



U.S. Department of Energy



# Planning the Nevada Rail Branch Line

Presented to:  
**Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board**

Presented by:  
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**Office of National Transportation**

**February 10, 2005**  
**Caliente, NV**

# Topics to be Covered

- **Key elements of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Intent (NOI)**
- **General overview of the Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
- **Next steps in the process**



# Mode and Corridor Record of Decision

- **In December of 2003, DOE announced its preference of the Caliente corridor for potential construction of a rail line connecting the repository to existing main-line track in the state. The State of Nevada was asked for their views on the preference at that time**
- **On April 8, 2004, the DOE published its selection of mostly rail as the mode of transport, both nationally and in the State of Nevada**
- **At the same time, DOE also selected Caliente as the rail corridor in which to determine a rail alignment for the construction and operation of a rail line in Nevada**



# Notice of Intent

- **Also on April 8, DOE issued a NOI to prepare a Rail Alignment EIS**
- **Public scoping meetings held in five locations**
- **Proposed Action: Determine a rail alignment for the construction and operation of a rail line for Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and High-Level Waste (HLW) and other materials from a site near Caliente to Yucca Mountain**



# Field Surveys

- **NOI identified Caliente Corridor**
  - **Common segments**
  - **Alternatives**
- **Field investigations of common segments and alternatives are ongoing**

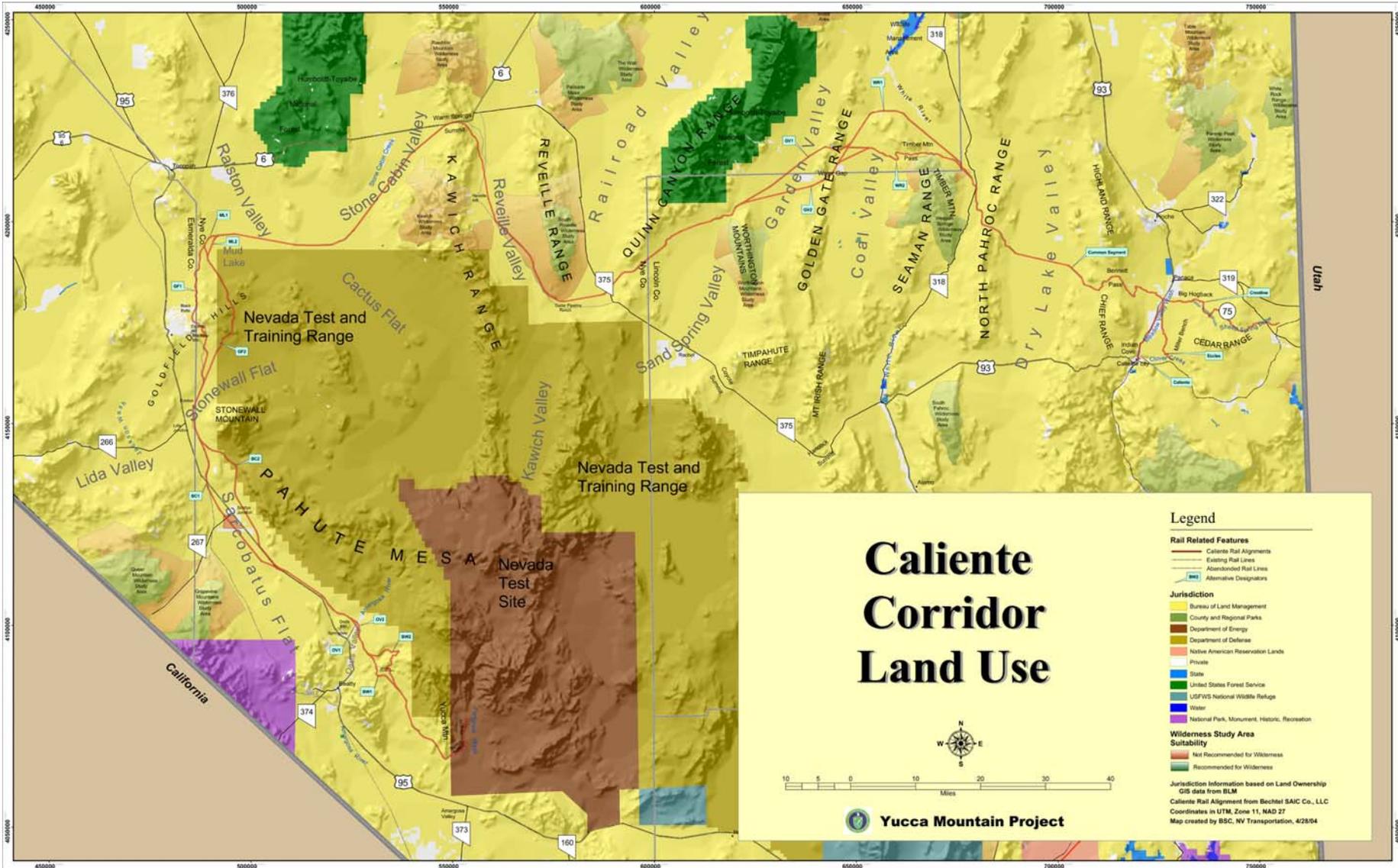


# Caliente Rail Corridor

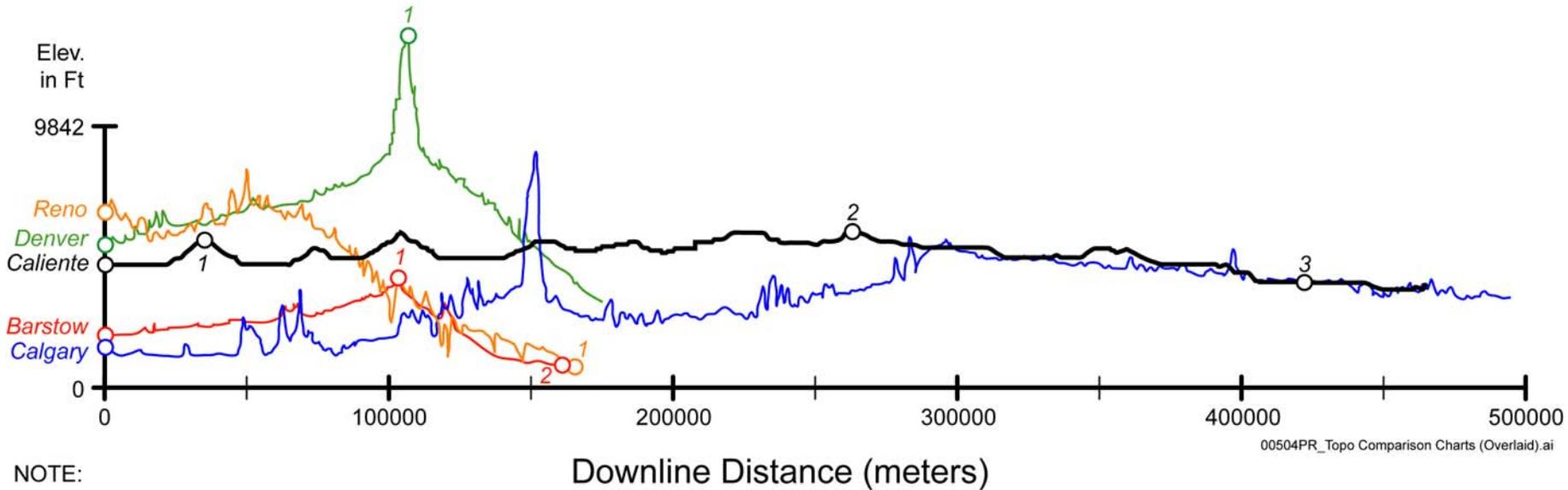
- Areas in red are the common segments where alternatives were not considered in the repository FEIS
- Areas in pink are where alternative alignments were considered in the repository FEIS
- Additional alignments proposed during scoping are still being evaluated for feasibility



# Rail Alignment Alternatives



# Caliente Corridor Composite Comparison



00504PR\_Topo Comparison Charts (Overlaid).ai

NOTE:  
All Profiles start at the Eastern most point.

Downline Distance (meters)

## LEGEND

- Caliente Rail Topographic Profile (Max Grade 2%)
  - 1 Bennett Pass
  - 2 Warm Springs Pass
  - 3 Beatty Wash
- CP - Rogers Pass Topographic Profile (Max Grade 2.2%)
- UP - Denver West Topographic Profile (Max Grade 2.1%)
  - 1 Granby
- Cajon Pass Topographic Profile (Max Grade 2.2%)
  - 1 Cajon Pass
  - 2 San Bernadino
- Donner Pass Topographic Profile (Max Grade 2.2%)
  - 1 Sacramento Area



# Field Surveys of Caliente Corridor

- **Geotechnical**
- **Aerial Mapping**
- **Hydrology**
- **Sensitive Species**
- **Cultural Resources**



# Overall Purpose of Field Surveys

- **Data and analysis will support:**
  - **Preparation of the Rail Alignment EIS**
  - **Investigation of potential sources of construction materials adjacent to the corridor**
  - **Assessment of potential mineral and energy resources within the corridor**
  - **Conceptual and final design of the rail line and structures**
  - **Engineering during construction services**
  - **Analysis of comments made by stakeholders**



# Next Steps

- 1. Evaluating scoping comments received to determine final scope for Rail Alignment EIS**
- 2. Continuing field work**

## Schedule:

**Draft Rail Alignment EIS: Spring/Summer, 2005**

**Final Rail Alignment EIS: Early FY 2006**

**Record of Decision: Early FY 2006**



# Questions

