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I respectfully submit these comments on the WIPP Renewal Draft Permit

Dear New Mexico Environment Department,

Like many of my fellow New Mexicans I am deeply concerned about the Department of Energy's (DOE) 10-year Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Bureau Permit Application. WIPP was conceived and permitted as a PILOT Project for legacy waste and until that mission is completed, no other changes should be made.

I would like to thank the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for their rewriting of the DOE's original application to address a number of my concerns. I support NMED's requirement that the DOE site other repositories, so that New Mexico does not bear the sole burden of disposing of the nation's military nuclear waste.

However there are remaining issues and concerns that NMED must include in the final, approved permit to truly protect New Mexico's people, lands and economies.

Please add, retain or strengthen the following:

- Prohibit any new waste streams, including Surplus Plutonium
- Prohibit new "replacement panels" at this time
- Retain the condition revoking the Permit if waste volume is increased by Congress.
- Add a condition to require a defined end date for waste disposal (preferably in 2024 but maybe a 3 year extension to make up for the time it was closed)—at which time an estimated 10-year site closure period will begin
- Retain the requirement prioritizing New Mexico Waste but add language to prioritize Legacy Waste
- Retain conditions that support an increase in reporting, transparency for the public, and increased public involvement
- Strengthen the requirement to site another repository in a state other than New Mexico; require progress and include consequences

I also think there needs to be plans for emergency training for EMS, Fire and other emergency response teams along transportation routes in the event of an accident.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

I would also like to submit a poem I wrote to the NNSA for the April 4th Santa Fe Hearing because, as well as technical arguments, I believe we need to hear from the hearts of people. I have personally testified in matters of WIPP since the 80's. Then we said it was not a matter of IF there would be an accident but WHEN and it only took a few years for an accident to close it for three years. This new plan of transforming waste into a powdered form that is more dangerous if it is leaked and transporting it twice across multiple states is in our estimation, a recipe for another disaster even worse than the one

we've seen in East Palestine Ohio. You have the power to put brakes on this action and speak from a place of common sense and real security, both for our state and for the nation. The fact that New Mexico has so many nuclear materials, projects and disposal plans opens issues of environmental racism. Please do what you can to prevent us from being the national nuclear sacrifice area.

WIPP had a purpose –for legacy waste – all under a tent and in unlined trenches – on the hill we are downwind from – each drum a warning and a threat to our future, migrating toward water. We outta get them to WIPP, to be buried in salt, but instead, you have a new plan. There's new pits in your vision – a decision we had nothing to do with, a future that is crumbling before our eyes. Our hearts are sore and crying, trying to make sense out of what could destroy the earth many times over. We humbly ask you to stop! You make bombs that you claim are for security when we can see the opposite is true. Now our legacy is waste... an expanded pilot without an end, a trend toward more and more war. You are good at destroying but now the earth mimics and takes up the task – tornadoes and earthquakes turn towns to rubble, trouble abounds and you wonder why? Floods and wildfires eat up our lands, while you wash your hands of responsibility. There is no civility – you see only enemies! Our youth see no hope while they cope with no future. You can't suture their wounds with your lies – they see through it! Suicide and mass shootings are taking their toll. Your goal is a hell on earth. You can't prove that there will be no accident... it's just a matter of time.! You are the crime we are feeling, you are the danger we face. This country that we love has become a disgrace. If store waste we must, for the sake of our nation, then that's what we'll do, but let it be legacy waste from the hill – complete one mission before taking on more. Military might will be meaningless when climate change finally takes hold. Only bold climate action will do at this time – that's where our taxpayer dollars need to go - not to illegal and immoral weapons of war. We don't give our permission. We're saying NO MORE!

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