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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Las Vegas Science Center Open to Midnight, October 19th
to Accommodate Public Input on Yucca Mountain Project**

LAS VEGAS, NV - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that the Las Vegas Science Center's hours will be extended Friday, Oct. 19, to accommodate those persons who would like to submit comments on the site recommendation consideration for a potential repository at Yucca Mountain. The comment period, which began May 4, 2001, was extended to Friday, Oct. 19, 2001, to provide citizens with additional time to comment.

The Las Vegas Science Center, located at 4101-B Meadows Lane (across from the southeast end of Meadows Mall) is open this week on Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m. until midnight.

Since Sept. 26, 2001, the Las Vegas Science Center has served as an extended hearing facility to receive official testimony from Nevada citizens. A DOE official and a court reporter have been available to record public comments.

As a reminder, 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. Walk-in testimony will be accepted as the schedule permits, with priority given to those citizens who have reserved time in advance.

Under normal hours, citizens also 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.

The DOE is also accepting comments via electronic mail (YMP_SR@ymp.gov), facsimile (1-800-967-0739) and mail submitted to: Carol Hanlon, U.S. Department of Energy, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S#25), P.O. Box 30307, North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307. Letters should be marked with "Possible Site Recommendation for Yucca Mountain." There also is a comment form on the Yucca Mountain Project's website at www.ymp.gov.

-DOE-

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