



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 30, 2012

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

RE: Comments on Docket ID NRC-2011-0012

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently considering initiatives (unique waste streams and site specific performance assessment) that will lead to changes in 10 CFR Part 61, and staff will be submitting its technical basis statement to the Commissioners in September 2012. It is our understanding that staff will then develop proposed rules to address and implement these changes.

The Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program (NWP) is requesting that NRC commit to holding a public meeting on the proposed changes in Richland, Washington once the proposed rules are formulated. The NWP believes such a meeting is important as the State of Washington is host to a commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal facility that will be impacted by any changes the NRC proposes to 10 CFR Part 61. The public meeting should be held prior to the end of the comment period on the proposed changes. This will give interested parties the opportunity to be briefed on the proposed initiatives and ask questions of NRC staff. The interested parties will then be in a position to submit comments to NRC on the proposed changes in a timely manner.

The NWP recommends that notice of the meeting be provided at least four weeks in advance of the meeting to ensure interested parties have the opportunity to attend. This notice is important to accommodate individuals and groups needing several hours travel time to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Mike Garner
Environmental Planner
Nuclear Waste Program