

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
Preliminary Comments On the Sufficiency of
U.S. Department of Energy Information for
Inclusion in a License Application for a Possible
Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain



Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
January 30, 2002

Bill Reamer, 301-415-6537, cbr@nrc.gov
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards



Overview

- Requirement for NRC Preliminary Comments
- Comments in Brief
- Background of Comments
- Issue Resolution Process
- Example of Key Technical Issue Resolution
- Summary

January 30, 2002

nuclear_waste_technical_review_board.ppt

2



Requirement for NRC Preliminary Comments

- Requirement of Nuclear Waste Policy Act
- Extent to Which DOE Information Sufficient
for Possible License Application
 - At-depth Site Characterization Analysis
 - Waste Form Proposal

January 30, 2002

nuclear_waste_technical_review_board.ppt

3



Comments in Brief

- Although not Available now, Sufficient Information will be Available at Time of License Application Such that Development of Acceptable Application is Achievable
 - DOE Has or Has Agreed to Obtain Sufficient Information
 - Given Agreements, Acceptable Application Achievable
 - Lower Temperature Design would Require More Information

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

4



Comments in Brief (Cont)

- Two Important Constraints
 - No Conclusions on Yucca Mountain Site
 - Licensing Decisions are for the Future

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

5



Background of Comments

- Extensive Pre-Licensing Interaction
 - Key Technical Issues
 - Issue Resolution Process
 - Technical Reports
 - State and Affected Units of Local Government

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

6



Issue Resolution Process

- Review DOE Documents
- Public Technical Meetings
- Identify Information Needed for Potential License Application

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

7



Issue Resolution Process (Cont'd) What is "Resolution?"

- Resolution -- No Further Staff Questions
 - Acceptance Criteria are Measure
- Not a Licensing Decision
- New Questions Could Arise

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

8



Issue Resolution Process (Cont'd) "Agreements"

- Agreements on Additional Work before Any Application
 - A Reasonable Approach to Get Information
 - Reasonable Confidence DOE Could Assemble Information
 - No Prejudgment of any Licensing Review

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

9



Example of Key Technical Issue Resolution Igneous Activity

- Needs to be Addressed in Application
- Agreements Document Additional Work
 - Plans/Schedules Represent Reasonable Approach
 - Reasonable Confidence DOE can Get Information before Application

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

10



Summary

- Although not Available Now, Sufficient Information will be Available such that Development of Acceptable Application is Achievable
 - DOE has/had Agreed to Obtain Sufficient Information
 - Agreements Provide Basis that Acceptable Application Achievable
 - Lower Temperature Operating Mode
- No Site Conclusions or Licensing Decisions

January 30, 2002

nuclear waste technical review board ppt

11
