



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

November 13, 2006

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DATE: 11/22/2006

Mr. M. Lee Bishop, EIS Documents Manager  
Office of Logistics Management  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1551 Hillshire Drive, M/S 011  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Thank you for your notification that the US Department of Energy has expanded the scope of the ongoing Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. We are responding on behalf of the U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

DOE noticed its preference for the Caliente corridor in the Federal Register, December 29, 2003; 68FR 74951 and also identified the Carlin corridor as a secondary preference. We understand the expanded scope will supplement the rail corridor analysis of the Yucca Mountain Final EIS and provide a detailed analysis of the Mina corridor, in addition to, the detailed analysis of the Caliente corridor previously selected. It is further understood that the Mina route was considered in the earlier EIS, but was excluded from detailed study because the route crossed the Walker River Paiute Tribe Reservation and there were tribal objections. However, the Walker River Tribal Council is now open to including the Mina Route in an EIS study.

We believe that DOE has adequately addressed the human health and environmental impacts that could occur from the construction and operation of a rail line to the Yucca Mountain Repository in its previous documents. As long as those same potential impacts are addressed in the new study adding the Mina corridor, we have no further comments to offer at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this expanded study. We would appreciate receiving a copy of any future environmental impact statements which may indicate potential public health impacts and are developed under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Joe".

Paul Joe, DO, MPH  
Acting Branch Chief, Medical Officer  
Chemical Weapons Elimination Team  
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health  
National Center for Environmental Health (F16)  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention