

CALIFORNIA VALLEY MIWOK TRIBE

10601 Escondido Pl., Stockton CA 95212 Bus: (209) 931-4567 Fax: (209) 931-4333
<http://californiavalleymiwoktribe.us> or <http://www.californiavalleymiwoktribe-nsn.gov>



RRR000751

January 8, 2008

Ms. Jane R. Summerson
Mr. Lee Bishop
Environmental Impact Statement Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Re: Comments on draft Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and draft Nevada Rail Corridor / Alignment Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Summerson and Mr. Bishop,

In preparing my response to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) draft Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and draft Nevada Rail Corridor /Alignment Environmental Impact Statement, I have identified several issues regarding both documents that should be addressed by the DOE in the course of developing both Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

- 1 [Using the Yucca Mountain site to 'dispose' of nuclear waste is a very risky and therefore an unacceptable choice as a nuclear waste repository. Geological fault lines run through and near the Yucca Mountain area. Yucca Mountain is extremely unstable to be used as a site for nuclear storage with the unpredictable weather and geological changes that are expected in that area.]
- 2 [Yucca Mountain has been and continues to be a sacred and beloved site for thousands of years to the local Native American tribes. The Timbisha tribe and other Western Shoshone tribes have and continue to conducted spring renewal ceremonies on Yucca Mountain, on the western portion where they are still able to access entry. The SEIS also fails to mention the ongoing dispute and litigation involving the United States' violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the Western Shoshone, which clearly defines territorial borders, which clearly defines territorial borders for their nation of Newe Sogobia as well outside the proposed land withdrawal. This treaty was fully ratified by Congress, and is legally "the supreme law of the land."


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In April of 2004, the United Nation's Committee to End Racial Discrimination upheld the Shoshone claim in a record decision, and their declaration clearly identifies the Yucca Mountain Repository as one of several ongoing serious human rights violations by the United States against the Western Shoshone Nation. There are serious risks associated with the 'disposing' and transportation of nuclear waste. One of the most deadly waste materials on earth, nuclear waste should be stored on-site, in retrievable casks, and not transported across the country.

There is an extremely high likelihood that there will be adverse impacts to the drinking water supply, impacts from truck transportation of nuclear waste, socio-economic impacts to cultural resources, and environmental justice issues. A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain creates a false sense of security for using nuclear energy while we should be focusing on energy sources.

Overall, the research on this site clearly shows that storing nuclear waste in this area is not safe or ethical and I do not wish to see this project carried out. For these and other reasons, Yucca Mountain is unacceptable as a nuclear waste repository.]

Sincerely,


Silvia Burley, Chairperson

Cc: Western Shoshone Defense Project