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RRR000395

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1551 Hillshire Drive, M/S 011  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

December 18, 2007

Attention: Ms. Jane Summerson

RE: Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada, DOE/EIS-0369D ( the DEIS).

Dear Ms. Summerson,

The Esmeralda County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the DEIS. We have approved this letter and read the contents into the record on this date, December 18, 2007 for submittal to DOE as our preliminary comments on the DEIS.

We intend to provide additional detailed comments prior to the public comment closing date of January 10, 2008. However, with the following comments being of extreme importance to Esmeralda County, we want to express these initial concerns and comments at this time.

- 1 [After reviewing the DEIS, we note there are significant factual mistakes in the comparison of potential impacts between alternative segments 3 and 4. We believe that when comparing the Goldfield alternative segments 3 and 4, the figures used for the numbers of private parcels, mining claims, and impacts are not accurate. As noted below, we intend to submit further comments detailing these errors. The final EIS must reexamine these findings.]
- 2 Further, [the final EIS should designate Goldfield alternative segment 4 as the preferred alignment to ensure the future exploration, development and mining of the heavily mineralized lands within alternative 3.

Additionally, Goldfield segment 4 is the closest route to Silver Peak, which would be an advantage to Chemetall Foote Corp. for shipping and receiving materials for their plant operations in Silver Peak.

Finally, Goldfield alternative segment 4 has a large differential financial and economic benefit to Esmeralda County over the other three Goldfield alternatives, a matter of enormous importance to our impoverished county.

For these reasons, and more, Esmeralda County residents and officials have, since 2004, submitted written and verbal comments to DOE on numerous occasions stating very clearly that the western side of Goldfield (Goldfield alternative segment 4) is overwhelmingly our preferred route for a railroad passing through our county. However, the EIS gives no consideration to Esmeralda County for past comments and preferences when designating Goldfield alternative segment 3 as the preferred alternative in the DEIS.]

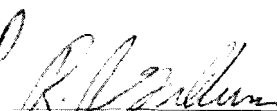
We have instructed our Esmeralda County Repository Oversight Program Director and our consultants to fully document the research data we intend to submit with our future comment to the DEIS.

Esmeralda County appreciates your consideration and looks forward to working constructively with DOE on this important national project.

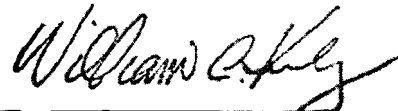
Sincerely,



Nancy Boland  
Chairman



R. J. Gillum  
Vice Chairman



William Kirby  
Commissioner

CC: Edward Sproat  
Gary Lanthrum  
Ned Larson  
Bob Lupton  
Nye County NWRPO