Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement Information Session

Presented to:
Affected Units of Governments

Presented by:
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July 8, 2004
Las Vegas, NV
Topics to be Covered

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

- 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.

- The 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
Next Steps

- Currently evaluating scoping comments received to determine final scope for Rail Alignment EIS
- Procuring Rail Alignment EIS contractor
- Beginning field work
Field Surveys of Caliente Corridor

- Overall Purpose of Surveys
- Geotechnical
- Aerial Mapping
- Hydrology
- Additional Surveys as Required
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
Field Surveys

- NOI identified Caliente Corridor
  - Common segments
  - Alternatives

- Field investigations of common segments and alternatives have begun
Geotechnical Surveys

• Initial field survey
  - Purpose - overview the terrain
  - Two - 2-person teams in 4WD vehicles and on foot
  - Work has already begun

• Detailed reconnaissance of selected sites
  - Will require use of ATVs for remote sites
  - Investigate areas of possible major construction, e.g., bridges
  - Schedule: early August

• Investigate potential sites of construction and resource materials in August
Aerial Mapping

Purpose: place temporary "navigation" and permanent markers

Temporary markers
- Removed in 1 month

Global positioning system receivers
- Removed in 1 month

Permanent monuments
- Remain permanently or until construction complete

Start placement in early July

Expect to see low-flying aircraft
Hydrology

- Purpose: Assess hydrological conditions, e.g., washes, canyons, streams, wetlands, and flood plains
- Planned to begin in July
- Schedule details to be determined
Additional Field Surveys

- Will include:
  - Archeology
  - Sensitive Species
  - Other Surveys as needed

- Will begin in Fall 2004 and likely continue to Spring 2005
Questions