

FINAL SUPPORTING
STATEMENT FOR
10 CFR PART 60
DISPOSAL OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTES IN GEOLOGIC
REPOSITORIES (3150-0127)

EXTENSION

Description of the Information Collection

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations pertaining to the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in geologic repositories in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 60, "Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories," require States and affected Indian Tribes to submit information to the NRC if they (1) request consultation with the NRC staff with respect to an area that has been approved by the President for site characterization, as provided in 10 CFR 60.62, or (2) wish to participate in license reviews, as provided in 10 CFR 60.63. Any person representing a State or affected Indian Tribe must also submit a statement of the basis of his or her authority to act in such representative capacity (10 CFR 60.65).

All the reported burden hours and cost for the information collection requirements for disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in a geologic repository over the past three years pertained to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed high-level waste site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and no other sites. Geologic disposal at Yucca Mountain is regulated under 10 CFR Part 63. All of the information collection requirements pertaining to Yucca Mountain were included in 10 CFR Part 63 and were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3150-0199.

A. Justification

1. Need for and Practical Utility of the Collection of Information

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWSA), as amended, and 10 CFR Part 60 contain detailed provisions for the participation of States and affected Indian Tribes in the process of siting and developing a high-level radioactive waste geologic repository. The NRC must follow many formal procedures and detailed schedules in meeting its responsibilities under the NWSA and 10 CFR Part 60, as described in its adjudicatory rules in 10 CFR Part 2, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure." 10 CFR Part 60 does not require States and Indian Tribes to submit any proposals. This is strictly voluntary on their part, and only if they desire to do so would the information in question be required of them. The Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) must have the requested information on State and Indian Tribal plans for participation in order to accommodate their participation while following mandated procedures and schedules.

Paragraph 60.62 states that whenever an area has been approved by the President for site characterization, and upon request of a State or an

affected Indian Tribe, the Director shall make NRC staff available to consult with representatives of such States and Tribes. Paragraph 60.62 also states that requests for consultation shall be made in writing to the Director. The States and Tribes would be required to submit information about what services they need, and for what purpose the services are needed, but only if they wish to obtain NRC consultation services.

Making NRC staff available for consultation with representatives of States and affected Indian Tribes represents a potentially major commitment of NRC resources. The Director must have a sufficient basis for approving this commitment of resources. A written request for consultation is the minimum requirement which could provide a sufficient basis for the commitment of NRC resources.

Paragraph 60.63 states that whenever an area has been approved by the President for site characterization, a State or an affected Indian Tribe may submit to the Director a proposal to facilitate its participation in the review of a site characterization plan and/or license application. The proposal shall contain a description and schedule of how the State or affected Indian Tribe wishes to participate in the review, or what services or activities the State or affected Indian Tribe wishes NRC to carry out, and how the services or activities proposed to be carried out by NRC would contribute to such participation.

Paragraph 60.63 also states that the Director shall arrange for a meeting between the representatives of the State or affected Indian Tribe and the NRC staff to discuss any such proposal, with a view to identifying any modifications that may contribute to the effective participation by such State or Tribe.

Subject to the availability of funds, the Director shall approve all or any part of a proposal, as it may be modified through the meeting described above, if it is determined that the proposed activities: (1) are suitable in light of the type and magnitude of impacts which the State or affected Indian Tribe may bear and (2) will enhance communications between NRC and the State or affected Indian Tribe; will make a productive and timely contribution to the license review; and are authorized by law. The Director will advise the State or affected Indian Tribe whether its proposal has been accepted or denied, and if all or any part of the proposal is denied, the Director shall state the reason for the denial.

Paragraph 60.65 states that any person who acts under this subpart (Subpart C) as a representative for a State (or for the Governor or legislature thereof) or for an affected Indian Tribe shall include in the request or other submission, or at the request of the Commission, a statement of the basis of his or her authority to act in such representative capacity.

Such a statement is necessary to assure the NRC that representatives for the States and affected Indian Tribes have the authority to represent the States or Indian Tribes in dealings with the NRC.

2. Agency Use of Information

The information requested will be reported to the Director, who has programmatic responsibility for the NRC's high-level radioactive waste program. It will be used by the Director to implement requirements for States and Indian Tribes to participate in the siting and development of high-level radioactive waste geologic repositories. It will also help the Director determine, for example, whether activities proposed by the State or affected Indian Tribe would enhance communications, would contribute to the license review in a timely and productive manner and would be authorized by law. The Director has established a process for State, local government, and affected Indian Tribe participation. Staff resources are available to assure that reported information is used in a timely and useful fashion.

3. Reduction of Burden Through Information Technology

The NRC has issued [*Guidance for Electronic Submissions to the NRC*](#) which provides direction for the electronic transmission and submittal of documents to the NRC. Electronic transmission and submittal of documents can be accomplished via the following avenues: the Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) process, which is available from the NRC's "Electronic Submittals Application" Web page, by Optical Storage Media (OSM) (e.g. CD-ROM, DVD), or by e-mail. It is estimated that approximately 80 percent of the responses are filed electronically.

4. Effort to Identify Duplication and Use Similar Information

No sources of similar information are available. There is no duplication of requirements.

5. Effort to Reduce Small Business Burden

No small businesses are affected by the information collection requirements, but some Indian Tribes could be considered small entities. The NRC staff's established program to provide information exchange with States and Tribes would provide such Tribes with assistance in preparation of the requested information.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection is Not Conducted or is Conducted Less Frequently

If the collection is not conducted, the NRC will not have information that will enable the Director to carry out requirements for States and affected Indian Tribes to participate in the siting and development of high-level radioactive waste geologic repositories.

7. Circumstances Which Justify Variations from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines

There are no variations from OMB guidelines.

8. Consultations Outside NRC

Opportunity for public comment on the information collection requirements for this clearance package was published in the *Federal Register* on September 3, 2025 (90 FR 42621). This rule (10 CFR Part 60) applies to geologic disposal at sites other than Yucca Mountain. Geologic disposal at Yucca Mountain is regulated under 10 CFR Part 63 (66 FR 55792, November 2, 2001). All of the information collection requirements pertaining to Yucca Mountain were included in 10 CFR Part 63 and were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3150-0199 (§63.8). Presently, the U.S. Department of Energy is not considering sites for geologic disposal of high-level waste other than the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. With no sites currently being considered under 10 CFR Part 60, the NRC was not able to identify any specific individuals, States, or affected Tribes to contact related to this information collection requirement. No comments were received on the docket as a result of the solicitation of comments in the Federal Register.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality of Information

Confidential and proprietary information is protected in accordance with NRC regulations at 10 CFR 9.17(a) and 10 CFR 2.390(b). However, no information considered confidential or proprietary is requested.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

None.

12. Estimated Burden and Burden Hour Cost

The likelihood that a licensing action pertaining to high-level radioactive waste repository sites under 10 CFR Part 60 during the next 3 years is low. No responses are anticipated during the clearance period; however, we have calculated the estimated burden for a single hypothetical respondent to illustrate the potential time and effort required for the information collections associated with 10 CFR Part 60. The burden estimate for one respondent to submit the information required to participate in consultations and reviews is 121 hours total at a cost of \$38,357 (121 hours x \$317 per hour). The burden for a single respondent is broken out as follows:

Paragraph	Description	Number. of Respondents	Annual Responses	Burden Per Response	Annual Burden
60.62	Requests for consultation	1	1	40	40
60.63	Proposal for participation in the review	1	1	80	80
60.65	Statement of the basis of authority to act as a representative	1	1	1	1
Total			3		121

The \$317 hourly rate used in the burden estimates is based on the NRC's fee for hourly rates as noted in 10 CFR 170.20 "Average cost per professional staff-hour." For more information on the hourly rate, see the "Revision of Fee Schedules, Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2024" final rule (89 FR 51789; June 20, 2024).

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

There are no additional costs.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The staff has developed estimates of annualized costs to the Federal Government related to the conduct of this collection of information. These estimates are based on staff experience and subject matter expertise and include the burden needed to review, analyze, and process the collected information and any relevant operational expenses.

Currently, the likelihood that a licensing action pertaining to high-level radioactive waste repository sites under 10 CFR Part 60 during the next three years is low. However, if requests were submitted, the following costs are anticipated:

- Paragraph 60.62 involves NRC staff review of requests for consultation. This should require no more than 40 hours of staff time per response.
- Paragraph 60.63 involves NRC staff review of proposals for participation in site review and licensing procedures. This should require no more than 80 hours of staff time per response.
- Paragraph 60.65 involves NRC staff review of the statement of representation. This should require no more than one hour of staff time per response.

Total time to review submissions for a single, hypothetical respondent is 121 hours of staff time (40 + 80 + 1 = 121) at a cost of \$38,357 (121 hours x \$317 per hour). These costs are fully recovered by NRC through appropriations from the Nuclear Waste Fund established by the Department of Energy pursuant to the NWPA.

15. Reasons for Change in Burden or Cost

The burden has decreased from 726 hours to 121 hours, a decrease of 605 hours. In the last renewal, six respondents were estimated. In the current clearance period, no responses are anticipated; however, we have calculated the estimated burden for a single hypothetical respondent to illustrate the potential time and effort required for the information collections associated with 10 CFR Part 60. The hourly fee rate has changed since the last clearance from \$288 to \$317. Thus, the overall cost has changed from \$209,088 to \$38,357 due to the decrease in number of respondents and the hourly fee rate increase. However, there is no current licensing action under 10 CFR Part 60 and the likelihood of any licensing action in the next three years is low.

16. Publication for Statistical Use

None.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the Expiration Date

The requirement is contained in a regulation. Amending the *Code of Federal Regulations* to display information that, in an annual publication, could become obsolete would be unduly burdensome and too difficult to keep current.

18. Exceptions to the Certification Statement

There are no exceptions.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Statistical methods are not used in this collection of information.