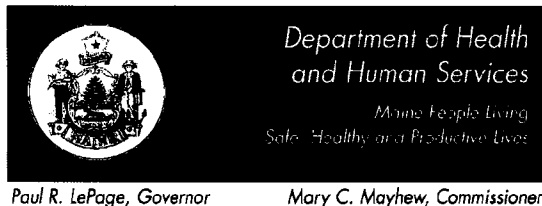


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



Department of Health and Human Services
Commissioner's Office
221 State Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel. (207) 287-3707
Fax (207) 287-3005; TTY (800) 606-0215

February 17, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Michael Thibodeau, President of the Senate, and Representative Mark Eves, Speaker of the House

FROM: Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner
Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: State Nuclear Safety Inspector's January through April 2015 Monthly Reports to the Legislature on the Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Wiscasset, Maine

Legislation enacted in the spring of 2008 requires the State Nuclear Safety Inspector to provide monthly reports to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Maine Yankee. The reports focus on activities at the site and include highlights of the national debate on storing and disposing of the used nuclear fuel. For your convenience, highlights of local and national events are captured in the executive summary of the reports.

The enclosed reports provide the information required under Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated §666, as enacted under Public Law, Chapter 539, in the second regular session of the 123rd Legislature.

Should you have questions about its content, please feel free to contact Mr. Patrick J. Dostie, State Nuclear Safety Inspector, at 287-6721.

MCM/klv

Enclosure

cc: Mark Lombard, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Monica Ford, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I
J. Stanley Brown, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Manager, Maine Yankee
David Sorensen, Senior Health Policy Advisor
Kenneth Albert, Director, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Paul Mercer, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Timothy Schneider, Maine Public Advocate
Lieutenant Scott Ireland, Special Services Unit, Maine State Police
Nancy Beardsley, Director, Division of Environmental Health
Jay Hyland, PE, Manager, Radiation Control Program

State Nuclear Safety Inspector Office
Maine CDC – DHHS

January 2015 Monthly Report to the Legislature

Executive Summary

The report covers activities at the Maine Yankee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) facility, including the State's ongoing environmental radiation surveillance and provides updates on the national effort to license and construct a consolidated interim storage facility and/or a permanent geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. Maine's goal is to move the ISFSI waste stored at Maine Yankee to one of these facilities. The report's highlights assist readers to focus on the significant activities that took place both locally and nationally during the month.

Local:

- Senator Susan Collins responded to Dr. Donald Hudson, Chair of Maine Yankee's Community Advisory Panel, expressing her appreciation of the Panel's support for her efforts in Congress in promoting the establishment of a pilot interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel from 13 permanently shutdown nuclear power sites in the country. She affirmed her strong support for the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations and the Administration's strategy to develop interim storage facilities. She vowed to work with other Senators on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee to approve consolidated interim storage facilities with priority given to shutdown reactors, like Maine Yankee.

National:

- The Department of Energy (DOE) filed with the New Mexico Environment Department a request for hearing and answer to the administrative order requiring compliance and civil penalties issued to DOE, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and the Los Alamos National Laboratory on December 6, 2014 for the radioactive release that occurred on February 14, 2014, from a ruptured radioactive waste drum. DOE challenged New Mexico's fines and formally denied many of the violations including the safety and maintenance problems at WIPP.
- The Commissioners of Andrews County, Texas adopted a resolution that favored establishing a consolidated interim storage facility in Andrews County for spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste. The resolution called upon the State of Texas and its Congressional delegation to work towards creating such a facility and securing appropriate federal incentives for siting and constructing a storage facility.
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published the final two volumes of their Safety Evaluation Report (SER), which completed their safety review of the DOE's Yucca Mountain license application. Volume 2 covered repository safety before permanent closure while Volume 5 covered proposed conditions on the construction authorization. The staff concluded that DOE's application met NRC requirements.

Introduction

As part of the Department of Health and Human Services' long standing oversight of Maine Yankee's nuclear activities under Title 22, Maine Revised Statutes (MRS) §666 (2), legislation was enacted in the second regular session of the 123rd and signed by Governor John Baldacci requiring that the State Nuclear Safety Inspector prepare a monthly report on the oversight activities performed at the ISFSI facility located in Wiscasset, Maine.

The State Inspector's individual activities for the past month are highlighted under certain broad categories, as illustrated below. Since some activities are periodic and ongoing, there may be some months when very little will be reported under that category. It is recommended for reviewers to examine previous reports to ensure connectivity with the information presented as it would be cumbersome to continuously repeat prior information in every report. Past reports, historical addendum, and glossary are available from the Radiation Control Program's web site at the following link: www.maineradiationcontrol.org and by clicking on the nuclear safety link in the left hand margin.

Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI)

During January, the general status of the ISFSI was normal, with no instances of spurious alarms due to environmental conditions.

There were two fire-related impairments for the month. The first involved a fire detection panel that was taken out of service to support the office build out project. Compensatory measures were put into place until the panel was restored to service. The second encompassed the fire detection system in the Truck Bay area that had been taken out of service to support the office build out project. Compensatory measures were put into place. This impairment will continue until the office build out new fire system is put into service.

There were nine security incident reports logged for the month. Eight of these reports documented security system issues due to transient environmental conditions. Compensatory measures were put into place until the systems were restored. The ninth was due to a loss of offsite internet connectivity with a vendor. Compensatory measures were put into place until the system was restored.

There were twenty-five condition reports¹ (CR) for the month and they are described below.

- 1st CR: Documented that a procedure did not get updated based on a regulation change. The regulatory change increased the frequency that personnel with classified clearances need to receive a refresher briefing. All personnel with classified clearances were checked and briefed as required and the procedure was revised to reflect the new requirement.
- 2nd CR: Documented the findings of a self-assessment that was performed on snow removal activities. Corrective actions were assigned and completed to improve the process.
- 3rd CR: Documented a small oil spill in the Maintenance Building. The oil was coming from a flammables locker and was due to an oil pan leaking. The spill was cleaned up and was not reported since it did not meet the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) reporting threshold.
- 4th CR: Documented the loss of offsite internet connectivity with a vendor. Compensatory measures were put in place until the system was restored.
- 5th CR: Documented that the filler hose on the bulk diesel tank was moist and appeared to be weeping. The fitting was tightened to stop the leak. The hose was replaced after several attempts to stop the weepage.
- 6th CR: Documented a small hydraulic leak on the main gate hydraulic cylinder. The small leak was attributed to extreme low temperatures and did not repeat.
- 7th CR: Documented that a tractor, during snow removal activities, contacted a detection system cover. The cover was chipped but there was no impact on functionality. No corrective actions were necessary. The cover will be replaced during normal preventative maintenance.
- 8th CR: Documented that a pickup truck check engine light was on. The dealer could not find the problem and the light was reset.
- 9th CR: Documented that during a lockout/tagout of an electric circuit that two dampers opened unexpectedly. The electrical drawings were not clear and it was assumed that the dampers were

¹ A condition report is a report that promptly alerts management to potential conditions that may be adverse to quality or safety. For more information, refer to the glossary on the Radiation Control Program's website.

- associated with a particular fan. However, these dampers were associated with the diesel generator. The circuit was re-energized to close the dampers and the drawings were updated to reflect the as-built configuration.
- 10th CR: Documented a component failure in the industrial closed circuit video system. The component was replaced with a spare and tested satisfactorily.
- 11th CR: Documented a failure to record in a video system. A video card was replaced and the unit tested satisfactorily.
- 12th CR: Documented a small oil spill from a parked vehicle. The spill was cleaned up and was not reported as it did not meet DEP's reporting threshold.
- 13th CR: Documented that one area thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLDs)² was not collected at the end of 2014. The Area TLD Program had recently been discontinued and one TLD, located in an office area in the Operation Building was not collected. The TLD was sent to the radiation protection vendor for processing.
- 14th CR: Documented that a vendor was brought onsite to perform the annual preventative maintenance on the diesel generator without a purchase order in place. A purchase order was generated to cover the work performed.
- 15th CR: Documented two equipment fluid leaks in the Maintenance Building. A utility vehicle had a small coolant leak and a man-lift had a small hydraulic leak. Both were due to extreme low temperatures. The utility vehicle was sent back to the dealer for warranty repairs. The man-lift leak stopped and will be checked again in the spring.
- 16th CR: Documented a procedure non-compliance with personnel access authorization records. The procedure stated that copies shall be kept in the Central Alarm Station as well as in the personnel files. The procedure will be updated to allow the security computer printout to serve this purpose in the Central Alarm Station.
- 17th CR: Documented that a procedure step was obstructed by a note in the latest revision. The error occurred during word processing and was corrected during a subsequent revision.
- 18th CR: Documented that a procedure did not adequately define the search requirements with regards to the vehicle barrier system. The procedure was revised to clearly define the search requirements.
- 19th CR: Documented that the neutral connections to the diesel generator automatic transfer switch were wired incorrectly. The diesel generator operates satisfactorily but can cause grounding issues during system maintenance. A work change request was generated and the neutral connections will be corrected during warm weather.
- 20th CR: Documented a security system degradation during transient environmental conditions. Compensatory measures were put into place until the system was restored.
- 21st CR: Documented a security system degradation during environmental conditions. Compensatory measures were put into place until the system was restored.
- 22nd CR: Documented a security system degradation during environmental conditions. Compensatory measures were put into place. Further testing revealed that a component had failed. Compensatory measures remained in place until the component was replaced.
- 23rd CR: Documented that the fuel tank on a tractor was dented in. The tank most likely was slightly collapsed due to a vacuum from the vent freezing. The tank was allowed to warm up and re-shaped and was placed back in service.
- 24th CR: Documented that a procedure required a logbook of all removable media usage in certain computer systems. A logbook existed but did not document all the removable media usage. This was corrected by creating a logbook for all usage, not just by the information technology vendor.
- 25th CR: Documented that several Condition Reports coded as a Conditions Adverse to Quality had not

² Thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) are very small plastic like phosphors or crystals that are placed in a small plastic cage and mounted on trees, electric utility poles, etc. to absorb any radiation that impinges on the material. For a further explanation, refer to the glossary on the Radiation Program's website.

been sent to the Quality Assurance Manager for review of the corrective actions as required by procedure. The process requirements were reviewed with the personnel involved.

Other ISFSI Related Activities

1. On January 12, Maine Yankee submitted two revisions of its Defueled Safety Analysis Report as part of its biennial update to the NRC. The first revision involved the addition of a new maintenance building on-site with the defueling analysis allowing maintenance activities to be performed in the building besides the Security and Operations Building. The second revision changed some wording in the Radiation Protection Section of the Report on how the personnel radiation monitoring method would be conducted within the applicable procedure.
2. On January 13, the legislatively mandated group, representing the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the State Police, the Public Advocate, the Department of Health and Human Services' Radiation Control Program and Maine Yankee, met for its quarterly meeting to discuss the State's and Maine Yankee's activities pertinent to the oversight of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The State Inspector briefed the Group on the status of his monthly reports to the Legislature, his participation in a national interregional team that is developing recommendations from states to the Department of Energy on emergency preparedness for local communities on spent fuel shipments traversing their jurisdictions. The Group also discussed at length the State's environmental TLD data, the anomalies in the fourth quarter results, and options going forward to resolve the issue. Maine Yankee informed the Group of their periodic chemical sampling effort at the nuclear plant location on Bailey Point. They noted that one of the wells was unnoticed since it was flush with the ground and consequently not sampled. Maine Yankee stated they would resample that well this year and will correct the situation by placing a standpipe by the well. Maine Yankee also apprised the Group of its changes in their Radiation Protection Program and procedures, such as Mr. Joseph Bourassa replacing Mr. James Connell who retired, self-reading pocket dosimeters would be eliminated for routine radiation work permits, personnel TLDs would be measured once a year, environmental TLDs would be collected and measured twice a year, visitors would not be required to wear dosimetry, and radiation surveys of the cask vents would be performed once a year along with swipes of the cask outlets. Maine Yankee also mentioned the construction of a fence along Ferry Road to prevent trespassers, the construction of new offices in the Security and Office Building has commenced along with the erection of a storage shed for lawn mowers and snow blowers. Maine Yankee expressed hope that with Texas Governor Perry's support for an interim storage facility within his borders and a Republican controlled Congress there would be some movement this year to pass legislation for the construction of a pilot storage facility for shutdown sites, but noted that the House was still fixated on Yucca Mountain.

Environmental

The next quarterly reporting of the State's environmental radiation monitoring results should be available in next month's report.

Other Newsworthy Items

1. On January 7, the Yankee Companies held their quarterly conference call to brief interested stakeholders from Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut on the status of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rate case settlement on spent nuclear fuel storage issues. The General Counsel updated the attendees on Yankee Companies' Phase III litigation damage claims. The general discovery was closed with expert discovery still open until the end of March 2015 followed by a three day trial starting on June 30. He further mentioned that settlement discussions with the federal government were at an impasse as the federal government was still insisting on the three Yankee's accepting their offer of a standard settlement agreement template that would not benefit the ratepayers in the three states.

Additional updates were provided on the national level with DOE receiving funds to continue their efforts in designing and procuring spent fuel railcars, the publication of two more volumes of the five volume set of the Safety Evaluation Report on Yucca Mountain as part of the Court ordered restart of the Yucca Mountain licensing application, the DOE's de-comingling report recommending a separate repository for defense-related spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste, the prospects of some proposed federal legislation moving forward on a pilot interim storage facility for shutdown reactor sites, discussion on Texas' willingness to host an interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel, and the challenge of the NRC's recent continued storage of spent nuclear fuel rule in federal court by the states of New York, Connecticut, and Vermont, and 29 environmental organizations.

2. On January 8, DOE filed with the New Mexico Environment Department a request for hearing and answer to the administrative order requiring compliance and assessing a civil penalty issued by the Department to DOE and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) on December 6, 2014. DOE challenged New Mexico's fines and formally denied many of the violations including the safety and maintenance problems at WIPP. DOE contended that New Mexico failed to consider their good faith efforts, failed to consider the seriousness of the violation, failed to adhere to the Department's own Hazardous Waste Penalty Policy, imposed penalties that were arbitrary, capricious, and without substantial basis in law, assessment of civil penalties were excessive and did not meet New Mexico's statutory criteria, and were grossly disproportionate to other fines assessed against other permittees under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act. DOE further claimed that the Department's penalties unconstitutionally limits DOE's operations in direct violation of the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution and that New Mexico has no jurisdiction to regulate the disposal of radiological wastes at WIPP. The web link for the filing request can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
3. On January 9, Senator Susan Collins responded to the Chair of Maine Yankee's Community Advisory Panel expressing her appreciation of the CAP's support for her efforts in Congress in promoting the establishment of a pilot interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel from thirteen permanently shutdown nuclear power sites in the country. She stated she strongly supported the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation and the Administration's strategy to develop interim storage facilities. She vowed to work with other Senators on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee to approve consolidated interim storage facilities with priority given to shutdown reactors, like Maine Yankee. The web link for the letter can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
4. On January 9, DOE filed with the New Mexico Environment Department a request for hearing and answer to the compliance order issued by the Department to DOE and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on December 6, 2014. DOE denied the mishandling of legacy defense nuclear waste at LANL. DOE addressed the Compliance Order's 149 paragraphs by either admitting to the allegations in the original Administrative Order or stating "any allegations contrary to the plain language, meaning, or context" of a specific document were denied for the different issues cited in the Compliance Order. If a response was required DOE denied the allegation. DOE did not respond to the 18 violations citing New Mexico's legal conclusions as a basis for not responding but requested a hearing to contest the additional 12 complaints and their associated penalties. For their defense DOE contended that New Mexico failed to consider DOE's good faith efforts, failed to consider the seriousness of the violation, failed to adhere to the Department's own Hazardous Waste Penalty Policy, imposed penalties that were arbitrary, capricious, and without substantial basis in law, assessment of civil penalties were excessive and did not meet New Mexico's statutory criteria, and penalties assessed were grossly disproportionate to other fines assessed against other permittees under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act. The web link for the filing can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.

5. On January 12, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy responded to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commissioner's letter that expressed the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition's concerns on the DOE's October report that recommended DOE dispose of some defense-related wastes in a separate repository other than one for commercial spent nuclear fuel. The Assistant Secretary reiterated the Administration's 2013 strategy document for disposing of both commercial and defense spent nuclear fuel and High-Level Waste, which advocated a consent-based approach to siting nuclear waste facilities and starting a pilot interim storage facility for shutdown reactors. The web link for the letter can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
6. On January 12-14, the Institute for Nuclear Materials Management held its 30th spent fuel management seminar. The three day seminar focused on national and international spent fuel issues. The DOE and NRC covered such topics as the Yucca Mountain licensing project, continued storage, repository options, used fuel campaigns, and regulatory perspectives. The international contingent highlighted used fuel issues such as global decommissioning, spent fuel transportation and management programs, manufacturing and technology development for storage canisters, aging management, and security safeguards. Spain, Germany, Japan, and Sweden represented the foreign delegation. The web link for the agenda can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions. The individual presentations can be accessed at the following link: http://www.inmm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=30th_INMM_Spent_Fuel_Seminar&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5176.
7. On January 13, the Council of State Government's Eastern Regional Conference's Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force submitted to DOE the Interregional Team's third progress report toward the development of protocols for implementing Section 180 (c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) for training local officials in safety and emergency preparedness for spent nuclear fuel shipments. The progress report informed DOE of the states that would be participating in the Policy Implementation Exercise. The letter also identified three other documents in its transmittal, namely the principles of agreement among states on expectations regarding preparations for spent nuclear fuel shipments, state recommendations on funding state expenses in carrying out its responsibilities under the NWPA, and the states assessment and evaluation of the policy implementation exercise. The web link for the letter and attachments can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
8. On January 16, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory developed a new system to test the vibration effect on spent nuclear fuel under normal transportation conditions. High burn-up fuel is potentially associated with increased corrosion, hydride precipitation, and high levels of radiation induced damage to cladding and fuel pellets, which could impact the spent fuel's dynamic performance under road or rail conditions. Dynamic testing indicated cladding fractures at or near the pellet to pellet interfaces. Understanding fuel pellet to pellet and fuel to cladding interactions will be crucial to the fuel's performance. The web link for the news article can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
9. On January 19, the Spanish decommissioning firm Enresa awarded a \$3.6 million contract to two engineering firms to design Spain's high-level waste storage facility. The small town of Villar de Canas was chosen out of fourteen communities to host the national facility. The facility was modelled after the HABOG plant in the Netherlands and will be expected to store wastes for up to 60 years. The web link for the news article can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.

10. On January 20, the Commissioners of Andrews County, Texas adopted a resolution that favored establishing a consolidated interim storage facility in Andrews County for spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste. The resolution called upon the State of Texas and its Congressional delegation to work towards creating such a facility and securing appropriate federal incentives for siting and constructing a storage facility. The resolution further committed the County Judge to negotiate and enter into agreements or contracts on behalf of the County. The resolution was forwarded to the NRC and Secretary of Energy to place them on notice of their intent to host the nation's first spent nuclear fuel storage facility. The web link for the resolution can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
11. On January 22, the Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organization announced that of the six communities in Northern Ontario taking part in the first phase of the preliminary assessments four were identified for future study, the city of Elliot Lake, the town of Blind River, and the two townships of Manitouwadge and White River. The town of Spanish and the township of The North Shore were not selected. They joined Creighton in Saskatchewan, and South Bruce, Huron-Kinloss, Hornepayne, Ignace and Schreiber in Ontario. The next phase will involve more community learning and involvement, fieldwork, geological surveys, and borehole drilling. Other preliminary studies were still ongoing in seven other communities in Ontario and Saskatchewan. The web link for the news article can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
12. On January 22, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board forwarded a letter to DOE's Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management to provide feedback from the meeting held last October over the management and disposal plans for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level waste (HLW) at the DOE's Savannah River Site. Prior to the meeting the Board had provided DOE key areas of interest and commended "the presenters for explicitly addressing the Board's questions." The letter noted how impressed the Board was with DOE and its contractors at integrating operations on "the handling, storage, and processing of SNF, the removal and vitrification of HLW from underground tanks, the storage of the vitrified HLW in preparation for offsite disposal", and provided a specific example on how well coordinated the efforts were at processing SNF at H-Canyon. The Board provided recommendations for DOE's Corporate and Operations levels in the following areas:
 - Integration of Programs to Manage and Dispose of HLW and SNF,
 - SNF Storage at the L Basin Facility,
 - Processing of SNF at the H-Canyon Facility,
 - Alternatives for SNF Management, and
 - Processing of HLW AND Integration of Activities Across the DOE Complex,

The web link for the letter can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.

13. On January 23, the new NRC Chairman transmitted the staff's December monthly status report on its activities relative to their resumption of the Yucca Mountain licensing proceedings as mandated by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to the House Chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The report noted the previous publications of Volumes 3 and 4 of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and informed the Committee Chair of the pending release of Volumes 2 and 5 scheduled to be published in January 2015. Since DOE refused to supplement their initial environmental impact statement (EIS) on groundwater as part of their Yucca Mountain license application, the Commission directed the staff to develop and issue a supplement to DOE's initial EIS. Over 95% of the funds expended in December were for the completion of the remaining volumes of the SER. The web link for the letter and report can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.

14. On January 26, Ukraine's nuclear power plant operator, Energoatom, signed an amendment to Holtec International's contract for a central used fuel storage facility, including the design and supply of spent nuclear fuel dry storage, transport, and related equipment for the Chernobyl site. Holtec will provide 94 of the storage systems with the remainder being constructed in the Ukraine. Currently, Ukraine is exporting its spent nuclear fuel to Russia. Ukraine will experience savings as the cost of construction and operation of the storage facility was expected to be four times less than the current cost to ship the spent fuel to Russia. The design capacity of the facility will be to store over 16,500 spent fuel assemblies from nine of the country's fifteen reactors to the end of their operating life. The construction of the storage facility could facilitate the renewal of economic activity and rehabilitation of the Exclusion Zone. The web link for the news article can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
15. On January 29, the NRC published the final two volumes of their Safety Evaluation Report, which completed their safety review of the DOE's Yucca Mountain license application. Volume 2 covered repository safety before permanent closure and included such topics as identification of hazards and initiating events, event sequences, consequence analysis, safety controls, design of structures, systems, and components important to safety, plans for retrieval and alternate storage of the radioactive wastes, and plans for decontamination and dismantlement of facilities. The NRC staff concluded that DOE's application met NRC requirements. Volume 5 covered proposed conditions on the construction authorization, including proposed conditions documented in other SER Volumes, and the staff's conclusions on probable subjects of license specifications from DOE's Safety Analysis Report. The web links for the news release and Volumes 2 and 5 can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.
16. On January 30, Switzerland's national radioactive waste disposal cooperative, Nagra, selected two sites for further study for hosting a deep geologic repository for high-level waste in its third and final stage. The sites were selected based on long term safety employing only scientific and technical criteria. The investigations found impermeable rock formations at an optimum depth that were stable and would protect against erosion. The web link for the news article can be accessed by positioning the cursor over the underlined text and following the directions.