The test protocols report (NUREG-1768) is available for comment at the NRC's website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1768/>.

Additionally, copies of the report and other PPS-related documents can be found at <http://ttd.sandia.gov/nrc/modal.htm> or obtained by contacting Ms. Amy Snyder by e-mail at ams3@nrc.gov or by telephone at 301-415-8580. Written comments on the report will be accepted until May 30, and can be submitted by e-mail or addressed to Ms. Snyder at the Spent Fuel Project Office, Mail Stop O13-D13, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-001.

###