2015

States Potentially Affected by Shipments to Yucca Mountain, Nevada



Fred Dilger PhD.

Black Mountain Research

Background

On June 16 2008, the Department of Energy (DOE) released the *Final Supplemental 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* (FSEIS). The FSEIS identified and evaluated what DOE called "representative routes" that "it could use" for rail and highway shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE included state maps showing these representative routes, and tables estimating the number of rail and highway shipments through each state, in Appendix G of the FSEIS. The FSEIS assumed approximately 2,800 rail shipments (9,500 casks), and assumed approximately 2,700 highway shipments, to Yucca Mountain.

In 2008, DOE submitted the FSEIS to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in support of its application for a license to construct the Yucca Mountain Repository. The NRC Atomic and Safety Licensing Boards admitted 46 transportation-related contentions, some of which directly challenge DOE's identification of "representative routes" and regions of influence in the FSEIS. DOE terminated the Yucca Mountain project in 2010, and the NRC suspended the licensing proceeding in 2011. In August 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered NRC to resume the licensing proceeding. The NRC issued an order directing its staff to restart the non-adjudicatory portion of the proceeding in November 2013. Resumption of the full legally-mandated proceeding could occur in 2015 or 2016. In that event, DOE's identification of potential shipment routes to Yucca Mountain, required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), would be an important part of the proceeding.

In admitting the transportation contentions submitted by the States of California and Nevada, and other parties, the NRC administrative law judges wrote: "Transportation of nuclear waste is a foreseeable consequence of constructing a nuclear waste repository. ... there can be no serious dispute that the NRC's NEPA responsibilities do not end at the boundaries of the proposed repository, but rather extend to the transportation of nuclear waste to the repository. The two are closely interdependent. Without the repository, waste would not be transported to Yucca Mountain. Without transportation of waste to it, construction of the repository would be irrational. Under NEPA, both must be considered."²

In order to assess the potential impacts on States and Counties, the author of this report converted the representative routes into a format used by the Maptitude Geographic Information System software developed by Caliper Corporation. The State and County data was obtained from the Census Department. The routes were overlaid onto the State and County layers and those areas that are traversed by FSEIS routes were selected. Those areas that are traversed by the FSEIS rail and/or highway routes are identified in this report. This report was prepared for the State of Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects.

Fred C. Dilger Ph.D.

blackmountainresearch@gmail.com

¹ The FSEIS identifies the region of influence for radiological impacts of incident-free transportation as 0.5 miles on either side of the route centerline, and for radiological impacts of transportation accidents and sabotage, 50 miles on either side of the route centerline.

² NRC, Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards, Memorandum and Order Identifying Participants and Admitted Contentions, Docket NO. 63-001-HLW (May 11, 2009).

Yucca Mountain Estimated Transportation Impacts by State Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive waste

State	Rail Casks	Truck Casks	Total Casks
Alabama	1,514	857	2,371
Arizona	456	2,650	3,106
Arkansas	227	0	227
California	755	857	1,612
Colorado	6,739	0	6,739
Connecticut	216	344	560
District of Columbia	255	0	255
Florida	138	857	995
	1,672	0	1,672
Georgia			•
Idaho	2,001	4 752	2,005
Illinois	6,069	1,752	7,821
Indiana .	4,887	1,425	6,312
lowa	3,066	1,789	4,855
Kansas	3,574	0	3,574
Kentucky	2,663	0	2,663
Louisiana	233	857	1,090
Maine	60	0	60
Maryland	255	0	255
Massachusetts	415	344	759
Michigan	132	768	900
Minnesota	153	37	190
Mississippi	170	857	1,027
Missouri	3,574	0	3,574
Nebraska	6,739	1,789	8,528
Nevada	9,495	2,650	12,145
New Hampshire	110	0	110
New Jersey	276	0	276
New Mexico	257	857	1,114
New York	827	657	1,484
North Carolina	502	0	502
Ohio	2,314	657	2,971
Oklahoma	227	857	1,084
Oregon	1,307	3	1,310
Pennsylvania	2,036	657	2,693
South Carolina	1,365	0	1,365
South Dakota	44	0	44
Tennessee	2,663	0	2,663
Texas	357	857	1,214
Utah	8,740	1,793	10,533
Vermont	199	0	199
Virginia	390	0	390
Washington	1,274	3	1,277
West Virginia	255	0	255
Wisconsin	152	37	189
Wyoming	6,354	1,789	8,143
vv yorining	0,354	1,/89	0,143

Source: FSEIS (2008), Appendix G, Pages G-60 to G-150

Appendix A: Representative Transportation Routes for Individual States





























































































