

Initial Steps in the Regulatory Process

The regulatory approval process to receive a licence to construct OPG's proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste (L&ILW) began in late 2005 with the submission of the DGR Project Description to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

The DGR project was referred to a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The Joint Review Panel (JRP) process allows a panel of three to consider both the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the application for the site preparation/construction licence.

Final guidelines for the EIS and JRP were issued in January 2009 after public review. The final EIS Guidelines and JRP Agreement are available at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca, registry number 06-05-17520 and at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca. For direct access to the DGR Project Registry go to: <http://www.acee-ceaa.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=17520>

Submission of Documents/Public Comment Period

The EIS, along with the Preliminary Safety Report and supporting documents, were submitted to the CNSC (for the JRP) on Apr. 14, 2011.

The JRP for the DGR Project was appointed by the federal government in January 2012. The JRP consists of panel chair Dr. Stella Swanson, Dr. James Archibald and Dr. Gunter Muecke.

On Feb. 3, 2012, the JRP announced the start of the public comment period, which remained open until May 24, 2013 (15 months).

The public comment period provided an opportunity for the JRP, federal agencies, the public and First Nation and Métis communities to review, assess and comment on the completeness and adequacy of the EIS, and supporting documents in meeting the guideline requirements.

DGR Public Hearing

On June 20, 2013, the JRP announced the public hearing for the DGR Project, which was held in the fall of 2013 from Sept. 16 to Oct. 5 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kincardine, and from Oct. 7 to Oct. 12 and Oct. 28 to Oct. 30 at the Saugeen Shores Community Complex.

The hearings provided opportunities for interested parties to participate in the review of the Environmental Impact Statement and licensing documentation for OPG's proposed DGR Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste.

Over the course of the 25 days of hearings, the JRP heard numerous presentations on the safety case for the DGR Project from OPG, the CNSC - Canada's nuclear regulator - federal and provincial government agencies and independent professionals, and over 200 presentations by members of the community and interveners. Collectively, the presentations covered a wide spectrum of information, which was then supplemented by the responses to hundreds of questions posed by hearing participants.

The tremendous number of participants and their varied interests in the hearings ensured that a range of perspectives and views were provided to the JRP about the DGR Project, and the results of the EIS.

Next Steps in the Regulatory Approvals Process for the DGR Project

Since the public hearing in the fall, there have been additional information requests made by the JRP to OPG (and the CNSC), as well as the announcement of additional hearing days. The next steps in the process are as follows:

- OPG will complete responses to information requests;
- JRP to hold additional Public Hearing Days;
- JRP to close public record when they have sufficient information; registered interveners and proponent have opportunity to provide closing comments;
- JRP has 90 days to submit Environmental Assessment Report to Federal Minister of Environment;
- Minister has 120 days to render a decision; and
- JRP will have 90 days to deliberate site preparation & construction licence.

For additional information about the regulatory process, visit [the DGR Project Registry](#).

For additional information about the DGR Project, visit www.opgdgr.com and/or call (519) 368-1639.