



MINERAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GOVERNING BOARD FOR THE TOWNS OF

HAWTHORNE, WALKER LAKE, LUNING

AND MINA

LIQUOR BOARD AND GAMING BOARD

April 8, 2004

Dr. Margaret S. Y. Chu
Director, OCRWM
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Chu,

Although your instructions for examining potential railway routes to Yucca Mountain restricted study of any route not included in the EIS, the Mineral County Board of Commissioners encourages you to consider two additional rail routes. Mina 6 and the Mina 6A option, as identified in the Department of Energy's Preliminary Rail Access Study dated January 1990, offer advantages in terms of total cost, construction feasibility, and overall environmental impacts. The Mina options would include existing track and previously abandoned rail bed that extended nearly to Yucca Mountain. The Mina options and use of the northern Union Pacific branch line also provides another major advantage in that all nuclear shipments can bypass the Salt Lake City, and Denver metropolitan areas.

The Mineral County Board of Commissioners resolved to support the further study of the feasibility of the Mina option rail routes through Mineral County. Use of the existing line from Hazen through Thorne and the construction of new track south to Yucca Mountain are substantially less expensive than the preferred routes that are now under consideration.

The Mineral County Board of Commissioners believes the Mina rail options provide the greatest advantage in terms of cost and public safety. We would ask you to consider the Mina route in your upcoming evaluation of transportation options for Yucca Mountain. A copy of our resolution is included herewith. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Wadlow", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Wadlow, Chairman
Mineral County Board of Commissioners

CC: W. John Arthur III



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MINERAL STATE OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE AND SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL IN THE EVENT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS MANDATES DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGH-LEVEL WASTE REPOSITORY OR INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY WITHIN THE STATE OF NEVADA

WHEREAS the nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 as amended designates Yucca Mountain, located in Nye County, Nevada as the only site for consideration as the Nation's repository for high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel; and

WHEREAS the Department of Energy has identified preferred rail corridors without full consideration of environmental impacts, associated construction costs, and all reasonably available alternatives. Several routes including the Mina 6 and Mina 6A routes identified in the Preliminary Rail Access Study dated January 1990, prepared by the United States Department of Energy, offer advantages in terms of lower construction costs, total route length, and associated environmental impacts.

WHEREAS the Board of Mineral County Commissioners is responsible to ensure that any and all impacts upon the environment, the infrastructure, the economy and/or the lifestyle of Mineral County residents are fully assessed and that appropriate requests for mitigation of such impacts are submitted to the federal government on all relevant matters including but not limited to; medical services, early warning systems, safety of the public and emergency response; and

WHEREAS the Board of Mineral County Commissioners is aware that research has shown that rail transportation is the safest method of transporting radioactive waste and recommends that transportation by trucks on generally used public highways and/or through towns within Mineral County be minimized and follow all regulations and guidelines including Federal and State requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any potential infrastructure and economic impacts that may be brought about as a result of the risks to Mineral County because of the transportation of nuclear waste be maximized and that all possible measures and precautions are taken to ensure that risks are minimized, and any rail spur developed be available for commercial use;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Mineral County Commissioners joins with other Nevada governmental entities to continue diligent studies regarding the feasibility of transporting and/or storing high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel in the state of Nevada.

FINALLY, the Mineral County Board of Commissioners declares and reiterates that nothing in this Resolution is intended or should be construed to endorse the storage of nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel or disposal facilities within the State of Nevada. The sole purpose of this Resolution is to inform the U.S. Congress of Mineral County's findings and determinations of the comparative safety concomitant appropriateness of the selection of these routes now or may in the future be considered for transportation of high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel through Mineral County.

Ayes: Commissioner Kevin Wadlow
Commissioner Richard Bryant
Commissioner Nancy Black

Nays: None

Attest: Debra J. Wadlow

Dated: April 8, 2004