

NRC Staff Review of the Yucca Mountain License Application

Safety Evaluation Report Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Waste in a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada

The Safety Evaluation Report (SER) provides the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's evaluation of the license application submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain. The SER specifically addresses whether the license application satisfies the requirements in 10 CFR Part 63 for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in a geologic repository.



The NRC staff issued its SER for the proposed repository as NUREG-1949. The SER consists of five volumes:

- Volume 1: General Information
- Volume 2: Repository Safety before Permanent Closure
- Volume 3: Repository Safety after Permanent Closure
- Volume 4: Administrative and Programmatic Information
- Volume 5: Proposed Conditions on the Construction Authorization and Probable Subjects of License Specifications

The report is available on the NRC website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/hlw-disposal/key-documents.html#sers>

In the SER, the NRC staff found, with reasonable assurance, that the DOE application meets the applicable regulations in 10 CFR Part 63, with two exceptions. The NRC staff determined in Volume 4 of the SER that DOE has not satisfied certain regulatory requirements regarding (1) ownership of the land where the facility would be located, and (2) the rights to the water necessary to construct and operate the repository. Thus, in the SER, the NRC staff did not recommend issuance of a construction authorization.

Publication of the SER is only one of several steps that must be completed before a decision can be made on the construction authorization application. A decision on whether to authorize construction can be made only after:

- A supplement to DOE's environmental impact statement regarding potential impacts of the proposed action on groundwater has been prepared,
- A hearing has been conducted on contested issues, and
- The Commission has completed its review of contested and uncontested issues.