

DOE NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT, LAS VEGAS, NV 89134

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOE Issues Draft Environmental Assessment for Public Comment to Support Evaluation of Proposed Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor

LAS VEGAS, August 29, 2005 – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today issued a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for 30 days of public comment beginning August 29, 2005. The comment period closes September 27, 2005. This EA will support DOE's application to the U.S. Department of the Interior for a Public Land Order protecting a one mile wide corridor, along the proposed rail line to Yucca Mountain, from surface entry and new mining claims for a period of up to 20 years.

This corridor is on public lands and goes from the Union Pacific railhead near Caliente, Nevada, to the Yucca Mountain site. The proposed rail line would be used in the event the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorizes a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain as provided for under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended.

The Public Land Order would support DOE's ability to evaluate and preserve options for siting the proposed rail line. When issued, the order would only serve to prohibit surface entry and new mining claims within this narrow corridor. Grazing permits, public access, and other current uses of the land would not be affected.

In a separate action related to the proposed rail line, DOE is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate potential impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance of alternative rail alignments. This EIS will be issued in draft next year for public review and comment.

Comments on the draft EA should be addressed to: Lee Bishop, EA Document Manager, United States Department of Energy, 1551 Hillshire Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89134, post marked by September 27, 2005. Comments may be sent by letter to the above address, by fax to 1-800-967-0739, on the web site at: <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov>, or by phone at 1-800-225-6972.

(More)

Members of the public can also submit their comments during public meetings in Nevada. Three public meetings will be held as follows:

Monday, Sept. 12, 2005
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Longstreet Inn & Casino
Highway 373
Amargosa Valley, Nevada

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Goldfield School Gymnasium
233 Ramsey
Goldfield, Nevada

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Caliente Youth Center
U.S. Highway 93
Caliente, Nevada

Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment are available on the web at <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov>, and hard copies are available at the following public reading rooms:

U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
Office Public Reading Room
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Room 1E-190, (HR-78) FORS
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-3142

Yucca Mountain Information Center
105 S. Main Street
Goldfield, NV 89013
(775) 485-3419

Beatty Yucca Mountain Information Center
100 North E Ave.
Beatty, NV 89003
(775) 553-2130

Lincoln County Nuclear Waste Project
Office
100 Depot Avenue
Caliente, NV 89008
(775) 726-3511

Las Vegas Yucca Mountain
Information Center
4101-B Meadows Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89107
(702) 295-1312

Nye County Department of Natural
Resources and Federal Facilities
1210 E. Basin Road, Suite #6
Pahrump, NV 89048
(775) 727-7727

Pahrump Yucca Mountain Information
Center
1141 S. Highway 160, Suite #3
Pahrump, NV 89041
(775) 727-0896

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