State of Nevada
Perspective on the
U.S. Department of Energy
Proposed Nevada Rail Line

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Overview

• Current Rail Issue Forums
• Nevada Transportation Safety & Security Recommendations
• Proposed Caliente Rail Line
• Nevada Concerns about Caliente Corridor
• Selected CPCN Issues – State of Nevada
• Selected CPCN Issues – Other Parties
Current Rail Issue Forums

• Surface Transportation Board – DOE Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Filed March 17, 2008

• Nuclear Regulatory Commission – DOE Yucca Mountain Repository License Application (LA) Filed June 3, 2008

• Department of Energy – Supplemental EIS for Yucca Mountain Repository, and Final EIS for Nevada Rail Alignment, Issued June 16, 2008 (Note SEIS incorporates by reference key portions of the Rail Alignment EIS)
Nevada Transportation Safety & Security Recommendations to DOE

- Oldest Fuel First
- Mostly Rail (65-75%)
- Dual-Purpose Casks
- Dedicated Trains
- Full-scale Cask Testing (Regulatory & Extra-regulatory)
- NEPA Process for Selection of Rail Spur
- WIEB “Straw Man” Routing Process
- Sec 180(c) Program Rulemaking
- State Regulatory Enhancements (Safety & Perception)
- Terrorism and Sabotage Concerns

*Human Factors Management*
Proposed Caliente Rail Line
The representative routes identified in the SEIS would traverse 836 counties with a 2005 Census Bureau estimated population of 161 million persons.
Nevada Concerns
1995 Criteria for Rail Spur Evaluation

- Impacts on the human environment, with particular attention to public health and safety and impacts on highly populated areas
- Engineering feasibility, with particular attention to mountain crossings, seismic hazards, and surface flood hazards
- Impacts on critical environmental resources
- Cost of construction, predictability of costs
- Right-of-way acquisition, avoidance of private lands
- Impacts on Native American lands and cultural resources
- Potential conflicts with U.S. Air Force
- Economic development costs and opportunities, addressing both standard and special (risk-induced) socioeconomic impacts
- Specifically address the potential impacts and risks of rail shipments through Las Vegas on UP mainline
Caliente Corridor Fails Nevada Criteria

- White River, Timber Mountain Pass
  Feasibility, Safety, Cost, Environmental Resources

- Garden Valley, Golden Gate
  Feasibility, Safety, Cost, “City”

- Cow Canyon, Reveille Valley
  Feasibility, Safety, Cost, Cultural Resources

- City of Caliente, Lincoln County
  Community Impacts, Limited Economic Benefits
In Addition to Trains, 1-2 Trucks per Week through Metro Las Vegas to Yucca Mountain

Located in Las Vegas within 0.5 mile (800 m) of UPRR Route to Caliente:
- 95,000 Residents
- 34 Hotels, 49,000 Hotel Rooms
- 40,000 Visitors & Workers

Rail Casks through Las Vegas to Yucca Mountain via Caliente:
Minimum – 8%  Maximum – 79%
Selected CPCN Issues Raised by State of Nevada

- Procedural Issues
- Lack of Shared Use Decision
- Lack of Operating Plan and Safety Integration Plan
- Selection of Caliente Corridor
- Consideration of Mina Corridor
- Evaluation of Shared Use Impacts
- Evaluation of Radiological Regions of Influence
- Evaluation of Impacts on Current Users of Land
- Evaluation of Terrorism and Sabotage
- Evaluation of National Rail System Impacts
- STB NEPA Responsibilities
Selected CPCN Issues Raised by Other Parties

- Access to Public Lands
- Aesthetic Impacts (“City” installation)
- Dedicated Trains (Mandatory Use)
- Emergency Services
- Impact Mitigation (Ranching, Access, Water Use)
- Intermodal Facility (Caliente)
- Native American Impacts
- Oral Hearing
- Public Participation
- Through-Line Alternative and/or North-South Rail Connection
Next Steps

- STB Finance Docket 35106
  - NEPA Process
  - Potential litigation
- NRC Docket No. 63-001
  - Licensing contentions
  - NEPA Process
  - Potential litigation
- DOE Rail Alignment NEPA Process
  - Potential litigation following issuance of a Record of Decision for the Caliente Alignment