



James Mutton <mutton@pahrup.com> on 10/01/99 05:21:21 PM

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To: EISRYM/RWDOE

cc:

OCT 01 1999

Subject: Comment on Draft EIS

Please consider this as an official comment to the Draft EIS. My comment is in regard to a proposed rail line (the Jean Corridor) running to the east of Pahrump, presumably along the alluvial fan from Mount Charleston.

Pahrump is one of the fastest growing towns in the country and its population, now over 30,000, is expected to rise dramatically in only a few years. Large new developments are already in the construction stage, and a four-lane highway (State HWY 160) has eased the commute to Las Vegas, making it potentially one of the largest communities in Southern Nevada.

Given these facts, any consideration of a rail line carrying high-level radioactive waste near Pahrump must be taken very seriously, and the placement of the line and the risks involved must be carefully analyzed. For safety as well as for aesthetic reasons, a rail line along the fan east of the town may not be the best placement, and/or a rail line near Pahrump may not present acceptable risks over the long time periods involved. If it is determined that a rail line presents acceptable risks from a safety standpoint, that line should be considered for multiple transportation uses for the benefit of Pahrump and, almost certainly, access is more feasible if the line is placed to the west of Pahrump, probably nearer the Von Schmidt survey line near the California border.

Therefore, I would request that the DOE, in its planning for possible high-level waste transportation by rail near Pahrump to the Yucca Mountain storage site, take into consideration the following:

1. General risks to the population of a large and growing community
2. Placement of the rail line in consideration of
 - a) Safety
 - b) Aesthetics
 - c) Multi-use for the town's benefit

I would further request that the DOE also consider that the citizens of Pahrump, through the elected Town Board and also through the Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities, participate in such potential planning, review any relevant material related to this planning on an on-going basis, and provide input to the DOE on this matter.

I would note that there is already an existing Nuclear Waste Advisory Board to the Town Board which consists of several highly qualified individuals. This board and the Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities can provide valuable input and review for the DOE's efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

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