



TEC Rail Topic Group Update

**Transportation External Coordination Meeting
April 21-23, 2004**

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Rail Topic Group Charter:

To Identify and Discuss Current Issues and Concerns Regarding Rail Transportation of Radioactive Materials by the Department of Energy.

First Established in 1997 and Operated Until 1999
Re-formed Topic Group in 2002



Rail Topic Group Efforts:

- Review Earlier Reports Completed by the Topic Group
- Identify Rail Issues of Interest
- Prepare Summary of the Rail Topic Group Report –
 ”Transportation Safety WIPP-PIG Rail Comparison”
- Circulate Annotated Bibliography of Rail Transport of
 Radioactive Material
- Prepare Draft Issue Paper on Rail Route Selection



Rail Topic Group Timeline Since Being Reactivated:

- First Meeting in Jan/02
- Conference Call- June/02
- Development of “Strawman Report” on Rail Routing- Jan/03
- Conference Call June/03
- Initial Writing Assignments Completed- Sept/03
- Compiled Issue Paper with input from Writing Group- Oct/03
- Preliminary Draft for Topic Group Review- Nov/03
- Response to Comments Matrix Prepared- Mar/04
- Revised Issue Paper Submitted to Topic Group- Mar/04
- Further Revision of Issue Paper- April/04
- TEC Meeting- April/04



Rail Route Selection Issue Paper:

Purpose

- Describe Current Rail Regulations and Practices Regarding Routing of Rail Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste;
- Identify Perspectives and Concerns
- Compare Aspects of the Current Highway Routing Regulations as They Might Apply to Rail Routing



Rail Route Selection Issue Paper:

Findings

- Improve Understanding of Current Rail Routing System
- Identify Concerns with Current Practices
- Comparative Analysis
 - Understand Operational Differences Between the Two Modes of Transportation
 - Identify Issues Associated With a Regulatory Basis for Rail Routing



Rail Route Selection Issue Paper:

Next Steps:

- Distribute Draft Rail Route Selection Issue Paper for TEC Review – May/04
- Incorporate Comments
- Finalize Issue Paper – Sept/04