



NRC NEWS

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Arlington, TX 76011-4005

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Contact: Victor Dricks
Phone: 817-860-8128

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E-Mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN GALLUP, N.M. ON GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR URANIUM RECOVERY OPERATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment for a “generic environmental impact statement” (GEIS) the agency intends to develop for uranium recovery operations, including in situ leach recovery facilities and conventional mills.

The NRC is expecting numerous applications for new uranium recovery operations in the next two to three years. This GEIS is intended to address the common issues associated with environmental reviews of in situ leach and conventional milling facilities located in the western United States. Because there are environmental issues common to both types of facilities, the NRC staff will be addressing these common issues generically to aid in a more efficient environmental review for each separate license application, if and when these applications are submitted.

Members of the NRC staff will hold a public meeting Sept. 27 in Gallup, N.M. to discuss the scope of the GEIS. Members of the public are invited to comment on environmental issues that will be addressed in the GEIS, including land use, public and occupational health, waste management, water resources, air quality, historical resources and others.

The meeting in Gallup will be held at the Best Western Inn and Suites, 3009 West Hwy. 66 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. NRC staff will hold an informal open house to meet members of the public from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The NRC held two public meetings on this topic last month in Albuquerque, N.M., and Casper, Wyo.

Information about the GEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on July 24 and Aug. 31. The agency is accepting written comments on the scope of the GEIS. The deadline for comments has been extended to Oct. 8. Comments should be addressed to Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001; or by electronic mail to URLGeis@nrc.gov.

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