

Candice Robertson

Senior Advisor, Environmental Management

Office of Environmental Management U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20585

Ms. Robertson,

On behalf of the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Working Group, we appreciate the ongoing partnership between the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and our local agencies in ensuring the safe transportation and disposal of classified waste, low-level waste (LLW) and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Our working group represents emergency management professionals from across the state, including Lee Cabaniss (Elko County), Eric Holt (Lincoln County), Scott Lewis (Nye County), Paul Melendrez (Esmeralda County), Michael Dalton (White Pine County), and Billy Samuels (Clark County).

We respectfully request an increase in funding to one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per cubic foot for classified waste, LLW, and MLLW delivered and disposed of at NNSS. This adjustment is essential to strengthening emergency preparedness across Nevada, ensuring that our counties have the necessary resources to respond effectively to potential hazardous material incidents.

Nevada's geographic diversity presents unique emergency management challenges related to waste transport. Rural counties often cover vast areas with limited response resources, while urban centers must coordinate emergency planning for high-density populations and large-scale public events. Increased funding will directly support emergency response training, equipment acquisition, and resource deployment in all counties impacted by waste transport and disposal.

Hazardous materials response requires continuous training and investment in specialized equipment. Additional funding will help counties sustain fully trained HAZMAT teams, provide essential protective gear and monitoring tools, and support joint training exercises among local, state, and federal agencies. Strengthening these capabilities is crucial for routine waste transport oversight and emergency response readiness.

Nevada is home to major events that require extensive emergency management coordination, including the Las Vegas Grand Prix, Super Bowl LVIII, and the annual New Year's Eve celebration. Our recent successful collaboration with the EM Nevada Office to delay LLW shipments during these high-profile events exemplifies how proactive risk mitigation enhances public safety. Expanding this approach statewide will ensure that emergency management agencies across all counties can effectively plan for and respond to potential hazardous material incidents.

Additionally, many Nevada counties lack the adequate infrastructure to monitor and respond to hazardous material incidents. Increasing funding will allow for investments in improved emergency communication systems, real-time tracking of waste shipments, and enhanced regional coordination, ensuring a swift and effective response in case of an incident.

The Nevada Emergency Preparedness Working Group strongly believes that this funding increase will provide the necessary resources to enhance safety, improve response times, and protect our communities and the environment. We appreciate the Department of Energy's ongoing commitment to environmental management and public safety and look forward to strengthening our collaborative efforts.

We welcome discussing this request further and exploring additional strategies to enhance emergency management capabilities across Nevada. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nevada Emergency Preparedness Working Group

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Eric Holt, Lincoln County

Scott Lewis, Nye County

Paul Melendrez, Esmeralda County

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