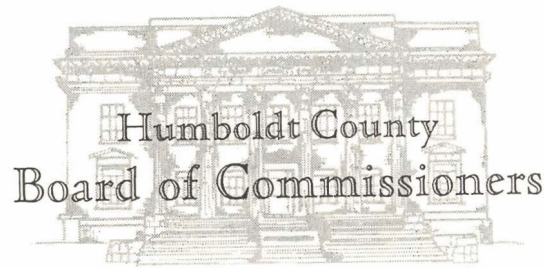


060057

County Commissioners:

**JOHN H. MILTON III**, *Chairman*  
**TOM FRANSWAY**, *Vice Chairman*  
**CHUCK GIORDANO**  
**DAN CASSINELLI**  
**GARLEY AMOS**



County Administrator:  
**BILL DEIST**

COURTHOUSE, ROOM 205  
50 W. FIFTH STREET  
WINNEMUCCA,  
NEVADA 89445  
Phone: (775) 623-6300  
Fax: (775) 623-6302

December 4, 2006

Mr. M. 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, Nevada 89134

Re: Comments on Issues to be Addressed by the Supplemental Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor  
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Bishop:

The Humboldt County Board of Commissioners wishes to comment on some of the critical issues which should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement comparing the Mina Rail Corridor with the Caliente Rail Corridor for transportation of 9000 shipments of spent nuclear fuel to the Yucca Mountain repository over the next 24-year period.

The Commissioners are concerned that the proposed Mina Route will pass through the majority of northern Nevada communities in addition to the cities of Reno and Sparks. While Humboldt County has been increasingly successful in attracting the diversified business development necessary for a stable economic future, the socio-economic impact of 375 nuclear waste shipment per year passing through our communities could very negatively affect the desirability of the area for both residential and business purposes, with the concomitant effect of depressing housing demand and prices, sales of locally produced agricultural products, and other commodities produced along this proposed route. The desirability of the County as a tourist destination could be very negatively impacted. The fiscal consequences of depreciated land and housing, sales and tax revenues along the proposed Mina Route corridor could be devastating to the affected Counties.

In addition, the fiscal consequences to these counties of the increased emergency response capabilities necessary along this proposed corridor, as well as the cost relative to an incident or accident involving transportation of the spent nuclear fuel could be enormous.

Radiological exposure risk to both the resident and tourist populations associated with these shipments, with or without accidents, must be evaluated, in addition to the exposure risk to railroad workers. There is also the potential exposure risk to wildlife and plant species along the route as well as to agricultural animals which must be taken into account.

The Mina route follows the Humboldt River from near its headwaters through its entire length and also passes Rye Patch Reservoir in addition to the Truckee, Carson and Walker Rivers. The potential for radiological contamination of these river systems as well as irrigated farmland in these areas must be considered. Water quality considerations for these rivers and their tributaries along the entire study route must be assessed, under both incident-free and accident conditions.

It is the opinion of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners that the Mina Rail Corridor has a far greater risk in its potential to negatively impact a much larger population, more water resources, recreational and wildlife habitats, and privately owned land than the Caliente alternative. In considering these risks, the comparative analysis should consider worst case scenarios as well as expected impacts along the entire study route. We would once again request that public scoping meetings be held in all affected communities so that the people concerned will have input on these critical issues which have the potential to so greatly impact our communities for many years to come.

We have reviewed the submission from the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority, of which we are a member, and support Dr. Baughman's referenced comments.

The Board appreciates your consideration of our concerns and requests outlined in this letter. Should you have any questions regarding our concerns, please feel free to contact Bill Deist, Humboldt County Administrator at (775) 623-6300.

Sincerely,



John H. Milton III  
Chairman,  
Humboldt County Board of Commissioners

JHM/kb