

**YUCCA MOUNTAIN HEARING PRESENTATION****JOHN GOSS**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2000***Assistant County Administrator*  
*San Bernardino Co.*  
*(909) 387-4700*

1 Good afternoon. I hope your initial plans not to hold a hearing in San Bernardino County, through which you plan to transport spent high-level nuclear fuel and waste, doesn't reflect a lack of interest and concern over the potential impacts of this transport on our county.

2... We are appreciative that this hearing has been scheduled here in the County and that the comment period has been extended. This is particularly important due to the size of San Bernardino County, which is twice as large as many states with 20,000 square miles, and the fact that hundreds of miles of interstate and other highways cross this county. We also abut the southern portion of Nevada and expect to be the gateway for much of the waste going to Yucca Mountain. We expect that high level nuclear waste will be transported through this county as part of your proposal, and we are deeply concerned about potential significant consequences and impacts that an accident, sabotage or other adverse event could have on our County. While the risk of an accident may be small, the result of even one accident could have enormous and grave consequences on the portion of the County where the accident occurred. We are not talking about an oil spill and fire. This would have long-term, widespread devastating effects on our County.

If the Federal Government cannot guarantee zero tolerance against the risk of accident in the transport of high level radioactive waste across our County, then this project should not be approved and should not proceed.

We are deeply concerned that the EIS inadequately and only superficially evaluates the danger of transporting spent nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. The waste is controlled and supervised where it is currently located, such as at San Onofre. It will be controlled and supervised at Yucca Mountain. A good deal of that control and supervision is lost, however, once the fuel and waste is placed on or in a truck or a railroad car. Hence, it is critical that extreme measures are taken to protect this high level radioactive waste during transport across our County.

And yet, we find precious little evaluation of this risk in the EIS. It is only discussed in general terms. This gives us very little assurance that an

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accident during transport will not occur, and how an accident will be mitigated if it does occur.

The EIS is deficient in its current approach, which fails to address the possible consequences of transportation over plausible specific routes that are currently known or reasonably predictable. This type of evaluation is critical to local jurisdictions such as San Bernardino County and should not be deferred until some uncertain future point in time.

The potential for release of high-level radioactive materials through accidents or deliberate acts of sabotage are of grave concern to this County. The implications are far reaching and are only minimally addressed in the EIS.

We urge you, we implore you to place this process on pause, and undertake the needed detailed analysis of the transport of nuclear waste so we can achieve a level of assurance that our homes, our schools, our churches, for that matter, our whole living environment, is adequately protected in the years to come.