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DOE Opens Las Vegas Science Center To Serve As Extended Hearing Facility for Yucca Mountain Project

- Additional Schedule Set To Receive Citizen Testimony -

Washington - In addition to the rescheduled public hearings for Pahrump and Amargosa Valley, Nevada, and in addition to further public involvement opportunities previously announced and to be scheduled for later this fall, U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced today that DOE's Las Vegas Science Center will serve as an extended hearing facility to receive official testimony regarding the Yucca Mountain Project on a daily basis from Nevada citizens, beginning Wednesday, September 26. Opportunities to provide testimony at the facility will run through the end of the official comment period.

"As I have made clear previously, I am committed to exploring new and creative ways to ensure opportunities for public input that extend well beyond both that which is required by law and that which had been planned prior to this Administration's taking office. Thus, in addition to the hearings that will take place this fall, I've directed the Department of Energy to provide this daily opportunity for meaningful public input," said Secretary Abraham.

As with all official hearings regarding Yucca Mountain, a DOE official and a court reporter will be available to receive public testimony from any citizen wishing to provide official comment. Similarly, all testimony will be videotaped and made available for public review and all comments will be considered as part of the official public record. Written testimony may also be submitted as part of the official record. The following schedule is set for citizens to provide testimony:

- Weekdays (starting Wednesday, September 26 to close of comment period)
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (court reporter break from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.)
- Saturdays; September 29 to close of comment period
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (court reporter break from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.)

The Las Vegas Science Center is closed on Sundays and Mondays. The center is located at 4101-B Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada.

TESTIMONY / SCHEDULING PROCEDURE:

- Citizens are encouraged to reserve time slots to offer testimony by calling 1-800-967-3477.
- Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes, in order to provide proper consideration to all individuals wishing to testify.
- Citizens are encouraged to arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled testimony time; citizens arriving after their timeslot has passed will be accommodated to the extent possible.
- Walk-in testimony will be accepted as the schedule permits, with priority given to those citizens who have reserved time in advance.

In addition, citizens can visit DOE Science Centers located in Pahrump, 1141 South Highway 160, and Beatty, 100 North E Avenue, to submit comment cards on the project, until the close of the comment period.

Individuals who visit the Las Vegas Science Center to provide testimony will do so in the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Reading Room. Public events and visits will proceed at the Science Center and will not interfere with the hearing sessions. Information regarding the Yucca Mountain Project can be obtained at www.ymp.gov. Citizens can also submit comments via email through the website.

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