

Interacting with the NRC in Practice – Waste Confidence

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Outline

- What is Waste Confidence?
 - Impacts
 - Activities/Phases of Project
- Public Participation
- Sending Information
- Receiving Information
- Exchanging Information

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Court of Appeals Decisions

- 2012 Decision
 - Addressed 2010 version of the Waste Confidence rule
 - Three defects
 - No-repository analysis
 - Spent fuel pool leaks
 - Spent fuel pool fires



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Public Participation

- Noted 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
- 10 licensing actions affected
 - 7 renewals, 1 COL, 2 ISFSIs



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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
 - “Digital Divide”
 - Limited English Proficiency
- Maximize opportunity for public comment



Project Phases

- Scoping Phase
 - Comment period October 25, 2012 – January 2, 2013
 - 4 meetings
 - Summary Report March 2013
- Draft
 - Publish draft statement and proposed rule
 - Comment period September 13, 2013 – December 20, 2013
 - 13 meetings
- Final
 - Publish final documents by Fall 2014

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Sending Information

- Email: WCO Outreach@nrc.gov
 - Approximately 3,300 subscribers
 - Information easily forwarded to others – multiplies reach
- Website:
 - 200-300 subscribers
 - 26,000 unique visits to references webpage
 - 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 / website
- Written Comments
 - ADAMS
 - www.regulations.gov
 - Approximately 33,000 submittals on draft documents
- Oral Comments
 - Transcribed all 17 public meetings
 - Some meetings also audio and video recordings
 - 490 oral statements on draft documents
 - Meeting summaries
 - Accessible on website





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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
 - Larger part of meeting during scoping phase
- 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
 - 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 Services...)


