

Waste Confidence/Continued Storage Outreach and Communications

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Overview

- Public Participation
- Sending Information
- Receiving Information
- Exchanging Information

Public Participation

- Significant public interest; public meetings
- Ample opportunity for public comment to ensure broad range of views to consider



Impacts

- Link to reactor and spent fuel storage licensing
- No final licenses until remand resolved
 - Licensing and adjudication continues
- 11 licensing actions affected
 - 7 renewals, 1 COL, 1 ESP, 2 ISFSIs



Considerations

- High public interest = wide range of familiarity with NRC
 - Importance of plain language
 - Importance of facilitation
- Equal and full access to electronic materials, public meetings
- National interest
- Maximize opportunity for public comment

Project Phases

- Scoping Phase
 - Comment period October 25, 2012 – January 2, 2013
 - 4 meetings
 - Summary Report March 2013
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Publish draft EIS and proposed rule
 - Comment period September 13, 2013 – December 20, 2013
 - 13 meetings
- Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - Publish final EIS September 2014

Sending Information

- Email: WCOutreach@nrc.gov
 - Approximately 3,300 subscribers
 - Information easily forwarded to others – multiplies reach
- Website:
 - 200-300 subscribers
 - 26,000 unique visits to EIS references
 - YouTube video
- Blog:
 - Opportunity to present information with more accessible style
 - “Crisis Communications” for government shutdown impacts
- Press Releases
- Twitter announcements increase audience

Receiving Information

- Correspondence
 - Official Agency Records, ADAMS
- Phone calls / emails
- Written Comments
 - ADAMS
 - www.regulations.gov
 - Approximately 33,000 submittals on draft documents
- Oral Comments
 - Transcribed all 13 public meetings
 - Some meetings also audio and video recordings
 - Approximately 500 oral statements on draft documents
 - Meeting summaries
 - Accessible on website



Facilitated Meetings



Exchanging Information

- **Monthly Teleconferences**
 - 10 meetings total January 2013 – January 2014
 - Approximately 80 participants, 25 “new” participants each time
 - Majority of meeting was devoted to Q+A
- **Question-and-Answer portions of public meetings**
 - All 17 public meetings had Q+A
- **Open Houses**
 - Staff were available for at least 1 hour prior to public meetings and throughout the meeting
 - Opportunity to talk with the authors of the documents
- **Solicited comments on specific areas**
 - Where meetings might be held (Scoping Phase)
 - Policy Issues

Conclusion

- Different tools have different strengths
- NRC's rulemaking process depends on public involvement – thanks to all who participated
- Thanks to entire NRC team (Public Affairs, Regions, Office of Administration, Office of Information Systems...)