

NEA Workshop on  
Developing Safety Cases  
for Various Radioactive  
Waste Disposal Facilities

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# *Safety Case Communication for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities*

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# Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal

- Stakeholder Interactions
- Lessons Learned

# Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement

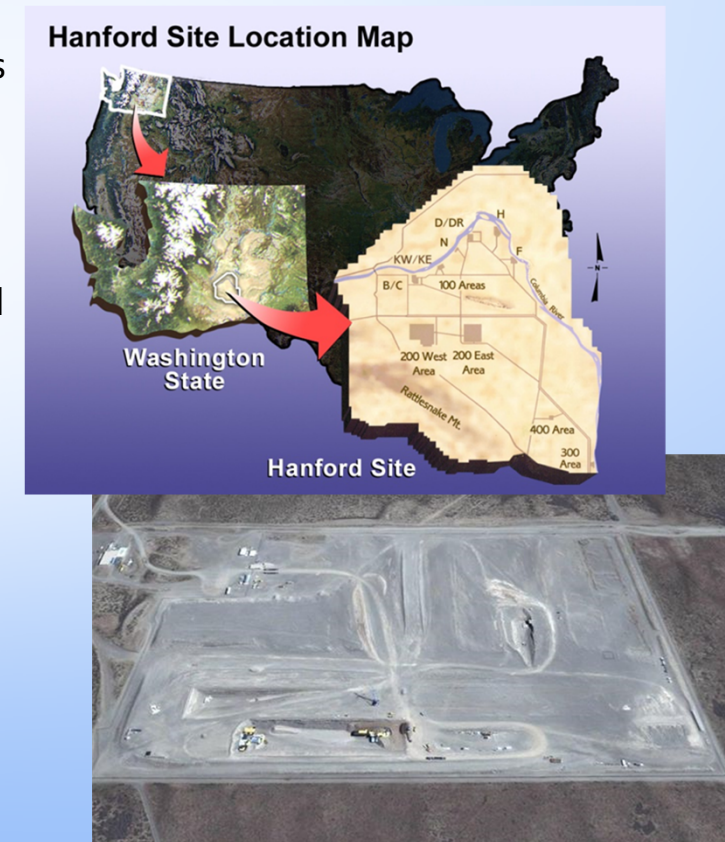
- Often of the outreach managed by the licensee/developer/operator
  - May establish citizen advisory panels
  - Work with local organizations
- Regulator's focus
  - Explaining regulations and allowing public comment
  - Identifying hearing opportunities
  - Discussing the decision-making process
  - Announcing review findings and decisions

## Lessons Learned

- Building technical understanding among stakeholders.
  - Collaborate with local organizations repeatedly
  - Time is needed to develop dialogue and build stakeholder input
- Dealing with divergent views among stakeholders
- Tailor message to the audience

## Example: Working with Indigenous Cultures

- Given the importance of the location to regional indigenous tribes, regulators sought input from the tribes when creating the culturally- specific scenario(s) in the safety assessment (2004).
- In 2009, the regulators in Washington State completed final Phase 1 closure cover design and began construction contracts for placing the cover.
- During this time, the regulators engaged in extensive outreach activities with the regional indigenous tribes.
- In 2010 the cover construction was put on hold
- In 2015 the regulators engaged with one of the regional indigenous tribe to technically review the safety assessment and scenarios.



## Example: Collaboration on Safety Assessment

- Beginning in 2010, LLRW disposal facility in Utah began developing safety assessment for disposal of depleted uranium.
- The licensee and regulator have been holding continuing stakeholder interactions, including collaborative technical education sessions on the development of the safety assessment and open houses with presentation and small group Q&A.
- The regulator has also provided public access to documentation for transparency as well as public comment periods



## Conclusions

- Operators and Regulators have different purposes and responsibilities for outreach
- Outreach is not done once but will continue across the entire life cycle of the facility
- Outreach activities can be broad to discuss planning or status of the facility or narrowly focused to address specific interests of a group(s) of stakeholders

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