



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES LICENSE TO AREVA ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR GAS CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT IN IDAHO

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a license to AREVA Enrichment Services LLC (AES) to construct and operate a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Bonneville County, Idaho.

The license for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility authorizes AES to enrich uranium up to 5 percent by weight in the fissile isotope U-235 for use in the manufacture of nuclear fuel for commercial nuclear power reactors. AES plans to begin construction in 2012.

AES submitted its application Dec. 30, 2008. The NRC staff completed thorough safety and environmental reviews of the proposed facility. A Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-1951) was published in September 2010, with the staff's conclusion that AES's proposed facility complies with NRC regulations and would not pose an undue risk to the health and safety of workers or the public. An Environmental Impact Statement (NUREG-1945) was published in February 2011, with the determination that there would be no significant environmental impacts that would preclude licensing of the facility.

The AES application, as well as the Safety Evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement, are available on the [NRC website](http://www.nrc.gov).

A three-judge Atomic Safety and Licensing Board conducted a hearing on the AES application, with evidentiary sessions on the safety review in January 2011 and on the environmental review in July. The ASLB issued its decision authorizing the staff to issue the license Oct. 7.

The NRC staff will conduct inspections during the construction and operation of the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. The agency plans to hold a public meeting in Idaho Falls before construction begins to explain its oversight plans to members of the public.

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