

the Supplemental Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor and Rail Alignment EIS, and transportation planning in general.

The public scoping meetings will be held during the public scoping comment period. The comment period begins with publication of this Amended Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** and closes November 27, 2006. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable. Written comments may be provided in writing, facsimile, or by the Internet to Mr. Lee Bishop, EIS Document Manager (see **ADDRESSES** above).

Public Reading Rooms

Documents referenced in this Amended Notice of Intent and related information are available at the following locations: Beatty Yucca Mountain Information Center, 100 North E. Avenue, Beatty, NV 89003, (775) 553-2130; Esmeralda County Yucca Mountain Oversight Office, 274 E. Crook Avenue, Goldfield, NV 89013, (775) 485-3419; Las Vegas Yucca Mountain Information Center, 4101-B Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107, (702) 295-1312; Lincoln County Nuclear Waste Project Office, 100 Depot Avenue, Caliente, NV 89008, (775) 726-3511; Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities, 1210 E. Basin Road, Suite #6, Pahrump, NV 89060 (775) 727-7727; Pahrump Yucca Mountain Information Center, 2341 Postal Drive, Pahrump, NV 89048, (775) 571-5817; University of Nevada, Reno, The University of Nevada Libraries, Business and Government Information Center, M/S 322, 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89557, (775) 784-6500, Ext. 309; and the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters Office Public Reading Room, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Room 1E-190 (ME-74) FORS, Washington, DC 20585, 202-586-3142.

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David R. Hill,

General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) is announcing its intent to prepare a Supplement to the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada" (DOE/EIS-0250F, February 2002) (Yucca Mountain Final EIS). The Proposed Action addressed in the Yucca Mountain Final EIS is to construct, operate and monitor, and eventually close a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

The Yucca Mountain Final EIS considered the potential environmental impacts of a repository design for surface and subsurface facilities, a range of canister packaging scenarios and repository thermal operating modes, and plans for the construction, operation and monitoring, and eventual closure of the repository. The Yucca Mountain Final EIS also considered the environmental impacts of the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from commercial and DOE sites to the repository by two principal modes—mostly truck and mostly rail. In the Yucca Mountain Final EIS DOE recognized that these repository design concepts and operational plans would continue to develop during the design and engineering process.

Since publication of the Yucca Mountain Final EIS, DOE has continued to develop the repository design and associated plans. As now planned, the proposed surface and subsurface facilities would allow DOE to operate the repository following a primarily canistered approach in which most commercial spent nuclear fuel would be packaged at the commercial sites in multipurpose transport, aging and disposal canisters (TADs), and all DOE materials would be packaged in disposable canisters at the DOE sites. Waste packages would be arrayed in the repository underground to achieve what is referred to as a higher-thermal operating mode, and most spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste would arrive at the repository by rail.

To evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the current repository design and operational plans, DOE has decided to prepare a Supplement to the Yucca Mountain Final EIS¹, consistent with the National

¹ Coincident with this Notice of Intent, DOE is publishing an Amended Notice of Intent to prepare

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended (Pub. L. 97-425) (NWPA). This Supplemental Yucca Mountain EIS (DOE/EIS-0250-S1) is being prepared to assist the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in satisfying its NEPA responsibilities pursuant to the NWPA (Section 114(f)(4))².

DATES: The Department invites comments on the scope of the Supplemental Yucca Mountain EIS to ensure that all relevant environmental issues are addressed. Public scoping meetings are discussed below in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. DOE will consider all comments received during the 45-day public scoping period, which starts with publication of this Notice of Intent and ends November 27, 2006. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Requests for additional information on the Supplemental Yucca Mountain EIS or on the repository program in general, should be directed to: Dr. Jane Summerson, EIS Document Manager, Regulatory Authority Office, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy, 1551 Hillshire Drive, M/S 010, Las Vegas, NV 89134, Telephone 1-800-967-3477. Written comments on the scope of the Supplemental Yucca Mountain EIS may be submitted to Dr. Jane Summerson at this address, or by facsimile to 1-800-967-0739, or via the Internet at <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov> under the caption What's New.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information regarding the DOE NEPA process contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone 202-586-4600, or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a Supplemental Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor and Rail Alignment EIS (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2 and DOE/EIS-0369). That EIS will review the rail corridor analyses of the Yucca Mountain Final EIS, and update, as appropriate, and will analyze the proposed Mina corridor; it also will include detailed analyses of alternative alignments for the construction and operation of a rail line within the Mina corridor, as well as the Caliente corridor.

² Section 114(f)(4) of the NWPA provides that any environmental impact statement "prepared in connection with a repository * * * shall, to the extent practicable, be adopted by the Commission [NRC] in connection with the issuance by the Commission of a construction authorization and license for such repository. To the extent such statement is adopted by the Commission, such adoption shall be deemed to also satisfy the responsibilities of the Commission under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 * * *."