

RECEIVED  
OCT 05 1999

5 MARY ELLEN GIAMPAOLI,  
6 appeared and gave the following statement:

7  
8 MS. Giampaoli: My name is  
9 Mary Ellen Giampaoli. I'm here today speaking on  
10 behalf of the Nye County Board of Nye County  
11 Commissioners. Nye County is the cited location  
12 for this proposed repository at Yucca Mountain.

13 And although we don't have a lot of  
14 participation from the public, I will read my  
15 statement. It will be short compared to the amount  
16 of time the spent fuel will be in the Yucca  
17 Mountain repository.

18 Nye County, Nevada is the situs county  
19 for the proposed spent fuel and high-level nuclear  
20 waste at Yucca Mountain. The residents of  
21 Nye County will be those most affected by the  
22 transportation, and ultimately, the long-term  
23 disposal of the waste from the sites located across  
24 the United States.

25 The Nye County Board of County

1

**EIS000242**

1 Commissioners has taken no position, either in  
2 favor of or in opposition to a repository or  
3 interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain.  
4 Nye County recognizes that it cannot affect the  
5 outcome of decisions regarding this project. It  
6 was given no voice in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

7 The county has approached this project  
8 objectively in order to act in the best interests  
9 of the county residents. In addition to that,  
10 Nye County conducts its own independent  
11 investigations of oversights of the Department of  
12 Energy and their activities at Yucca Mountain, and  
13 we do not in any way want to affect their  
14 credibility in that matter.

15 The constituency is the residents of  
16 Nye County, and until they tell the Board of  
17 Commissioners otherwise, the County Commission will  
18 continue to remain officially neutral on the Yucca  
19 Mountain Repository Project.

20 Consistent with the position of  
4 21 neutrality, however, Nye County maintains that this  
22 proposal for repository at Yucca Mountain, should  
23 it go forward, must be done in a manner that is  
24 safe, with no added risk to the residents of  
25 Nye County.  

(2)

1

1                   Based upon our initial review of the  
2                   draft EIS, Nye County believes that the document is  
3                   inadequate, and has already called for the  
4                   preparation of a second, or a supplemental draft.  
5                   Our conclusions are based upon the county's own  
6                   data, which the county has collected using  
7                   oversight funds from the department, and its  
8                   analysis of the impacts of the proposed action.  
9                   Those analyses have been forwarded to the  
10                  department as well.

11                  Nye County has found that the Department  
12                  of Energy has not adequately addressed the  
13                  cumulative impacts, that the proposed repository on  
14                  the resources, ecosystems, or the human communities  
15                  of Nye County.

16                  The impacts of past federal actions,  
17                  including the existing residual contamination from  
18                  the conduction of more than 900 nuclear tests at  
19                  the Nevada test site, have sacrificed the  
20                  groundwater resources under more than 250 square  
21                  miles of Nye County.

22                  The withdrawal of lands from public use  
23                  for the Nevada test site for the Nevada test and  
24                  training range, part of the Nellis range complex,  
25                  and the federal management of millions of acres of

2

1 national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges have  
2 resulted in lost opportunities from those lands for  
3 the residents of the county.

4           Because of its location and  
5 characteristics, Nye County and its residents have  
6 been disproportionately impacted by past and  
7 present federal actions. Yucca Mountain will  
8 significantly add to these impacts, yet this draft  
9 EIS portrays to the decision maker that the Yucca  
10 Mountain Project is just another casual federal  
11 action with no more impact than clearing a road  
12 through a forest. Nothing could be further from  
13 the truth.

2  
(continued)

3

14           Finally, there is the question of  
15 equity. The risks posed by the spent fuel and the  
16 high-level wastes here in Idaho aren't going away.  
17 They're going to Nye County. Nye County will bear  
18 the burden of risk reduction in each of the  
19 counties where the spent fuel and DOE facilities  
20 are located, just as they must bear the legacy of  
21 more than 300 million curies of radioactivity left  
22 from the nuclear weapons testing era.

23           Once again, Nye County is called upon to  
24 host a facility that carries with it an inherent  
25 risk and stigma that will last, for all practical

(4)

3  
(continued)

1 purposes, in perpetuity.

2 How much will one county be told to do  
3 in the national interests? Nye County has  
4 faithfully served the nation's need for secure  
5 facilities for the testing and development of  
6 nuclear and conventional weapons, and has received  
7 only negligible benefits from these actions.

8 The soils and water resources have been  
9 contaminated. The water resources over large  
10 regions have been effectively taken by land  
11 withdrawals. The proposed repository at Yucca  
12 Mountain will result in further contamination of  
13 the county's groundwater resources in additional  
14 land withdrawals.

15 The adverse cumulative impacts  
16 associated with the proposed repository must be  
17 adequately mitigated. A comprehensive package of  
18 compensation and equity offsets must be put forth  
19 as part of the proposed action so that the county  
20 has the wherewithal to ensure that the long-term  
21 health and safety of its residents is protected.  
22 Anything less would be quite unfair. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. That concludes  
24 the speakers who have signed up ahead of time. Let  
25 me ask if there is anybody else in the audience who

(6)

**EIS000242**

1 wishes to make a public comment at this time. (u)

2 Yes, Judy?