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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

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

Dear Mr. Bishop:


In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Department of Energy's Amended Notice of Intent To Expand the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV.

In the ongoing Rail Alignment EIS the Department of Energy (DOE) is analyzing alternative rail alignments within the Caliente corridor. Based on new information, DOE plans to expand the EIS to incorporate the analysis of a new rail corridor alternative, the Mina corridor. The EIS will also review and update as appropriate the environmental information and analyses for the five corridors in the original FEIS.

The NOI identifies a number of issues to be addressed to include but not limited to: wetlands, and threatened and endangered and other sensitive species; water resources; cultural resources; American Indian resources; land use and ownership; and aesthetic values. EPA agrees that the list of issues is appropriate for this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the NOI. The staff contact for the review is Marthea Rountree and she can be reached at (202) 564-7141.

Sincerely,


Anne Norton Miller
Director
Office of Federal Activities