

February 3, 2000

To: Wendy R. Dixon

RECEIVED

From: Nicole Marie Wilson  
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Enclosed is my analysis of the US Department of Energy Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste facility. As an undergraduate student pursuing a career in medicine, I feel that this document poses serious health risks to everyone involved. The Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste facility should not be built when the DEIS blatantly ignores addressing the public safety threats this facility would impose if it were built.

The conclusion that the US Department of Energy (DOE) reached that supports the construction of the facility lacks substantial rationale. Surely it is preposterous to take the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) seriously when it avoided confronting the public safety issues at hand.

As a concerned citizen of the United States of America, I see the construction of such a facility as a massive accident waiting to happen with profound health-related repercussions. I hope that you think not only about the problems that will be incurred a few years down the line, but take into account the threat a facility of this magnitude would impose on America a million years down the line. Thank you for your time.

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Profound Problems with the Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement:

Comments on the  
*Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geological Repository for the Disposal of  
Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County,  
Nevada*

By

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Submitted to:  
Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager  
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To Whom It May Concern:

After reviewing information pertaining to the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Dump proposal, I am strongly opposed to the proposal for the following reasons:

- 2 A. [ The decision to proceed with the Yucca Mountain Waste Dump is arguably incorrect because the individuals who live in Nevada were consulted on the matter, but ignored. The federal government has essentially disregarded the state's right to determine its economic and environmental destiny. ]
- 3 B. [ It is arguably wrong for the government to spend thirty thousand taxpayer dollars on advertising to convince Nevadans that the Yucca Mountain project is safe since most Nevadans strongly oppose the proposal. According to the Nuclear Waste Project Office in the State of Nevada, nearly eight out of ten Nevadans oppose the construction of a Nuclear Waste Dump in Yucca Mountain [Nuclear Waste Project Office, State of Nevada. 4). ]
- 4 C. [ Building a nuclear waste dump in Yucca Mountain is arguably incorrect because this proposed site has a history of earthquakes with 32 known earthquake faults and young volcanoes in the area (Nuclear Waste Project Office, State of Nevada. 4). Furthermore, the government has yet to propose casing devises for the deposit of nuclear waste in the mountain to ensure, if it is even possible, that the nuclear waste will not contaminate the surrounding area should an earthquake or volcano occur (DEIS, 1999. 2-88). Obviously Yucca Mountain's geological landscape is far from ideal for erecting a nuclear waste dump on. ]
- 5 D. [ On account of the rising and falling of the groundwater under the mountain, it is arguably erroneous to build a nuclear waste dump in that area because the facility could flood, which would lead to contamination of the groundwater (DEIS, 1999, 8-33). ]
- 6 E. [ The government is arguably incorrect about building Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository because it has failed to consider the severity of transporting thousands of shipments of highly radioactive material across the United States for the next thirty years. Not only would Nevadans be at risk, but every individual traveling the highways and interstates along with citizens living in areas near where vehicles would be transporting these hazardous materials would also be in danger of potentially unavoidable accidents. ]

F. It is arguably impossible for the government to hypothesize about the safety of a Nuclear Waste Dump that will be around for the next million years when humans haven't even been around for a fraction of a million years.

All things considered, I believe that constructing the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Dump would be a horrible mistake due to the above stated claims. We live in a democratic country and we as citizens of this country have an obligation to ourselves as well as our fellow Americans. We must watch out for the safety of our country. By constructing the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Dump, not only will the welfare of individuals living in or near Nevada be threatened, but every American who travels the highways and interstates of these United States of America will be affected as well. The issue of nuclear waste deposit is very controversial because we lack sufficient knowledge about its affects thousands of years down the line. Therefore, I believe that it would be in America's best interests to leave nuclear waste in the cities where it originated until more is known about how to safely expose of it and it is sufficiently cooled. In conclusion, I hope that you will seriously consider the claims that I have providing in retaliation to the proposal of constructing the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Dump.

Sincerely,

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Works Cited

Nuclear Waste Project Office, State of Nevada. "Why Nevada is Opposed to Yucca Mountain". <http://www.ige.org/citizenalert/fetslts/yucca2.html>. (26 Jan. 2000)

DEIS (1999), US Department of Energy, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geological Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada*, Vol. 1, Impact Analyses, DOE/EIS-0250D, Washington, DC, US Government Printing Office.