

Transportation System

Q: How will spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste be transported within Nevada to the repository?

Within Nevada, the majority of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste shipments will be by rail. DOE plans to construct a rail line to connect the Yucca Mountain repository site with an existing rail line in Nevada.

DOE identified and selected the remote, 318 to 344-mile long Caliente corridor within Nevada for the study of alignment options for the potential construction of a rail line. An Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider alternative route alignments within the Caliente corridor. The final route alignment will define the path of the actual rail line. No construction of a rail line can begin until the NEPA process is complete.

DOE is working closely with local and tribal government officials and private citizens along the Caliente corridor to determine where the final railroad route alignment should be located.

