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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF ABBY JOHNSON

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MS. JOHNSON: My name is Abby Johnson. I'm the nuclear waste advisor for Eureka County, Nevada.

We're going to be making the majority of our comments at our hearing in Crescent Valley on Thursday. But there was something that we wanted to bring up here not related to rail, related to highway.

At the Ely Draft Environmental Impact Statement hearing, the folks in Ely made a good case for a deficiency in the EIS and that is that <sup>1</sup> the EIS does not look at what is known as the A and B routes, which is routes identified in a Nevada Department of Transportation study done several years ago for likely alternate routes other than interstates to take nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. Those routes are currently being used to take low level waste through Ely to Yucca Mountain from Wendover from Interstate 80, and we think that the A and B routes should be included in an analysis of routing to Yucca Mountain. We think it's likely in the reasonable foreseeable future that if Yucca Mountain were to come to be, that the A and B routes would be considered, might be used. So that's my first point.

My second point, once we're at that point, is that then we have to look at alternate routes to the A and B routes. If there is some sort of calamity, catastrophe, bad weather on the A and B routes, how are those trucks going to get to Yucca Mountain?

Well, if there's some problem south of Wendover, they might continue on Interstate 80 and take some other way down to Yucca Mountain. If there's some problem on US-6, they might go on Highway 50 in order to get over to 376 and down Big Smoky Valley to Tonopah.

The EIS doesn't talk about that at all. And it should. We think that in looking at the impacts of the Yucca Mountain project in its totality, on our county, that that's something that should be considered, and it's not in there.

And so we hope that in the final it will be. Thank you.

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