

DK

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Yucca

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President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C 20500

Dear President Bush:

WOW! What a decision people actually think that they can store radioactive waste in Yucca Mountain! If you ask me I say ABSOLUTELY NOT! I do not feel that it is right to store radioactive waste at the Yucca Mountain site. There are three very important reasons to support my strong opinion. First, there are many endangered species that live near Yucca Mountain. Also, Death Valley located near Yucca Mountain, is a tourist attraction where many people like to visit. This valley is near Yucca Mountain. Last, when it rains the rainfall can flow into Yucca Mountain where the radioactive waste is being stored: this water can flow into the lakes and ponds.

Many endangered species live near the Yucca Mountain site. This is a BIG problem because, if the rainfall finds its way into Yucca Mountain where they are storing radioactive waste, polluted water can flow into the lakes and ponds where animals drink. An example of animals that could become endangered is the prairie rattlesnake, mountain lions, hawks, fox, beavers and birds.

The birds and hawks can become extinct because when the uranium dioxide leaks into the atmosphere the birds can breathe it. The beavers, mountain lions, foxes and the prairie rattlesnake can become extinct by drinking the polluted water. There are already many species that were endangered and now extinct. Do you want the endangered species that live near the Yucca Mountain site to become endangered too?

Death Valley is a popular tourist attraction! People from all around the country visit Death Valley for hiking, serenity, desert and spectacular view! But some people are worried about visiting Death Valley because of the Yucca Mountain

issues. If the government chooses to store radioactive waste in the mountain, the casks could leak out into the air. If the wastes leak out into the air then people could inhale the poisonous fumes and become very ill. The poisonous fumes that might be inhaled may and cause very dangerous sicknesses, such as cancer, premature aging and very severe viruses. These serious illnesses could cause death. Many people think that this area will become a health hazard.

OH NO! There are many ways that the casks could leak into the environment! One major reason is the amount of rainfall. If somehow the rain sets into Yucca Mountain where the casks are placed, they could corrode and leak into the aquifer. An aquifer is water bearing stratum of permeable rock, sand or gravel. The waste will leak into the public drinking water. The waste will build up in the reservoirs (a lake that stores water for humans) then this water will be transported all over Nevada, effecting all people drinking the water. Over the past five years people have found water in Yucca Mountain, so all of these dangerous issues could happen.

Endangered species, Death Valley, and leaking casks are three out of hundreds of other reasons why nuclear waste should not be stored in Yucca Mountain. If we store waste there more animals will become extinct, and leaking casks will pollute more water. Also, fewer and fewer people will come to see the beautiful Death Valley. How would you feel if you were endangered specie, living where nuclear waste was being stored, and where drinking water was filled with poisonous chemicals? How would you feel if you were a person who had cancer or a very bad virus from drinking polluted water or inhaling poisonous fumes? Thank you for considering my opinion on very important issue of why not to store radioactive waste in Yucca Mountain.

Sincerely,

TARA MCKENNA

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