

QA:N/A



Walker River Paiute Tribe

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May 4, 2006

Gary Lanthrum
Director of Office of National Transportation Program
OCRWM - DOE
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Mailstop RW30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Walker River Paiute Tribe

Dear Mr. Lanthrum:

As we discussed last week in our meeting, the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council made the decision on April 13, 2006 to withdraw its objection to the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the transportation by railroad of nuclear waste across the Walker River Paiute Reservation. The Tribe feels there are serious safety benefits for our community if a new rail line is built to bypass the center of our small community. For many decades, high level explosives transported from the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot cross through the center of our community. New tracks would allow these explosives to circumvent our community. Further, if we allow high level nuclear waste to be transported on a new rail line across our Reservation, the Tribe may expect a complete ban of all road shipments across the Reservation if it is determined that rail shipments are safer than road shipments.

It must be clearly understood that the Tribal Council's decision was not to allow such shipments, but to only allow the completion of the EIS so that the Tribe can make a more informed final decision on this matter. Also, any railroad transportation must not occur on the existing tracks that pass through the town of Schurz, but must be over a new railroad alignment on the northern portion of the Reservation.

The Tribal Council reiterated its opposition to any nuclear waste passing through Schurz, whether by rail or truck. We understand that if rail shipments are not allowed, nuclear waste may still be shipped through the Reservation by truck. Our intent in allowing the EIS is to determine if shipments on the railroad would be less dangerous than shipments by truck through Schurz.

To participate in the process, the Tribe will require resources and funds to deal with numerous issues

Gary Lanthrum

May 2, 2006

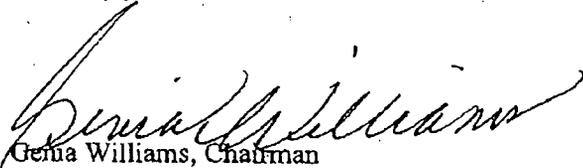
Page 2 of 2

that will arise, and that the Tribe will have to address. The Tribe will require funds to hire consultants to thoroughly address the impacts to our community and our reservation. We will also require funds to hire public relations personnel to deal with issues and questions arising from our Tribal members and from the general public. These personnel will be vital educational resources on the issues that transportation of nuclear waste will present to our Tribe and our State. The Tribe will require funds for our attorneys and lobbyists. We will also need funds to allow our personnel to travel to all necessary meetings so that we can fully participate in the EIS process.

Finally, of primary importance for our community and the general public, the Tribe will require funds to acquire adequate emergency services capabilities to deal with any problems presented by the shipment of nuclear waste. The Tribe will be forced to prepare for emergencies that your shipments will present, whether they go through on trucks or by rail. Our current facilities and equipment are insufficient to safely deal with any scenarios involving such shipments. We will need a public safety building to house all of our emergency services departments. Currently each department is housed in their own outdated and inadequate facilities.

These are the minimal requirements that the Tribe will require to allow and participate in the EIS process. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Genia Williams, Chairman

WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

Cc: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Nevada Agency
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