Planning the Nevada Rail Branch Line

Presented to:
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

Presented by:
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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
Caliente Corridor Composite Comparison

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 Bernardino

- 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