

# Why Is Yucca Mountain A California Problem?

## 1. California Is Only 17 Miles Away.

Although we hear a lot about Yucca Mountain and Nevada, the California border is only 17 miles away. Both wind and water usually flow south here, away from all but a few Nevadans. Californians have not been informed!

## 2. All Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Lands Are Within California

All three portions of Timbisha tribal lands, only recently returned after a 40 year struggle, lie to the south and west of Yucca Mt., just inside the California border.

## 3. Transportation Routes Endanger Much Of The State.

With nuclear reactors in four parts of CA, moving irradiated fuel to NV would endanger several major cities and large portions of the CA population. Distinctive caskets on remote roads would make easy targets. For Diablo Canyon, they are considering barging deadly waste over the ocean to urban ports with rail lines.



## 4. It would contaminate the huge underground Amargosa River.

Seven tributaries flow off Yucca Mt. into the Amargosa River. Runoff from the area and Jackass Flats in the Nevada Test Site immediately affects all Amargosa Valley communities in California & Nevada. Along Highway 95, ten miles south of Yucca Mountain, is a pile of debris that washed down in 1995 and 1998. The US Geological Survey has published a report of those incidents, but the DOE has refused to include this in the Environmental Impact Statement. DOE is only studying Nevada, not California! The Amargosa is one of the biggest rivers in the Western U.S. Some experts say that it is the longest underground river in the world. Some believe that it drains into the Badwater portion of Death Valley and ends there. Others believe that it continues south to a point just north of San Diego. It is large, and fast. Portions of it always exist above ground always, like the Tecopa Canyon, 50 miles south, now being promoted by the BLM for additional tourism. Other portions only overflow during flash floods. On the CA/NV border, 27 miles south of Yucca Mountain, a new portion of it has been flowing above ground for over a year- very easily contaminated by any water runoff or airborne particles from above ground pools, trucks and canisters.

## 5. It would endanger millions of people in local communities and Death Valley.

Downstream from the site, groundwater is used for drinking, irrigation, and the largest dairy in Nevada, supplying thousands of children with milk. California hosts 1.4 million tourists a year at Death Valley.

## 6. In the desert, flash floods are common and very sudden.

Imported scientists don't seem to understand how water functions in the desert. Flash floods are frequent, and can close roads for days. Local residents tell of washouts and closures in the early 70's, early and late 80's, 95, 98, 2001, etc. People have been cut off for weeks, with dry ice and food flown in when roads were impassable. In early July 2001, rains in the Yucca Mountain area over several days led to a tidal wave in Tecopa, 50 miles south.



## 7. Surf Yucca Mountain?? Yes, Those Are Waves.

Picture at left: Aug. 20, 1984- "The Third Annual Hundred-Year Flood". The Amargosa River (usually invisible deep underground) along CA Highway 127, just south of Death Valley Junction, looking north toward Yucca Mountain about 23 miles away. For several years in a row in the early seventies and eighties, people rafted across the desert from Shoshone to Tecopa ten miles away in inner tubes and rowboats!

## 8. We're Already Hip-Deep In Nukes!

This river crosses under Highway 127 thirteen times. This route is already used by toxic waste trucks headed to the Beatty NV dump (which leaks plutonium), over 13 trucks a week of nuclear waste to the Test Site, and next year by transuranic shipments to WIPP. We have one County Deputy, one CHP officer, and a few volunteer rescue workers in an area well-traveled by tourists in RVs on unfamiliar roads in heavy winds.