

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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## General Comment

There is absolutely no way to guarantee the safe storage of nuclear waste for thousands of years, if it was to be placed in Yucca Mountain.

The best we can do is store the waste in a way, that it can be monitored and be retrievable if necessary.

The government agencies and industry should be concentrating on HOSS, making sure the very best containers are developed and that they have a more clear understanding of how the rods degrade.

The solution starts with the cessation of making the waste in the first place.

The principal concern has always been and still is penetration of percolating groundwater into the emplacement drifts, driven possibly by wetter climates than the present one, that will corrode the canisters, dissolve and transport the exposed radionuclides, and carry them to the water table below. That this will happen is not at issue, given long enough periods of time; what matters is "just how much water gets into the mountain, exactly where it goes once it does, how fast it gets to where it is going, and its temperature and chemical composition once it gets there" (Hanks and others, 1999).

Given the present climate conditions and what is known about the current hydrologic system and conditions around and in the mountain itself, one would anticipate that the rates of infiltration, corrosion, and transport would be very low except for the possibility that repository integrity might be

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compromised by low-probability disruptive events, which include earthquakes, strong ground motion, and (or) a repository-piercing volcanic intrusion/eruption  
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1245/pdf/of2013-1245.pdf>