Update on EPA Activities

March 2, 2009

Presented By:
Dan Schultheisz
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
Radiation Protection Division

Presented To:
Waste Management 2009 Conference
Panel Session 11
Phoenix, AZ

Topics to be Covered

Drinking Water Treatment

Uranium

Other Waste Management

Drinking Water Treatment

Compliance with Uranium and Radium MCLs

- Can generate residuals with high concentrations
- EPA guidance to states in 2005
- Initial system monitoring required by end of 2007

EPA conducted a study of eight plants in the US

- Range of sizes, technologies, geography
- Concluded that radon is of concern for workers
- Analysis not complete due to resource limitations

EPA is assisting the Navajo Nation

- Implementation of radionuclide MCLs
- Training for workers on radiation protection
- Assistance in identifying and decommissioning wells

Uranium

Increased interest in uranium mining/milling has spurred regulatory activity:

- NRC rulemaking to address ground water at *in situ leach* (ISL) uranium recovery facilities
  - EPA is coordinating with NRC and considering whether to revise UMTRCA standards in 40 CFR part 192 to explicitly address ISL facilities
- EPA reviewing Clean Air Act regulations under 40 CFR part 61, subpart W (active mill tailings)

EPA is assisting the Navajo Nation

- Stakeholder involvement to evaluate risks
- Removal of contaminated dwellings

Other Waste Management

Yucca Mountain

- Amended standards October 15, 2008 (73 FR 61256)
- Address disposal system performance for 1 million years
- Petition for review filed by State of Nevada
- NRC approval of licensing requirements
- Full description in Session 61 on Wednesday morning

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

- Re-certification application from DOE in March

Low-Activity Radioactive Waste

- Deferred to Yucca Mountain since 2003 ANPR
- Re-evaluating options for further action
- More discussion in Session 54 on Wednesday morning