

Comments to Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(Yucca Mountain Project)

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The Moapa Band of Paiutes have the following comments:

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Trust Responsibility, to the tribe.
- Spiritual, Social and Cultural concerns.
- Performance test of the materials that will be used to construct the Project.
- Performance test of the materials used for shielding, of radioactive material.
- Transportation of Radioactive Waste to the repository.

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The Nuclear Regulatory has Trust Responsibility to The Moapa Band of Paiutes. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not yet acknowledged this very important issue. The tribe feels this responsibility as being very important in that we feel that with this relationship, we would be given all the information we need to make well informed decisions.

The tribe has deep concerns on the issues of Spirituality, Cultural and Social impacts to the future of the tribe. There has not been any studies on the impacts of the project on the issue of Spirituality. The tribe has brought forth this issue many times and we always get the same response, which is no response. The project has been given information on the project site, concerning Cultural issues, and the tribe has been given the response that "we will do what we can to protect your concerns". I'm not sure if the project really gets the thought that the cultural impacts are not just at the site, but also in and around the perceived transportation corridor, since the project does not have a real transportation corridor. Social issues are also not addressed.

The Moapa Band of Paiutes has sent representatives to many meetings and at one such meeting a comment made by an attendee, was that a performance test was done on some cladding material and the material that was supposed to last for hundreds of years only would last for ten years, according to the study. That statement has caused great concern.

Transportation of the radioactive waste across tribal lands and its impacts to the tribe and its culture has never been studied. The potential of impacts include:

1. Dessimation of the tribal government, economic impacts to the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza. The Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza is the tribe's most important source of income. Any impacts to this business would have very deep impacts on the tribe's economic future.
2. Impacts to the children in getting to school. The children attend school off the reservation which are located in Overton (Mack Lyon Middle School) and Logandale (Moapa Valley High School)

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3. Social impacts on the tribe and surrounding Southern Paiute people.
The tribe attends social functions off the reservation and other tribes visit the reservation for social functions. For instance other tribes from other states, visit the tribe for funerals where they visit family and friends. These visitations more often than not are the only time that we may get to visit and socialize with our relatives.
4. Cultural impacts to the tribe.
The people go to other tribes for cultural functions i.e.: funerals. They also may need to go and get traditional medicines. There are some that still do crafts such as Basketmaking and they need to gather these materials on and off the reservation..
5. Impacts to our spirituality.
There are tribal people that still practice traditional ways. These people need to go to other places to possibly get traditional medicines and other traditional materials.
6. Impacts to our identity as a tribe and as tribal people.
As more and more nuclear waste is transported across our traditional lands the more impacts to our identity as a tribe will occur. the above mentioned impacts, as well as other impacts will also have great impact to our people. The chipping away of our identity will ultimately strip us of our identity as a unique people, with our unique way of life and traditional practices.
7. Transportation of our people the get medical attention
As the impacts of the above mentioned impacts to our people have a great impacts to the people, the impacts to the transportation of the people to get Western Medical attention will be a burden on the people's health. Also to compound this issue would be the transportation of nuclear waste on the same route that is taken to get the people to their doctor's appointment.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to address you.

Calvin Meyers, Representative
Moapa Band of Paiutes