



United States Department of Energy

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DOE Adds Additional Scoping Meeting and Extends Comment Period for the Environmental Impact Statement for Rail Line to Yucca Mountain

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAS VEGAS, October 31, 2006 – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has scheduled a sixth public scoping meeting in Reno, Nevada, and has extended the public comment period to December 12, 2006, in connection with DOE's intent to expand the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS to include the study of a new rail corridor alternative in addition to the Caliente Rail Corridor.

The meeting provides the public the opportunity to meet with project officials and to discuss issues concerning the newly proposed Mina Rail Corridor, including the process for developing an environmental impact statement. The Mina route was among those considered in the Yucca Mountain Repository EIS, but was eliminated from detailed study because the route crosses the Walker River Paiute Tribe Reservation. The tribe had informed DOE in a 1991 letter that it would not allow nuclear waste to be transported across its reservation.

In May 2006, the Walker River Tribal Council informed DOE that, while it had not decided to allow nuclear waste shipments, the tribe would be open to including the Mina route in an EIS study. The tribal council indicated that such a study would afford it the information it needs to make a more informed, final decision on the matter.

The six public scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, November 1, 2006
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Longstreet Inn & Casino
Highway 373
Amargosa Valley, Nevada

Wednesday, November 8, 2006
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Caliente Youth Center
U.S. Highway 93 North
Caliente, Nevada

Monday, November 13, 2006
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Goldfield School Gymnasium
Hall & Euclid
Goldfield, Nevada

Tuesday, November 14, 2006
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Hawthorne Convention Center
932 E Street
Hawthorne, Nevada

Wednesday, November 15, 2006
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Fallon Convention Center
100 Campus Way
Fallon, Nevada

Monday, November 27, 2006
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
UNR – Lawlor Event Center
1500 North Virginia St.
Reno, Nevada

(More)

The scoping meetings will be conducted in an open meeting format without a formal presentation by DOE. The public can attend the meetings at any time during their scheduled hours and will have the opportunity to submit written comments or offer comments verbally to a court reporter. The open format increases the public's opportunity to comment and have one-on-one discussions with DOE representatives involved in developing the Supplemental Rail EIS, as well as transportation planning in general. The comment period, which began on October 13, 2006, has been extended to 60-days in length and ends on December 12, 2006.

Additional information on the Supplemental Yucca Mountain EIS or the repository program in general, is available on the Internet at www.ocrwm.doe.gov under the caption, "What's New." If you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting, please call, toll-free, 1-800-225-6972 at least 24 hours in advance. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please write or fax your comments by December 12, 2006, to: 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, NV 89134, telephone 1-800-967-3477, facsimile 1-800-967-0739. You can also request more information and e-mail comments via the Internet at www.ocrwm.doe.gov.