



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 20, 2016

Mr. Skip Canfield
Nevada Division of State Lands
901 S. Stewart St, Suite 5003
Carson City, NV 89701-5246

**Subject: Proposed Expansion of Withdrawn Public Land, Central Nevada Test Area,
Nye County, Nevada; National Environmental Policy Act Review**

Dear Mr. Canfield:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is proposing to expand the existing public land withdrawal by approximately 360 acres at the Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA), Nevada, site (see enclosed regional map). This proposed expansion requires the completion of a land withdrawal application and the completion of the necessary environmental review documents for processing by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act implementing regulations [10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1021.301(c)], LM is notifying your office of our intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed land withdrawal.

CNTA is located in the Hot Creek Valley approximately 30 miles north of Warm Springs in Nye County, Nevada. Cultural resources in the Hot Creek Valley range from prehistoric artifacts to historic properties recognized for their significance in American history, consistent with guidance in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The underground nuclear test conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor agency to DOE) is one example of a property with exceptional importance in American history. The underground nuclear test at CNTA, identified as Faultless, was conducted in borehole UC-1 at a depth of 3,199 feet below ground surface on January 19, 1968. The test was performed to evaluate the area's suitability for additional nuclear testing. The test produced a structurally controlled subsidence crater with vertical ground displacements of up to 15 feet and horizontal displacements of up to 3 feet. LM serves as the custodian for subsurface resources at CNTA, and BLM serves as the custodian for resources on the surface of the land. The proposed expansion by withdrawal of an additional 360 acres of the subsurface of public land would facilitate LM's ongoing, long-term mission to protect human health and the environment by restricting public access to potentially contaminated groundwater.



Skip Canfield

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September 20, 2016

Please contact me at (970) 248-6018 or mark.kautsky@lm.doc.gov if you have any questions.
Please address any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Sincerely,



Mark Kautsky
Site Manager

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

P. Benson, DOE-LM (e)

T. Carter, DOE-LM (e)

A. Gil, DOE-LM (e)

M. Kautsky, DOE-LM (e)

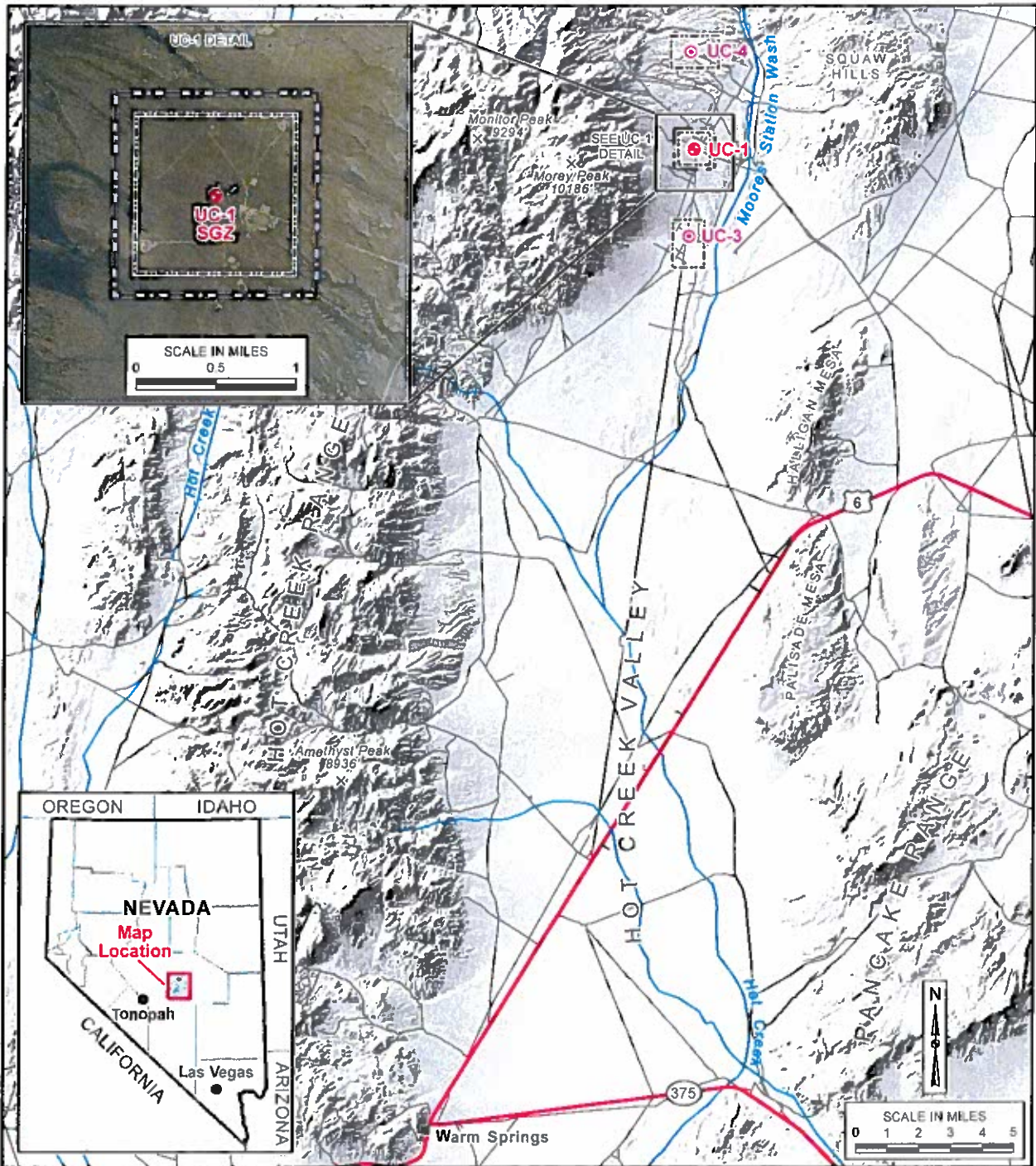
T. Ribeiro, DOE (e)

R. Findlay, Navarro (e)

K. Karp, Navarro (e)

J. Trnka, Navarro (e)

File: CNT 0120.02 (rc-grand junction)



LEGEND	
	Faultless SGZ (UC-1)
	Emplacement Boreholes (UC-3 and UC-4)
	City or Town
	Highway
	Road
	Drainage/Wash
	Withdrawal Boundary
	Proposed-Expanded Withdrawal Boundary

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT	Work Performed by Navarra Research & Engineering, Inc. Under DOE Contract Number DE-AM000421
Central Nevada Test Area, NV, Site Regional Map	
DATE PREPARED: August 2, 2016	FILE NAME: S1459400