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Ms. Robin Sweeney  
EIS Document Manager  
Office of National Transportation  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
US Department of Energy  
1551 Hillshire Drive  
M/S 011  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Dear Ms. Sweeney.

COMMENTS FOR YUCCA MOUNTAIN CALIENTE RAIL CORRIDOR EIS SCOPING  
PROCESS.

I am Gracian Uhalde. I am a rancher who ranches in Lincoln and Nye Counties. I and my sons represent the third and fourth generation of Uhalde's who ranch these lands.

Some years ago, Congress arbitrarily selected Nevada and the Yucca Mountain site as the place to send high level Nuclear waste. Late last year, DOE arbitrarily selected the Caliente Rail Corridor over other rail lines.

The Interior Department, on New Year's eve and at the request of the DOE, published a withdrawal notice for some 300,000 acres of BLM lands, including lands I and my family have ranched for years and years. DOE has spent 20 years and billions of dollars on this project, yet no one from DOE talked to me about it. To the best of my knowledge, no one has talked to any of my ranching neighbors.

Shortly after the first of the year, I wrote Secretary Abraham and invited him to come to my ranch and tell me what this means to me, my ranch, and my family. He did not answer my letter.

DOE has all the information, and little of relevance to me and my ranch has been shared with us. You concluded that the Caliente rail line is the preferred route. How this decision was reached, what was evaluated, what may have been excluded or ignored -- all remains "off the record." How then, can you expect me or my sons to submit comments to your process that have any real meaning?

You may convince yourselves and your agency that this process has integrity, but sadly, it does not.

DOE will undoubtedly tell Congress and the Courts that it listened to the ranchers. In reality, because DOE withholds so much, our comments

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are necessarily without significance or meaning.

This process is premature.

It's not ready for "prime time."

I recommend that DOE consider the following.

(1) Tell the Secretary that my invitation still stands. Since no one working for the Secretary will reveal what DOE is doing and how it arrived at decisions, then maybe he will.

(2) Withdraw this notice and comment period. DOE should sit down and disclose their decisions to date, how they were made and what they mean. That should come before ranchers are told that comment days and times are specified.

Finally, given the above, this process lacks integrity and legitimacy. It should be halted.

I close with a question. Why is my country doing bad things to good people?



Gracian Uhalde

