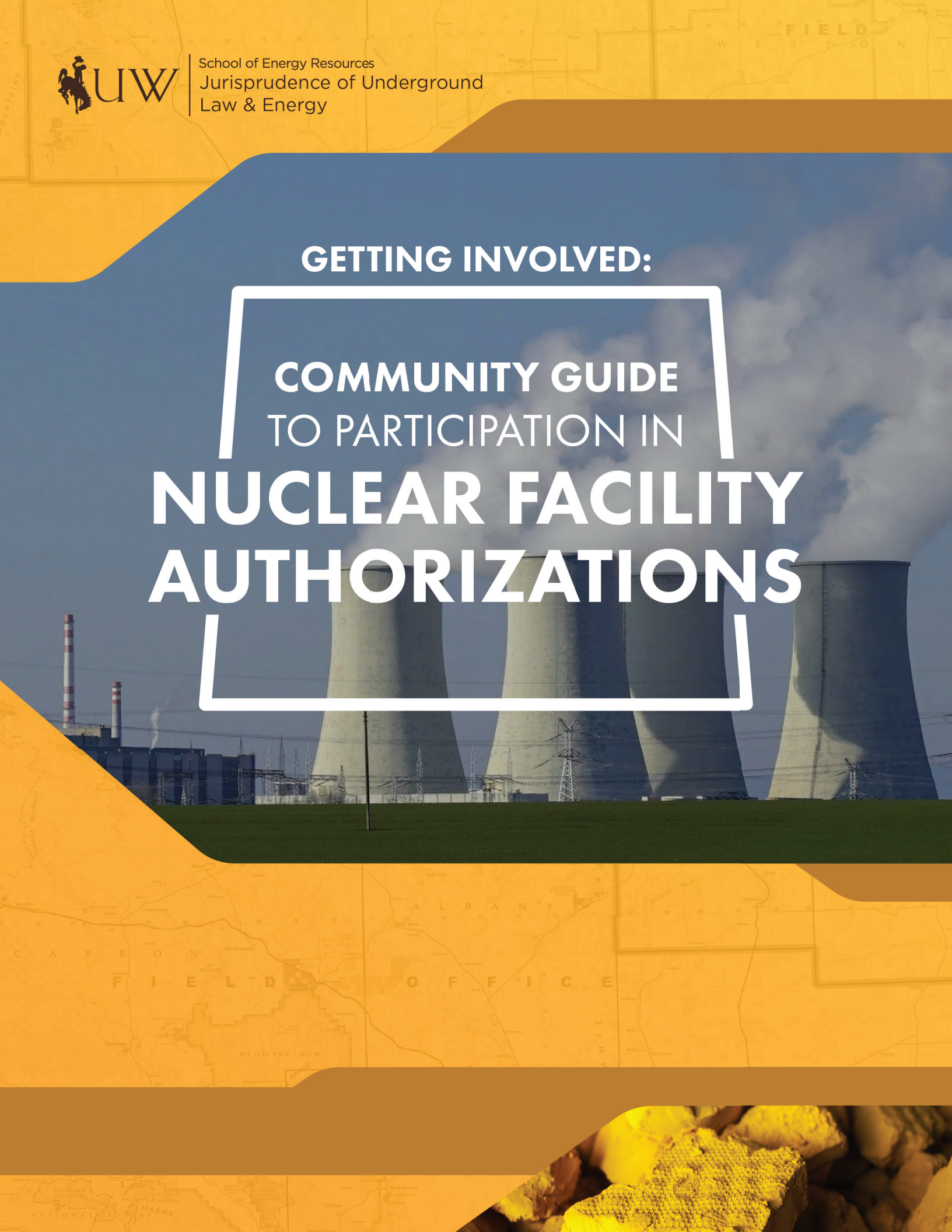




School of Energy Resources  
Jurisprudence of Underground  
Law & Energy

**GETTING INVOLVED:**

**COMMUNITY GUIDE  
TO PARTICIPATION IN  
NUCLEAR FACILITY  
AUTHORIZATIONS**





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES

SER collaborates with stakeholders at the state, national and international levels to advance energy technologies and policies to grow and support Wyoming's robust energy sector. SER's mission is to promote energy-driven economic development for the state, and it leads the University of Wyoming's talent and resources for interdisciplinary research and outreach, fulfilling Wyoming's promise to be a global leader in a thriving and sustainable energy future.

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## DISCLAIMER

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Residents understandably have questions when new nuclear (or other industrial) facilities are proposed within their communities. Fortunately, existing legal frameworks provide opportunities for the public to participate in the facility authorization process. The manner and extent of public engagement will differ depending on the type of facility being contemplated and the administrative permits required.<sup>1</sup> This community guide is intended to provide Wyoming residents with information on their opportunities to participate in facility authorization procedures.

Wyoming has regulated certain aspects of the nuclear value chain for decades and is the largest producer of uranium in the United States. Pursuant to a 2018 agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), uranium mining and milling facilities are primarily regulated by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ). In contrast, utilization facilities, such as nuclear power plants, require authorizations from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and from the Industrial Siting Council (ISC) in some circumstances and to the extent the ISC requirements do not interfere with, contradict, or duplicate any NRC requirements..

If a nuclear project is proposed near your community, you can use this table to identify the agency(s) responsible for regulating the facility and compare the regulatory approvals required for the different stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

<sup>1</sup> Projects involving state or federal land will also include public participation opportunities related to the grant of rights to use public lands. This guide is limited to authorization processes from agencies with regulatory authority over the construction and operation of nuclear facilities.

## REQUIRED REGULATORY APPROVALS<sup>2</sup>

	Allowed in Wyoming	Federal environmental law applies	Requires license from NRC	Requires permit or regulatory approval from:			Requires permit from:
				WDEQ - LDQ	WDEQ - WQD	WDEQ - AQD	WDEQ - ISC
Uranium Mining	Yes	X		X	X	X	
Uranium Milling	Yes	X		X	X	X	X*
Conversion	Yes	X	X		X*	X*	X*
Enrichment	Yes	X	X		X*	X*	X*
Fuel Fabrication	Yes	X	X		X*	X*	X*
Nuclear Power Generation	Yes	X	X		X*	X*	X*
Storing Used Fuel at Reactor Sites	Yes	X	X				
Storage of Spent Fuel Away-From-Reactor	No*	X	X				
Disposal of Spent Fuel	No	X	X				

LLW = Low Level Waste  
 HLW = High Level Waste  
 NRC = U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

WDEQ = WY Department of Environment Quality  
 LDQ = Land Quality Division  
 WQD = Water Quality Division  
 AQD = Air Quality Division  
 ISC = Industrial Siting Council

X\* = Depends on the specific project or facility  
 No\* = Either Congress needs to change federal law or the WY Legislature needs to change state law to procedurally allow for offsite storage.

<sup>2</sup> No\* for away-from-reactor storage (offsite storage) is because WYO. STAT. §§ 35-11-1501 through 1507 govern siting radioactive waste storage facilities and allow for offsite storage facilities in Wyoming, but condition their approval on the federal government undertaking certain efforts to establish a permanent repository for high-level radioactive waste. Specifically, § 35-11-1504 requires that the U.S. Department of Energy issues a final environmental impact statement along with a license application for a permanent repository **before** the State Legislature can approve an application for an offsite storage facility. For more information about the failure of the federal government to establish a permanent repository, please see the companion guide *What Wyoming Citizens Should Know About Nuclear Waste*. Either Congress has to change federal law to allow for progress towards a permanent repository, or the Wyoming Legislature has to change these statutes so that approval for an offsite storage facility does not depend on developing a permanent repository.



## HOW WILL I KNOW IF A NUCLEAR FACILITY IS PROPOSED NEAR ME?

Wyoming citizens can follow nuclear developments in the state by taking the following steps:

### Track Federal NRC Actions

- **Why:** The NRC must license all nuclear utilization facilities to ensure they comply with NRC safety regulations. Once a license application is filed for a nuclear facility, the public is notified through the Federal Register, press releases, and local media that the NRC has received an application.<sup>3</sup>
- **Where to look:**
  - » NRC Public Meeting Schedule - shows the date, time, purpose, and location for upcoming public meetings, recently held meetings, and past meetings are searchable by state and other information: <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.
  - » NRC ADAMS Documents - provides a searchable repository of licensing documents, inspection reports, environmental reviews, and more: <https://adams-search.nrc.gov/home>.
  - » Federal Register NRC Notices - provides official announcements of licensing actions, opportunities for hearings or public comments, draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and more, organized by year: <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fedreg/notices/index.html>.
  - » This NRC webpage provides notices of major licensing applications submitted to it, notices of applicants' intentions to file applications that would constitute major licensing actions, and current information regarding major licensing proceedings undertaken by the NRC. The public can use this page to identify specific proceedings for which they may wish to request a hearing or file a petition to intervene: <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing-license-applications.html>.
- **Tip:** To stay current with news and information from the NRC, you may subscribe to receive automatic updates by e-mail. Use the NRC "GovDelivery" subscription service to get email alerts about radioactive waste, advanced reactors, and more: <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>.

<sup>3</sup> 10 C.F.R. 2.309 (2025).



## Monitor the Wyoming Legislature

- **Why:** The Legislature has been actively involved with new nuclear projects within the state and may need to update the law to allow for new nuclear technologies that don't fit within the existing statutory framework.
- **Where to look:**
  - » Wyoming Legislature Bill Tracking - lets you search active and past bills: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation>.
  - » Committee Meetings & Agendas - check the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee, which allows public comment and will be involved if the law must change to allow for new nuclear projects: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Committees/2025/J09>.
- **Tip:** You can watch livestreams and past videos of Committee Meetings and General Sessions on YouTube: here <https://www.youtube.com/wyominglegislature>. You can also follow the Wyoming Legislature on X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/WYLegislature>.





## Watch the WDEQ Land Quality Division's Uranium Recovery Program:


- **Why:** Wyoming's Uranium Recovery Program (URP) provides the licensing and regulatory requirements for uranium mining and milling in Wyoming. The URP falls within WDEQ's Land Quality Division (LQD).<sup>4</sup> Once a license application for a uranium mining and/or milling operation is filed with the URP, and the URP completes review, Wyoming rules require the license applicant and WDEQ to provide notice to the public of issuance of an initial draft decision where the license application is approved, approved with conditions, or denied.<sup>5</sup> Wyoming's regulations also require the LQD Administrator to create a mailing list of individuals who request to be on the mailing list in writing and past permit-proceeding participants, and to mail them notice of the complete application.<sup>6</sup> These public notices are required by law to include certain information about the applicant and proposed project, including information the public needs to be able to participate in URP licensing processes.<sup>7</sup>
- **Where to look:**
  - » **LQD public notices** – LQD posts all public notices for a permit application, which can be found on LQD's website here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/land-quality/lqd/>.
  - » **Local newspapers** – Wyoming law requires the uranium mining applicant to publish information about the application in local newspapers serving the area where the mining operation is proposed.
  - » **Mail** – You will receive a notice by mail from the permit applicant if you are: (1) a surface owner of land within the permit area, (2) a surface owner of immediately adjacent lands, or (3) a surface owner within one-half ( ½ ) mile of the proposed mining site. You will receive a notice by mail from the LQD Administrator if you request (in writing) to be on the mailing list or if you were on past mailing lists for permitting proceedings in your area.

<sup>4</sup> See WYO. STAT. § 35-11-2001 et seq. (2025); WYO. DEP'T OF ENV'T QUALITY, LAND QUALITY DIV., *Uranium Recovery Program* <https://deq.wyoming.gov/land-quality/uranium/> (last visited Jan. 30, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> WYO. STAT. §§ 35-11-406(g), (j), (q) (2025).

<sup>6</sup> 020.0007.11 WYO. ADMIN. CODE § 21(a)(ii)(C) (2025).

<sup>7</sup> Public notices are required to provide certain information, including: the identity of the applicant, the location of the proposed operation, the proposed dates of commencement and completion of the operation, the proposed future use of the affected land, the location at which information about the application may be obtained, the location and final date for filing objections to the application, and a brief description of the comment procedures, including a statement of procedures to request a hearing or, if a hearing has already been scheduled, the time and place of that hearing, and other procedures by which the public may participate in the final permit decision. WYO. STAT. § 35-11-406 (j); 020.0007.11 WYO. ADMIN. CODE § 21(a)(i).

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- **Tip:** You can sign up to receive WDEQ public notices here: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WYDEQ/subscriber/topics>. Additionally, the public notice will provide instructions for individuals wishing to sign up for the mailing list and receive information about permit proceedings in their area. Once you sign up for a mailing list for a particular permit proceeding, you may occasionally be contacted by LQD for future permit proceedings or for requesting written indication of continued interest in your area's permit proceedings. LQD may also delete individuals from the mailing list who fail to respond to such a request.

## Watch the Wyoming Industrial Siting Division and Council

- **Why:** If a nuclear facility falls within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Siting Act, the Industrial Siting Division (ISD) within the WDEQ handles Industrial Siting public notices.<sup>8</sup> The Industrial Siting Council (ISC) is the permitting authority for industrial facilities within the state and conducts public meetings as part of the permitting process.<sup>9</sup>
- **Where to look:**
  - » ISD Public Notices - ISD posts all public notices for permit applications and associated hearings, which can be found on ISD's website here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/industrial-siting-2/isd/>
  - » Decisions made by the ISC on rules, regulations and permit requests are posted to ISC; as website as soon as possible after each meeting of the Council: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/industrial-siting-2/council/#eae-pupup-item-2091355237>.
  - » Local newspapers - Wyoming law requires the Director of WDEQ to publish a summary of a permit application permit notices in the local newspapers where the industrial facility is proposed.
- **Tip:** You can sign up to receive ISD public notices: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WYDEQ/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WYDEQ\\_6](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WYDEQ/subscriber/new?topic_id=WYDEQ_6) and ISD and ISC meeting agendas with links to observe meetings virtually are found here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/industrial-siting-2/council/#eae-pupup-item-1128673614>.

<sup>8</sup> WYO. STAT. § 35-12-111.

<sup>9</sup> WYO. STAT. § 35-12-110.



## Follow Local County Government

- **Why:** While counties cannot license nuclear facilities, they may hold public meetings, pass resolutions, or update zoning ordinances in response to proposals for potential projects. Local governments are also entitled to receive notice of proposed nuclear facilities and projects within their jurisdiction and borders. Local governments may even have additional participation rights depending on the facility.
- **Where to look:**
  - » County Commission agendas (posted on each county's website).
  - » Planning & Zoning Board meetings.
- **Tip:** Sign up for local government newsletters or meeting notifications where applicable.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL LICENSING PROCESS:

Most nuclear utilization facilities will require a license from the NRC. The NRC licensing process includes several opportunities for public involvement, including participation in public meetings, hearings, and the NEPA process.



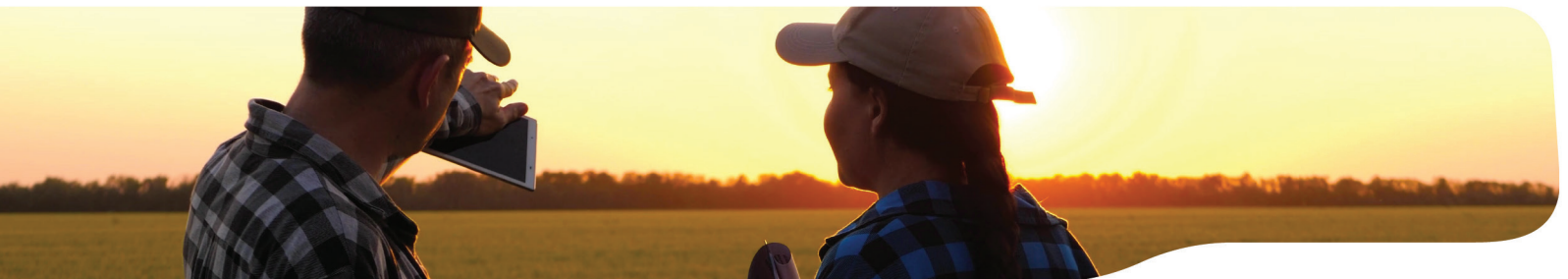


## Getting involved in the NRC's licensing process:

The NRC periodically holds meetings, conferences, and workshops to inform the public or solicit input on matters before the commission. Applications for a nuclear facility license require full notice in the federal registrar and participation in hearings by the affected community.<sup>10</sup> Hearings can be formal or informal depending on the facility being proposed. According to the NRC, if local interest is strong, the NRC may decide to hold public meetings close to the proposed facility.<sup>11</sup> The NRC may use information obtained from the public to inform licensing, and inspection processes; environmental reviews; or other activities. The following pathways exist for public participation:

1. **Observing/Attending NRC Public Meetings** - The NRC holds a variety of open meetings to allow the public to “sit-in” on meetings between the NRC regulators and the regulated community.<sup>12</sup> The NRC has discretion to choose the level of participation offered to those that attend the meeting,<sup>13</sup> and will invite public participation as warranted depending on the purpose of the meeting. For instance, the public can simply observe a meeting between a license applicant and the NRC discussing a specific technical matter on the license application, where the public may be invited to discuss the specific subject matter of the meeting and ask the NRC questions at designated times.<sup>14</sup> More public participation is invited when the purpose of the meeting is for the NRC to provide information to or request information from the public.<sup>15</sup>

» Schedules of all NRC meetings are available online at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.



<sup>10</sup> U.S. NUCLEAR REGUL. COMM'N, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY PROCESS, <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/brochures/br0215/r2/br0215r2.pdf> (last visited Jan. 30, 2026).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> U.S. NUCLEAR REGUL. COMM'N, NRC PUBLIC MEETINGS, <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2405/ML24059A221.pdf> (last visited Feb. 2024).

<sup>13</sup> 86 Fed. Reg. at 14965; U.S. NUCLEAR REGUL. COMM'N, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY PROCESS, <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/brochures/br0215/r2/br0215r2.pdf> (last visited Jan. 30, 2026).

<sup>14</sup> Enhancing Participation in NRC Public Meetings 86 Fed. Reg. 19464, 14966 (Mar. 19, 2021)

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*



2. **Requesting a Hearing** (if eligible) – a member of the public whose interest “may be affected” by the licensing proceeding may challenge a license application by requesting a hearing to raise specific issues of fact or law to the NRC.<sup>16</sup> The NRC frequently presumes a person has an “affected interest” if they live or have routine contact with an area that is within a 50 mile radius of the proposed facility.<sup>17</sup> A person can request a hearing by submitting a petition to intervene in the requested hearing under 10 C.F.R. § 2.309. If the NRC grants the petition, it will also grant the requested hearing, and the person becomes a party to the hearing they requested. These requested hearings are usually open to the public as well, and, when practical, take place close to where the project is proposed.<sup>18</sup>

- » The NRC invites the public to request hearing when it publishes a “Notice of Opportunity for Hearing” in the Federal Register upon receipt of a license application. The notice includes deadlines and procedures for participation. Petitions to intervene must be filed within 60 days of publication.
- » Members of the public who don’t want to join the litigation-style hearing, or do not qualify as having an “affected interest,” can still make their views known by making an oral or submitting a written “limited appearance statement” on the issues at any session of the hearing or any prehearing conference.<sup>19</sup>



***The hearing process is not a way to facilitate general discussion on the merits of a project; it is only for raising specific licensing issues that the NRC should consider in the licensing proceeding before it.<sup>20</sup> To be effective, this may require technical knowledge and legal support.***

<sup>16</sup> The petitioner must have standing and propose at least one admissible contention in order for the NRC to grant the petition to intervene and requested hearing. The NRC’s determination of standing relies upon the same general concepts of standing applied in most administrative or judicial proceedings. To demonstrate standing, a petitioner must “(1) allege an injury in fact that is (2) fairly traceable to the challenged action and (3) is likely to be redressed by a favorable decision.” *Beyond Nuclear, Inc. v. U.S. Nuclear Regul. Comm’n*, 113 F.4th 956, 961 (D.C. Cir. 2024).

<sup>17</sup> *Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.*, 96 N.R.C. 1 \*7-8 (2022).

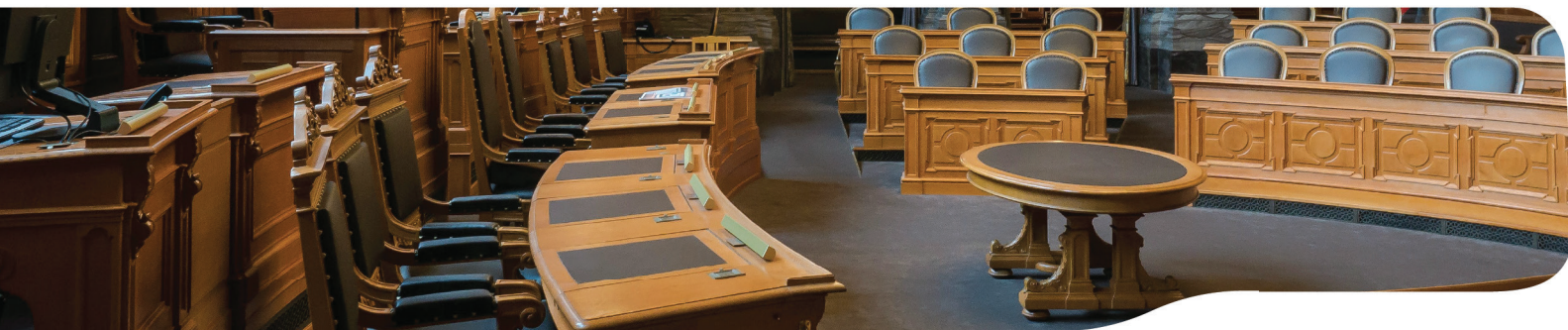
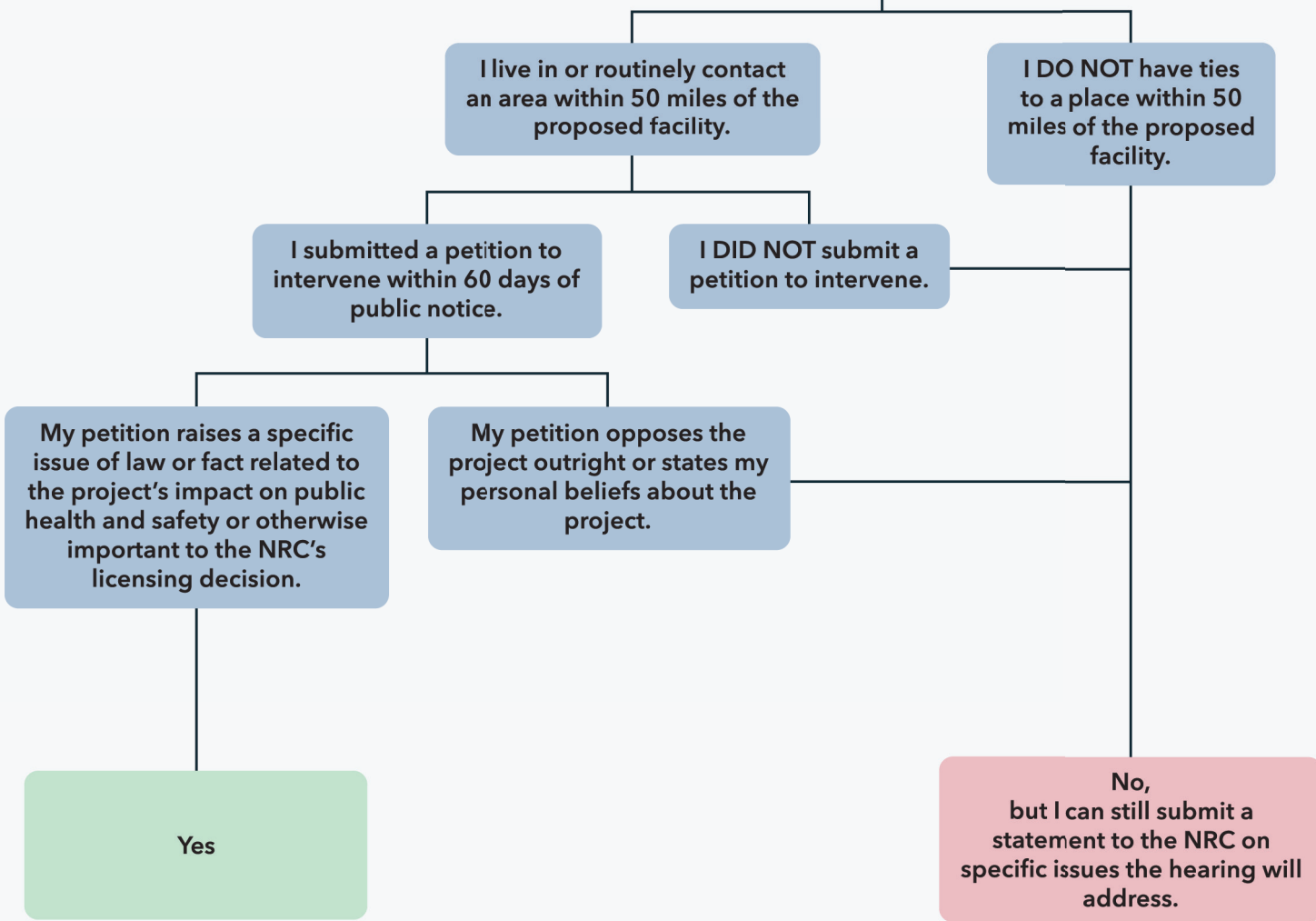
<sup>18</sup> U.S. NUCLEAR REGUL. ASLBP RESPONSIBILITIES, <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/aslbp-respons.html> (last updated July 7, 2020).

<sup>19</sup> The NRC has discretion to allow these statements or not. 10 C.F.R. § 2.315 (2025).

<sup>20</sup> See 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f) (2024).



## Can I be a party to an NRC Hearing?





3. **Participating in the NRC’s environmental review** - Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the NRC must evaluate environmental impacts of licensing actions.<sup>21</sup> The public has several opportunities to participate in the process:

- » **Scoping Process** - To identify environmental issues for its analysis, the NRC may hold public “scoping” meetings. The NRC is required to invite public participation from: (1) Anyone who has petitioned to intervene in the proceeding or who has been admitted as a party to the proceeding; (2) Anyone who has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process; (3) Affected State and local agencies.<sup>22</sup> The NRC must publish a “Notice of Intent” in the Federal Register to provide the public with key information necessary to facilitate its participation.<sup>23</sup>
- » **Draft Reports** - The NRC will compile its NEPA analysis into a report and must publish a draft of the report and solicit public feedback.<sup>24</sup> To facilitate this, the NRC is required to publish “a notice of availability” in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>); provide local newspapers with news releases stating the availability for public comment and place inspecting the draft report; and provide information about where comments should be submitted, and the date the comment period closes.<sup>25</sup> Public comment periods typically range from 45 to 60 days.



*To finalize its NEPA analysis, the NRC is required to address each comment on the draft report and discuss the agency’s response, including a decision not to modify the document.<sup>26</sup>*



<sup>21</sup> See generally, 10 C.F.R. Part 51.

<sup>22</sup> 10 C.F.R. § 51.28(a), (b) (2025).

<sup>23</sup> 10 C.F.R. §§ 51.29, 51.29 (2025).

<sup>24</sup> 10 C.F.R. § 51.74 (2025).

<sup>25</sup> 10 C.F.R. §§ 51.73, 51.74.

<sup>26</sup> 10 C.F.R. § 51.91(a).



## PARTICIPATION IN STATE AND LOCAL PROCEDURES

### Getting involved in the state legislative process:

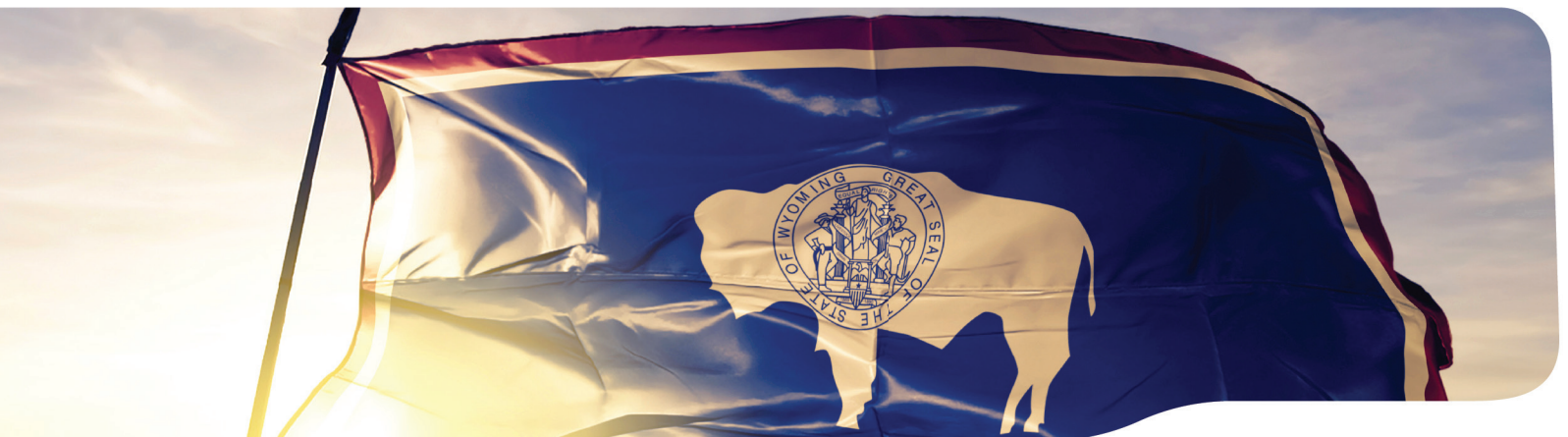
Some projects, such as consolidated interim storage facilities or a permanent repository, are presently prohibited by law and therefore could only be authorized following action from the Wyoming legislature. The public can get involved with nuclear development within the state at committee meetings, by contacting your state representative(s), or observing legislative sessions. The purpose of a committee meeting is for a smaller group of legislators to initially review and receive public comment on a newly introduced bill and determine if the proposed bill should move forward in the legislature. A committee makes this determination by voting and can vote to move the proposal forward, suggest amendments, approve it for further action by the full House or Senate, or disapprove it.

The Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee has been reviewing proposed nuclear legislation and was charged with studying ways to grow the nuclear industry in 2025. This Committee's information can be found online here: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Committees/2026/J09>.

Legislative sessions are further along in the lawmaking process, the purpose of which is for the House and Senate to meet and pass laws. The legislature provides a chart giving an overview of the state legislative process on their website, which can be found here: <https://wyoleg.gov/docs/WyomingStateLegislativeProcessChart.pdf>.



***Wyoming citizens have the most impact on the legislative process during committee meetings because these meetings provide the opportunity for the public to give direct input on proposed legislation.***





The public can participate by attending legislative meetings in person or virtually.

- **In-person committee meetings** provide time for public comment. See the Management Council Policy 18-03 (<https://wyoleg.gov/docs/4-2-DecorumCivilityPolicy.pdf>) governing rules and standards of decorum and civility during legislative meetings. If you can't be there in person, you can always submit a written statement which will be distributed to the committee and made a part of the meeting record.
- You can access **virtual committee meetings** through the Legislature's YouTube channel here <https://www.youtube.com/wyominglegislature> or by going to <https://www.youtube.com> and searching "Wyoming Legislature." To participate, you can register by clicking the "testify" button provided for each committee meeting on the Legislature's Calendar page: <https://wyoleg.gov/Calendar/>. You must register to testify by 5:00 p.m. prior to the day the topic is scheduled to be discussed by the committee. The "testify" button should become available on the same day that the committee's meeting agenda is posted on the website.
- You can observe **legislative sessions** in person or virtually. These sessions can be a "general" or a budget session. The Legislature meets in a General Session in odd numbered years, beginning on the second Tuesday of January and is limited to 40 legislative days. In even numbered years, the Legislature convenes in a Budget Session beginning on the second Monday of February, which typically lasts 20 legislative days. You may submit written comments by creating a handout for legislators and emailing the handout and a completed "Handout Submission Form" to a member of the House or Senate and to: [legdocs@wyoleg.gov](mailto:legdocs@wyoleg.gov). The link to the handout submission form is provided here: <https://wyoleg.gov/docs/HandoutSubmissionForm.pdf>, and you can find contact information for Senators and House Representatives from this webpage: <https://wyoleg.gov/Legislators>. You can attend these sessions virtually using the YouTube link above.
- **Tip:** Sign up for the Legislature's e-mail subscription service where you will receive notifications for when public comment forms become available at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WYLSO/subscriber/new/>. Also, check out the Legislature's Citizen Guidebook here: <https://wyoleg.gov/docs/CitizenGuidebook.pdf>.



## Getting involved in the WDEQ Land Quality Division's Noncoal Mining Program:

A member of the public can participate in the LQD's mining and milling licensing/permitting processes by submitting comments, requesting a hearing, or filing a written objection to a permit or license application according to the instructions given in the public notice of the application.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, if you own the land surface above the mineral estate proposed for the mining operation, but you do not own the mineral estate itself, you have special participation rights.<sup>28</sup>

- **Submitting comments & requesting a hearing** – Follow the procedures in the public notice to submit comments on or to request a hearing for a permit application.
  - » Some governing bodies will also receive a “fact sheet”<sup>29</sup> from LQD with additional opportunities to submit comments and request a hearing on any injection permits required for a uranium mining project, including:
    - ◇ Federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction over fish, shellfish, and wildlife resources;
    - ◇ Federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction over historic resources and land planning processes; and
    - ◇ Any affected Indian Tribes.<sup>30</sup>



<sup>27</sup> WYO. STAT. §§ 35-11-406 (j), (q).

<sup>28</sup> *Id.* §§ 35-11-406 (b)(xi), (xii).

<sup>29</sup> The fact sheet is for in situ (or solution mining) uranium mining operations, where a permit is required for each underground injection control (UIC) Class III well. See 020.0007.11 WYO. ADMIN. CODE § 2(e) (2025).

<sup>30</sup> 020.0007.11 WYO. ADMIN. CODE § 21(a)(iii).



- **Filing an objection** – Individuals wishing to object to a permit application have thirty (30) days after the last publication of the public notice to file their objection according to the instructions in the public notice.<sup>31</sup> Any objections to an application will also be made available to the public. The LQD will review all objections and then determine whether to issue or deny the uranium mining permit(s) accordingly. Both the permit applicant and any objectors will receive notice in writing of LQD’s final decision on the permit application. The applicant and any objector(s) have the right to appeal LQD’s permitting decision to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, a quasi-judicial, independently operating entity created by the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act of 1973.<sup>32</sup> The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council then gets to choose whether to hold a hearing on the appeal, and if it does, it will issue findings of fact and a decision within sixty (60) days after the final hearing.<sup>33</sup> The decision of the Environmental Quality Council is final, and LQD will publish a summary of the decision in a local newspaper in the area of the proposed operation.<sup>34</sup>
- **Participation for surface landowners** – Permit applicants must obtain consent from certain landowners to fulfil Wyoming’s permit application requirements.<sup>36</sup> Specifically, consent is required from owners of surface estates (without mineral rights) that overlie the mineral estate proposed for mining.<sup>37</sup>



*If you do not file an objection, you forfeit your right to appeal LQD’s decision granting mining permit(s) to the applicant.<sup>35</sup>*



<sup>31</sup> WYO. STAT. § 35-11-406(q).

<sup>32</sup> WYO. ENV’T QUALITY COUNCIL, <https://wyomingeqc.wyo.gov/> (last visited Jan. 30, 2026).

<sup>33</sup> WYO. STAT. § 35-11-406(q); 020.0007.11 WYO. ADMIN. CODE § 21(c).

<sup>34</sup> See 020.0007.11 WYO. ADMIN. CODE § 21(e).

<sup>35</sup> WYO. STAT. § 35-11-406(q)(iv).

<sup>36</sup> WYO. STAT. §§ 35-11-406 (b)(xi), (xii).

<sup>37</sup> WYO. STAT. §§ 35-11-406 (b)(xi), (xii).

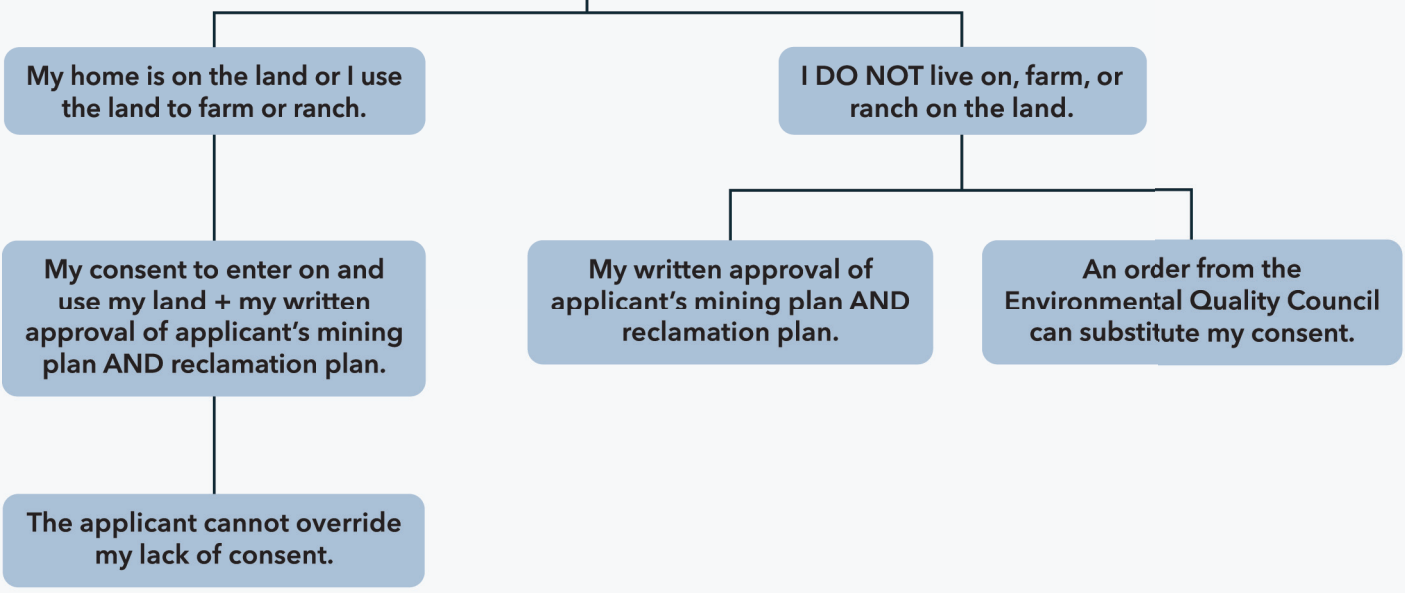


Wyoming law creates two categories of surface owners that mining applicants must obtain consent from:

- » Consent from those who qualify as **“Residents and agricultural landowners”** is effectively mandatory and cannot be overridden. These are landowners that hold title to the land surface and either: live on the land as their principal residence, personally farm or ranch the land, or receive a significant portion of their income from farming or ranching the land. Permit applicants must obtain the following from these surface owners to comply with Wyoming’s requirements to mine uranium:
  - 1) Consent to enter onto and use the land surface for the mining operation,
  - 2) Written approval of the applicant’s “mining plan,” or a plan showing the extent to which the mining operation will disturb or change the lands to be affected, and the proposed future use or uses.
  - 3) Written approval of the applicant’s “reclamation plan,” or a plan to reclaim the affected lands to the proposed future use or uses.
  
- » **Consent from all other surface landowners** – the applicant must obtain the surface owner’s written consent of the applicant’s mining plan and reclamation plan. However, if the applicant cannot obtain approval of both plans, the applicant can override these consent requirements by requesting a hearing before the Environmental Quality Council. This Council can issue an order in lieu of landowner consent if the Council finds:
  - 1) That the mining plan and the reclamation plan have been submitted to the surface owner for approval;
  - 2) That the mining plan and the reclamation plan is detailed so as to illustrate the full proposed surface use including proposed routes of egress and ingress;
  - 3) That the use does not substantially prohibit the operations of the surface owner;
  - 4) The proposed plan reclaims the surface to its approved future use, in segments if circumstances permit, as soon as feasibly possible.
  
- **Tip:** the LQD posts their decision documents on their website, located here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/land-quality/uranium/#eae-pupup-item-1723352992>.



**I own land above a proposed uranium mining operation. What does the permit applicant need from me?**





## Getting involved in the Wyoming Industrial Siting Division's and Council's licensing process:

Typically, before the Industrial Siting Council (ISC) issues a permit, it holds a hearing as part of a contested case proceeding to comprehensively review relevant information and obtain input from nearby communities.<sup>38</sup> The public can participate in the industrial siting process by attending the hearing for a proposed industrial project.<sup>39</sup> The ISC must hold hearings "at a community as close as practicable to the proposed facility."<sup>40</sup>

While anyone can attend, Wyoming law limits who among the public can become a party and how the public can participate in the hearing:<sup>41</sup>

- **Landowners** - Members of the public can become parties to the permit proceeding and speak at the hearing if they own land that is directly affected by construction of the facility and nonprofit.
- **Nonprofit participants** - Members of a nonprofit organization with a Wyoming chapter can become parties to the permit proceeding and speak at the hearing if the nonprofit promotes:
  - » the orderly development of the areas in which the facility is to be located
  - » conservation or natural beauty,
  - » environmental protection,
  - » personal health or other biological values,
  - » preservation of historical sites,
  - » consumer interests, or
  - » those that represent commercial, agricultural and industrial groups.
- **Local governments** - those local governments who will be affected by an industrial facility (and received notice and a copy of an industrial siting permit application) can become parties to the permit proceeding.
- **Everyone else** - individuals who otherwise do not qualify as a landowners and eligible nonprofits cannot become parties to a permit proceeding but are permitted to offer written comments.

<sup>38</sup> See WYO. STAT. §§ 35-12-106, 107, 110, 112 (2026).

<sup>39</sup> Contested case proceedings require implementation of the Rules of Civil Procedure and the Administrative Procedures Act.

<sup>40</sup> WYO. STAT. §§ 35-12-111(a)(i)-(iii), 35-12-110 (f)(i)-(iv); 35-12-107(d)(iv).

<sup>41</sup> See *id.* § 35-12-111.



*The right to participate in the hearing is not automatic. To be included as a party to a permit proceeding, a person or organization must file a notice of intent with the ISC in writing at least twenty (20) days before the date of the hearing and may be asked to participate in a pre-hearing meeting.<sup>42</sup> Failure to give notice gives the ISC full discretion to decide whether to allow a member of the public to participate. Affected landowners and nonprofits who wish to participate as parties in the permitting proceeding after the hearing or want to challenge the ISC's issuance of a permit in court must submit comments orally at the hearing, or they waive that right.<sup>43</sup> Local governments can challenge an industrial siting permit in court so long as they file their notice of intent to be a party within the 20-day timeframe.<sup>44</sup>*

- » **Tip:** The ISD's and ISC's meeting agendas with information for becoming a party, attending, and participating can be found online here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/industrial-siting-2/council/#eae-pupup-item-1128673614>. All public notices, including those for upcoming hearings, can be found here: <https://deq.wyoming.gov/industrial-siting-2/isd/>.

## Getting involved with local county government

Counties may hold public meetings, pass resolutions, or update zoning ordinances in response to proposals. Look at the particular county's website for information about how to get involved.

- **Where to look:**
  - » County Commissioner website
  - » Planning & Zoning Board website



<sup>42</sup> *Id.* § 35-12-111(a).

<sup>43</sup> *Id.* § 35-12-111(b).

<sup>44</sup> *Id.*




## PUBLIC RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS

State and federal government agencies must abide by public records and open meetings laws. These laws assure that the work of agencies is visible to the public to facilitate agency accountability and informed public participation. Open meetings and public comment periods invite both public input and deliberation, allowing individuals to provide the agency information to consider before the agency makes a decision, such as issuing a permit.

- Finding Federal NRC Public Records - The NRC publishes regulatory guides, licensing details and filings, inspection reports, environmental reviews, rulemaking dockets, and other documents and correspondence written by NRC staff, contractors, and licensees in an online search engine called ADAMS (Agencywide Document Access and Management System). The ADAMS search engine can be found here: <https://adams-search.nrc.gov/home>.
- Federal NRC Open Meetings Policy - NRC public meetings are intended to ensure that regulatory and technical issues are discussed in an open and transparent matter so the public can understand the applicable regulatory issues and NRC actions. With very few exceptions, NRC meetings are required to be open to the public.<sup>45</sup> Information about the NRC's public meeting policy, webcast information, public meeting schedule, and more can be found here: <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings>.
- The Wyoming Public Records Act - This Act intends to promote disclosure in the workings of government.<sup>46</sup> Accordingly, any agencies of the state, counties, municipalities and political subdivisions must make records that they produce or receive in relation to transacting public business available to the public. Wyoming does not provide a central location for people to request public records. Instead, a request should go to the official custodian at the agency that has responsibility for the record(s) you seek. The "Public Records Contact List" can be found here: <https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/3fb248b7-50d3-4712-892b-3969ba34664a/page/iXyFB?s=h6V5OTh-Gfg>. Alternatively, you can check an agency's website directly.

<sup>45</sup> The NRC's regulations allow closed meetings only in limited circumstances, such as where opening the meeting might create an unwarranted invasion of privacy, reveal confidential information or trade secrets, or result in the premature disclosure of information that would frustrate NRC purposes. See 10 C.F.R. § 9.104 (2023).

<sup>46</sup> WYO. STAT. §§ 16-4-201 through 16-4-205 (2025).

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- The Wyoming Open Meetings Law - This Law specifies that “agencies of Wyoming exist to conduct public business” and, with very limited exceptions, requires deliberations and actions to be taken openly.<sup>47</sup> It requires all agency meetings to be open to the public at all times, excepting during executive sessions, and limits the rights of a governing body to have communications outside a meeting.<sup>48</sup> The agency is required to provide notice of upcoming meetings to anyone who requests it. Additionally, an agency in Wyoming cannot impose any condition on public attendance,<sup>49</sup> and must take minutes at any public meetings. These meeting minutes are published if the agency takes action during the meeting, and members of the public can request to inspect meeting minutes under the Wyoming Public Record Law, described above.

## INFORMAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This community guide describes opportunities for public participation within formal administrative procedures. In addition, most project proponents engage in informal public outreach including town halls and informational meetings that allow community members to ask questions.



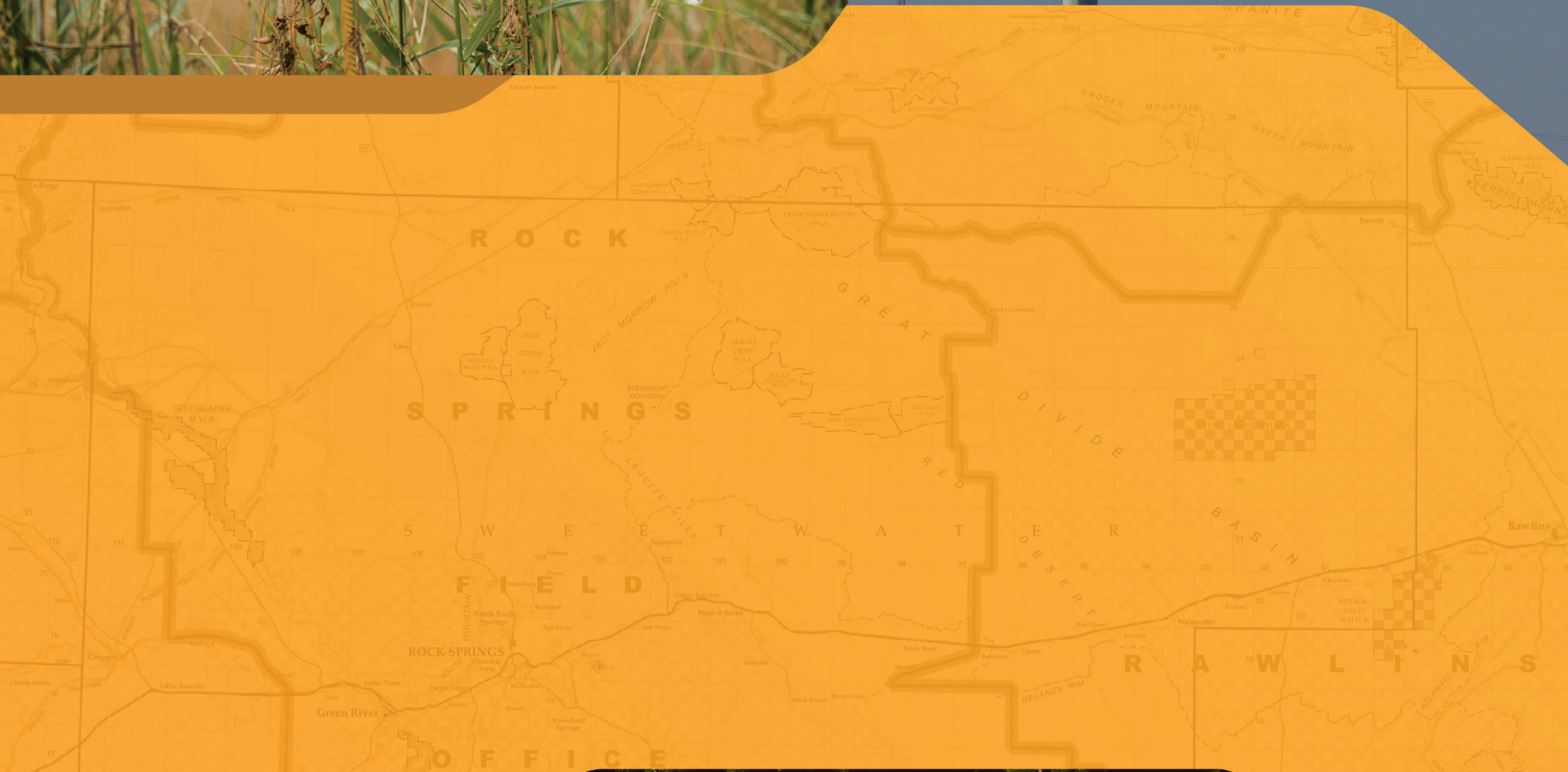
<sup>47</sup> WYO. STAT. § 16-4-401 (2025).

<sup>48</sup> *Id.* § 16-4-403(a).

<sup>49</sup> However, agencies may ask for a person’s name and affiliation if they want to be recognized at the meeting.



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