

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2000

EIS002112

TOM WARDEN

1 MR. WARDEN: Thank you. I am vice-president of the Howard Hughes Corporation, vice-president of community relations, and what our company is engaged in is the development of land holdings in the Las Vegas Valley, and we're involved in a number of projects there, one of which includes the 22,500 acre master planned community called Summerlin. So we have a pretty big staked interest in what goes on in the Valley and the continued economic health of the Las Vegas Valley.

Our corporation has looked over some of the Environmental Impact Statement and something that we believe is lacking in this statement is economic impact. I know that there's a section in here that -- that was called socioeconomic and it talked about some of the jobs that would be brought to the valley by the project and the increased load on the schools, of the children, of the workers at Yucca Mountain, that kind of thing, but that doesn't cover what -- what we were looking for, which was some kind of indication about potential negative economic impact of either the Yucca Mountain project itself and its placement in proximity to the Valley, or -- probably more immediately the shipment of tens of thousands of tons of nuclear waste. What might that do? And I know this has been brought up before, but it's what concerned us.

2 Las Vegas is after all the town that's driven largely by tourism. Tourism is a choice industry. People choose to come here because they want to. They could just as easily choose not to come here. It's the same for our business, which is development. We are building a community and people choose to live in it because they like it, it's their choice, and we'd like to keep things that way. We think that the potential for impact economically is real, and that it is there even without an accident.

Let's say this entire project is carried off over the decades that it would take to build this place and all of the shipments, some of the decades that that would take go off without a single solitary hitch. I think there would still be an economic impact because of the tremendous focus of media energy, because of the emotionality of this issue that you're seeing here today. It's a strong issue. So that's one issue that we would like to see addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement that is not in there that we could find today. If you could perhaps point it out to us, if we're wrong, the Energy Department, we would welcome you guys to point it out to us.

3 But the second thing is transportation of nuclear waste. We saw that there were eleven proposed routes and some of them involved shipping the nuclear waste flow through the Las Vegas Valley. Judging by the information that's in the summary of the Environmental Impact Statement, I think some pretty old information was being used. Metropolitan areas seem to be far short from what they are now and certainly what they will be when this thing is built.

And so the transportation issue is of serious concern to our corporation, as well. We think that would be another issue that might revolve around serious economic impact. We think without that kind of a treatment, without the economic impact statement that the Environmental Impact Statement is at this point incomplete. We're going to probably submit the written version of this, as well, but we certainly appreciate the opportunity to go on the public record. Thank you very much.