

More recent numerical analyses (2) have arrived at volcanic probabilities that are different from the estimates obtained in DOE's study. DOE's panel of experts arrived at an aggregate mean that is essentially the same as the minimum reported in the recent literature, and some estimates by individual members of the expert panel are one to two orders of magnitude lower. Because volcanism has a low probability, but is potentially a high-consequence event, such differences may affect estimated risk (3). Although a factor of 10 difference in probability is often of little concern in risk assessments, environmental standards for the proposed geologic repository have not, to date, required consideration of potentially disruptive events with probabilities less than 10^{-4} in 10^4 years.

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References

1. C. B. Connor, J. Stamatakis, D. Ferrill, B. E. Hill, *Geol. Soc. Am. Abstr. Prog. Ann. Meet. Denver, CO*, abstract A-192 (1996).
2. C. B. Connor and B. E. Hill, *J. Geophys. Res.* **100**, 10 (1995); C.-H. Ho, *Math. Geol.* **24**, 347 (1992); E. I. Smith, D. L. Feuerbach, T. R. Naumann, *Bull. Volcanol.* **54**, 50 (1991).
3. National Research Council, *Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards* (National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1995).

Risks in Collaboration?

If fraudulent work is published (Letters, 3 Jan., p. 14), all co-authors must take some measure of responsibility, not for the fraudulent acts, but because author responsibility is implicit in the process of scientific publishing. Risks of fraud in collaborations outlined by the correspondents should not reduce collaboration: surely they should strengthen collaboration by reminding us to understand that which is attributed to us. Nor should they require the banning of all but single-author papers: collaboration often strengthens work because it requires frequent and critical discussion of all facets of the problem. Nor should they limit the number of authors: all significant contributors must

receive recognition and take the responsibilities of authorship. Nor should they be comparable to acts of individuals in a marriage that are not inherently essential to the relationship.

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Funding Sequencing Efforts

In "Life with 6000 genes" (Articles, 25 Oct., p. 546), André Goffeau *et al.* note that, despite the potential gain of sequencing a number of human pathogenic organisms, only limited funds have been made available for such projects. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the National Institute of Dental Research, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), have recently co-funded a project at Stanford University to use "sample-sequencing" to identify genes in *Candida albicans*, a major pathogenic fungus. The researchers' strategy will reveal at least a portion of about 95% of all *Candida* genes that can be identified by their similarity to genes in other species. Information

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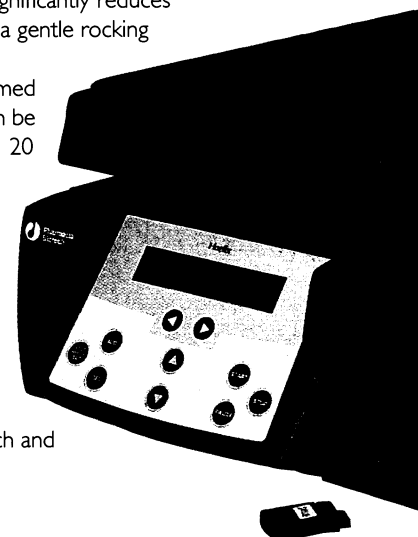
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