



MOL.20070831.0091

Department of Energy

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

QA: N/A

MAY 23 2007

LTC Hardee Green, Commander
Hawthorne Army Depot
1 South Maine Avenue
Hawthorne, NV 89415-9404

Subject: Draft Final Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Prepared for
the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot (Depot), July 2004

Dear LTC Green:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada, DOE/EIS-0369* (RA EIS) which analyses the Mina Corridor. As analyzed, the Mina Corridor has a common segment of the corridor across the Hawthorne Army Ammunitions Depot. As such, the DOE needs to analyze certain environmental information regarding the Depot. Our intention, barring any objection, is to reference the following excerpts from the *Draft Final Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Prepared for the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, July 2004*;

“The mission of the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot is to test and demilitarize munitions, maintain equipment, and provide tenant support. The installation extends over approximately 596 square kilometers (147,236 acres). The northwest land area consists of Mount Grant and includes approximately 182 square kilometers (45,000 acres). The industrial, administration, and housing area are centrally located and consist of about 1.33 square kilometers (328 acres). The remaining acreage (approximately 412 square kilometers [101,908 acres]) consists of active military storage and ordnance demilitarization areas (Hawthorne INRMP, pg v). The active military areas consist of unimproved areas that service the magazine and warehouse areas, as well as areas used for rifle ranges, test ranges and open burn/open detonation areas. These areas are surrounded by a large buffer zone of unimproved land and on the northeast side by Walker Lake.”

“There are two mining claims within the depot. Mining activities are highly regulated by the installation, requiring claimholders to provide advance coordination of work on the claims and claimholders must be escorted at all times. The mines are not active and claimholders obtain access to make

MAY 23 2007

minimal improvements required to continue the claims (Hawthorne INRMP, pg vi-vii).”

“There are no current agricultural outleases and livestock grazing is presently prohibited because of mission security issues, environmental considerations, and the need for strict water quality controls (Hawthorne INRMP, pg 2-8). Recreational areas are located on Mount Grant or at Walker Lake. The depot maintains a line of security buoys across the lake to restrict access from the lake to the south shore because the shore and south end of the lake may contain unexploded ordnance (Hawthorne INRMP, pg 2-7, 2-16).”

In addition, the Cumulative Impacts section of the RA EIS includes a statement that the Draft Final Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan exists, but uses no actual data or other information from the plan.

In lieu of citing the actual Draft Final Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan in our RA EIS, DOE intends to use this letter as our cited source.

If you do not concur or would like to provide another source or clarification, please contact Lee Bishop, the RA EIS Document Manager at 702-794-5558 or contact me at 702-794-1454.

Sincerely,



Ned B. Larson
Nevada Rail Project Director
Office of Logistics Management
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc:

Herman Milsap, US Army,
Hawthorne, NV