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18 MR. KELMAN: My name is Harry Kelman, and I
19 represent the Clark County Department of
20 Comprehensive Planning, Nuclear Waste Division. I
21 am pleased to be here today to provide input to
22 what we feel is an extremely important document
23 to all Nevadans, the Yucca Mountain Draft
24 Environmental Impact Statement.

25 The draft EIS will be employed by the

1 Department of Energy and others to reach
2 conclusions about our communities and potential
3 future impacts. It is imperative, therefore, that
4 the public make their views known, either at this
5 hearing, or in writing, prior to the February 9,
6 2000 comment deadline.

7 The National Environmental Protection
8 (sic) Act, or NEPA, was designed to ensure that
9 sufficient information was available prior to
10 decisions being made on significant federal
11 actions. Key to this, we feel, is close
12 interaction with those local governments
13 potentially impacted by the project. They are the
14 experts in their areas. They help to ensure that
15 the information is accurate and that -- excuse
16 me -- and that a relatively true portrayal of
17 potential impacts could be provided. By doing
18 this, the true spirit of NEPA is fulfilled.

19 Unfortunately, the Department of
20 Energy, in preparing the draft EIS, chose the
21 route of unilaterally defining what should be
22 included in this document. This results in ^{very}
23 little discussion of the potential impacts from
24 the menu of transportation routing options
25 provided in the document. This should be of

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1 concern to the citizens of Ely and White Pine
2 County, as it is to the citizens of Clark County
3 and Las Vegas.

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4 Likewise, there is no discussion of
5 potential impact to Nevada's bread and butter,
6 tourism. Economic effects are narrowly defined by
7 the Department of Energy as jobs provided. This
8 is portrayed as adding a positive effect to what
9 most Nevadans would define as a negative effect
10 of a repository and nuclear waste transport.

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11 Having spent millions of dollars on
12 developing a draft EIS, one would think that more
13 coordination would have taken place with the
14 affected units of local government to ensure that
15 the information was complete and accurate.
16 Examples where information is inaccurate or
17 missing include population, environmental
18 justice, and similar issues.

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19 To be done properly, the draft EIS
20 should be reissued. Short of this, it is
21 incumbent upon the Department of Energy to ensure
22 that more accurate information is incorporated in
23 the final Yucca Mountain EIS. In doing this, it
24 is important that the Department of Energy work
25 closely with the affected units of local

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1 government in Nevada and California. The
 2 implications of this project are far too
 3 significant to not have those who will be
 4 potentially greatly affected to not be closely
 5 involved in the preparation of data and
 6 information used for decision-making.

7 White Pine, Nye, Clark and other
 8 County governments in Nevada all agree that
 9 without our involvement, the draft EIS does not
 10 accurately reflect our communities and,
 11 therefore, will not provide a true description of
 12 impacts.

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13 To correct current deficiencies, the
 14 Department of Energy must incorporate information
 15 in the final EIS which should have been part and
 16 parcel of the draft EIS. Likewise, in order to
 17 meet the true objectives of NEPA, potential
 18 impacts need to be evaluated, particularly
 19 regarding transportation. This is not the case at
 20 present.

21 Clark County will be providing
 22 extensive comments prior to the February 9, 2000
 23 deadline. We will also work closely with other
 24 counties to ensure that all of our issues are
 25 satisfactorily addressed. Thank you.

1 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. SKIPPER: Thank you.

3 THE FACILITATOR: Our next speaker is
4 Shirley Towne.

5 MS. TOWNE: I don't have any comments at
6 this time.

7 THE FACILITATOR: Okay. Thank you. Then I
8 would ask for Bill Vasconi. And he will be
9 followed by Elizabeth Risiden.