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STATEMENT OF THE CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

NUCLEAR WASTE DIVISION ON THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DRAFT YUCCA MOUNTAIN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ELY, NEVADA

My name is Harry Kelman and I represent the Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning, Nuclear Waste Division. I am pleased to be here today to provide input to what we feel is an extremely important document to all Nevadans: *The Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)*. The draft EIS will be employed by the Department of Energy and others to reach conclusions about our communities and potential future impacts. It is imperative, therefore, that the public make their views known either at this hearing, or in writing prior to the February 9, 2000 comment deadline.

The National Environmental Protection Act, or NEPA, was designed to ensure that sufficient information was available prior to decisions being made on significant Federal actions. Key to this we feel is close interaction with those local governments potentially impacted by the project, they are the "experts" on their areas. They help to ensure that the information is accurate and that a relatively true portrayal of potential impacts could be provided. By doing this, the true spirit of NEPA is fulfilled.

Unfortunately, Department of Energy in preparing the draft EIS chose the route of unilaterally

...3 | involvement the draft EIS does not accurately reflect our communities and, therefore, will not
| provide a true description of impacts.

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| To correct current deficiencies, Department of Energy must incorporate information in the final EIS
| which should have been part and parcel of the draft EIS. Likewise, in order to meet the true
| objectives of NEPA potential impacts need to be evaluated - particularly regarding transportation.
| This is not the case at present. | Clark County will be providing extensive comments prior to the
| February 9, 2000 deadline. We will also work closely with the other counties to ensure that all of
| our issues are satisfactorily addressed.