

Ken Kramer

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Virginia City, Nevada Public Meeting

21 KEN KRAMER: My name is Ken Kramer, K-r-a-m-e-r,  
22 and I'm a resident of Silver City, Nevada. And I have some  
23 comments I'd like to make.

24 In regard to the -- Is this an environmental  
25 impact statement or whatever ?

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1 MR. WADE: Could you go off the record.

2 (Discussion off the record.)

3 KEN KRAMER: Well, first of all, I have several  
4 concerns about the Yucca Mountain site as being selected for  
5 the repository for the nuclear waste that's been generated  
6 nationwide. First of all, we don't have, in Nevada, any  
7 nuclear facilities, and I don't think that it is our duty to  
8 store the waste products from clean nuclear energy that will  
9 be grossly contaminating this area for the next several  
10 hundred, thousand, million years. Nobody really knows.

11 The reason that I'm opposed to it is because the  
12 containers that they are putting them in will not guarantee  
13 that the radiation will not reach the ground water and will  
14 not contaminate the aquaTar of the Amargosa Valley.

15 Secondly, DOE hasn't demonstrated that the scheme  
16 will not actually generate enough heat to create a critical  
17 mass problem at some future date.

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18           Those are immediate concerns that I have about  
19 the suitability of this particular site, now that we realize  
20 that there are seismic -- there is seismic activity in this  
21 area, and that there is ground water that precipitates down  
22 through the horizons there. So that's why I'm concerned about  
23 this scheme.

24           There are other problems, of course:  
25 Transportation on the nation's highways, and the aging rail  
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1 system that has had numerous accidents recently, such as the  
2 tunnel accident back East. Was it Baltimore? They had an  
3 accident back there with hazardous material. This was nuclear  
4 material. We could have a catastrophic failure, and the  
5 nation's capital may not even be habitable anymore because of  
6 this contamination.

7           Now, we've also got terrorists out in our areas  
8 that could derail a train and overturn a cask or something,  
9 and cause a release of nuclear energy. I don't think the DOE  
10 or any government agency in the past has exercised good and  
11 careful, conscientious control over these substances. Case in  
12 point would be the contamination of the Columbia River, the  
13 contamination of the Rocky Mountain lab, that they were  
14 experimenting with radioactive material and contaminated -- I

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15 think it's Rocky Mountain Flats or something. And also in

16 Idaho.

17           Everywhere that the government has dealt with

18 nuclear energy, nuclear or radioactive components of any kind,

19 including Burbank, California, San Francisco Bay, offshore of

20 Fair Lawn Island, plus in all the oceans of the world, make me

21 skeptical that we should even be messing with this stuff.

22           So as a citizen of Nevada and of the United

23 States, I believe that any and all future use of these

24 materials should be stopped, period. And I don't believe that

25 the scheme that they have come up with for Yucca Mountain is

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1 going to be any different than any of the other sites.

2           There is tritium in the ground water at Beatty.

3 They have said that they wouldn't contaminate the ground water

4 and that these radioactive materials wouldn't get off-site

5 there, and they have.

6           So those are my concerns about the actual

7 products that they are dealing with.

8           The other thing that I would like to comment upon

9 is that the United States Government does not have title to

10 the land at Yucca Mountain or the test site. The Treaty of

11 Ruby Valley of 1863, our government and the Shoshone nation

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12 had a treaty that deeded all that land to the Shoshones, the  
13 Western Shoshone Nation. The DOE or anybody else has yet to  
14 show me the title to that property. Therefore, I think the  
15 property has been stolen by the United States Government, and  
16 that they should vacate it immediately.  
17           And that's about all I've got to say.