

No: 13-072

September 5, 2013

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

## **NRC Schedules 12 Meetings Nationwide on Waste Confidence Proposed Rule and Environmental Study**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold 12 meetings nationwide this autumn to receive public comment on a proposed rule on the extended storage of spent nuclear fuel at closed reactor sites and the draft environmental study that supports the rule. The goal of these meetings is to ensure that the NRC's review is comprehensive, open, and inclusive and will inform the next phase of the agency's work.

The proposed rule and environmental study, collectively known as "waste confidence," are scheduled to be published Sept. 13. Publication will initiate a 75-day public comment period (through Nov. 27). The 12 meetings that follow will support the public comment period.

The proposed rule was developed to replace a provision in NRC's environmental regulations that was updated in 2010 but struck down last year by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Following the court ruling, the Commission directed the staff to develop a new rule and a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) on the extended storage of spent fuel beyond a reactor's licensed life.

The meetings are scheduled for the following dates and cities. Details on venues are available in a *Federal Register* notice to be published Sept. 6.

- October 1, NRC headquarters, Rockville, Md.
- October 3, Denver.
- October 7, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
- October 9, Carlsbad, Calif.
- October 15, Perrysburg, Ohio.
- October 17, Minnetonka, Minn.
- October 28, Chelmsford, Mass.
- October 30, Tarrytown, N.Y.

- November 4, Charlotte, N.C.
- November 6, Orlando, Fla.
- November 14, NRC headquarters, Rockville, Md.

Responding to public interest, the staff will hold an additional meeting in Illinois during the public comment period. Details of this meeting will be announced on the NRC's [waste confidence webpage](#) as they are finalized.

The regional meetings will be held from 7-10 p.m. local time, and will be transcribed. The meetings at NRC headquarters will run from 2-5 p.m. EST, and will be webcast as well as transcribed. NRC staff members will be available for informal discussions an hour before each meeting.