

ROUND MOUNTAIN TOWN BOARD
COUNTY OF NYE, STATE OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR TRANSPORTING LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE THROUGH NYE COUNTY TO THE NEVADA TEST SITE

WHEREAS, the Congress, the U.S. Department of Energy (“USDOE”) and/or other federal agencies have targeted the Nevada Test Site (“NTS”), located in Nye County, for disposal of low-level radioactive waste (“LLRW”); and

WHEREAS, all LLRW slated for disposal at NTS is transported into, through and within Nye County; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of Round Mountain residents and visitors is of paramount importance to the Round Mountain Town Board (“Board”) and, therefore, the Board is concerned about safety in the transportation of LLRW to a Nye County site for storage; and

WHEREAS, potential risks associated with LLRW transportation include risk of fatalities or injury from radiological exposure from normal operations, risk of fatalities or injury from radiological exposure from accidents and releases, and, risk of fatalities or injuries from highway accidents not involving radiological releases; and

WHEREAS, the current route for LLRW generated outside of Nye County to LLRW disposal sites on NTS involves use of only seven (7) miles of four-lane highway in Nye County and passes through no Nye County communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office (“DOE/NV”) has recently issued the *Preapproval Draft Environmental Assessment of Intermodal Transportation of Low-Level Radioactive Waste to the Nevada Test Site* (“IMT/EA”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the IMT/EA is to encourage DOE/NV-approved LLRW generators and their transportation contractors to use transportation alternatives that would further minimize radioactive risk and enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, the IMT/EA identifies and the most favorable intermodal site, at or near the Lincoln County, Nevada, Town of Caliente, an alternative which would involve truck transport of LLRW on Nevada State Highway 375 and US Highways 6 and 95, through Nye and Esmeralda Counties, and the communities of Tonopah, Beatty, Goldfield, and Amargosa Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Nye County Board of Commissioners recently adopted Nye County Resolution #98-21, which identified the above-referenced route through Nye County as unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, USDOE-Fernald has received a tender-offer from Tri-State Motor Carrier, Inc. (Tri-State), its LLRW transportation contractor, to change its current route for transportation of LLRW to NTS and use a route including NV 375 and US 6 and 95 through Nye and Esmeralda Counties and the communities of Tonopah, Beatty, Goldfield, and Amargosa Valley in summer, and a route involving NV 373 through Amargosa Valley in winter; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-State tender offer involves an all-truck route avoiding the Las Vegas Valley, which was identified in the IMT/EA as the least favorable option from a normal operations standpoint, from a highway safety standpoint, and among the least favorable from an accident involving radioactive exposure standpoint; and

WHEREAS, the IMT/EA failed to assess or address the impacts of LLRW transportation on Nye County emergency response organizations and emergency health care providers; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a LLRW transportation accident or release, Nye County and Round Mountain Town emergency response organizations would be the first responders; and

WHEREAS, Nye County and Round Mountain Town emergency response organizations do not have the proper equipment to respond to radioactive materials, accidents, and releases; and

WHEREAS, Nye County and Round Mountain emergency response agencies are staffed largely by volunteers, and only a few staff have the training necessary to safely respond to radioactive materials, accidents, and releases; and

WHEREAS, the Nye County emergency radio communications system has several large dead spots along the proposed alternative LLRW transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, Nye County and Round Mountain Town emergency health care facilities are not equipped to deal with injuries or human contamination associated with radioactive materials, accidents, and releases; and

WHEREAS, the IMT/EA did not address specific highway conditions in Nye County, including problems engendered by the large spans of open range and the resulting roaming of wild horses and burros on roadways; and

WHEREAS, considering the foregoing issues, the LEPC has determined that the health and safety of Nye County residents and highway travelers cannot be ensured in the event of transportation-related accidents and releases involving radioactive materials,

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

- 1. The Round Mountain Town Board opposes the transportation of LLRW generated outside of Nye County to NTS by any route other than the current route (US 95 from the southern boundary of Nye County to the Mercury entrance to NTS) until USDOE mitigates the potential impacts of LLRW transportation on the health and safety of Nye County residents, highway travelers and emergency responders.**

2. Mitigation measures—to be sufficient and appropriate—must take into consideration and address emergency response capabilities, emergency medical capabilities and highway hazards.
3. Health and safety protections and mitigation measures acceptable to the Round Mountain Town Board must be in place before LLRW generated outside Nye County is transported over any highway or road in Nye County other than US 95 from the southern boundary of Nye County to the Mercury entrance to NTS.
4. A copy of this Resolution forthwith shall be sent to USDOE, DOE/NV, Senator Harry Reid, Senator Richard Bryan, State Senator Mike McGinnis and State Assemblyman Roy Neighbors.

DATED this 10th day of November, 1998.

PROPOSED on the 10th day of November, 1998 by Dan Swensen.

VOTE: AYES: MARIANNE F FIREBAUGH NAYES: _____
JONI EASTLEY _____
BUD HANSEN _____

ABSENT: (JOHNNY ARCHULETA _____
PETE SUMMERBELL _____
 ABSTENTIONS: _____

EFFECTIVE this 10 day of November, 1998.

Round Mountain Town Board
 County of Nye, State of Nevada

By: L. C. Hansen
 L. C. Hansen, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: Marianne Firebaugh
 Marianne Firebaugh, Town Clerk