



Elko County Board of Commissioners

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ELKO COUNTY MANAGER
ROBERT K. STOKES

December 12, 2006

Mr. Lee Bishop
EIS Document 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

**RE: COMMENTS ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL YUCCA MOUNTAIN RAIL
CORRIDOR AND RAIL ALIGNMENT EIS**

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Elko County, Nevada, is providing these comments for the scope of issues, which will be addressed in the Supplemental Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor and Rail Alignment EIS.

We are additionally and formally requesting that Elko County be invited to become a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. Elko County has the resources and knowledge to assist the DOE with significant information concerning "emergency management; emergency first response capabilities; emergency medical capabilities; and local socioeconomic conditions and trends".

We support the DOE's consideration of the following legal and scientific topics:

- 1.0 Complete a comparative impact analysis of Caliente, Mina and previously considered routes. This should be based on updated environmental, land use and socioeconomic data. This report should be distributed to the impacted areas of the subject rail corridors. This report should be the foundation for any development of detailed National Environment Policy (NEPA) report and be a justification for inclusion or elimination of a particular route.

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- 2.0 Since the EIS is the basis for the Caliente, Mina or no action alternative, the EIS should include an analysis comparing the effects of rising companion segments of the Union Pacific mainline. If the DOE does not do this comparison, the EIS will probably not fully disclose or compare differentials. And the inadequate EIS may result in unanticipated or unmitigated impacts of moving nuclear waste along these routes.
- 3.0 The EIS is a support document which the DOE will use to choose between alternatives. As a support document it should evaluate in detail these items:
- 3.1 What is the radiological exposure risk to rail system employees and human populations along the entire study route of the Caliente and Mina alternatives (including companion Union Pacific mainline segments)?
 - 3.2 What is the radiological exposure risk to flora and fauna, including federally listed and sensitive species along the entire study route of the Caliente and Mina alternatives (including companion Union Pacific mainline segments)?
 - 3.3 What are socioeconomic consequences which may stigmatize a community's desirability along the proposed alternatives? These issues would include: residential and business location choices; demand for housing and prices; agricultural crops and herds produced along route alternatives.
 - 3.4 Determination of possible increased hazards resulting in specialized need for emergency first response capacity in communities on entire study route including Union Pacific mainline segments.
 - 3.5 There is a need for EIS to include possible accident scenarios which are credible, including derailling nuclear waste containers which end up in the Humboldt River or its tributaries, including:
 - 3.5.1 How long will it take to recover a shipping container from the Humboldt River?
 - 3.5.2 What are the potential adverse impacts to ad valorem, sales and use taxes with an accident and/or stigma induced scenario for each city, and county along the alternatives (which include the Union Pacific mainline segments)?
- 4.0 Impact analysis must clearly define "boundaries" and "worst case" scenarios in relation to the maximum number of shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste which will potentially be transported along the entire study route over the anticipated multi-year period of shipments with declining rail system road bed stability.

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We would appreciate your consideration of our comments and concerns in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Warren Russell".

Warren Russell, Chair
Elko County Board of Commissioners

cc: Nevada Congressional Delegation
State of Nevada, Agency for Nuclear Projects
Mr. Edward F. Sproat III
Eureka County Board of Commissioners
Lander County Board of Commissioners
Humboldt County Board of Commissioners
Pershing County Board of Commissioners