



Demand Nuclear Abolition

100 Gold Ave. SW, Suite 201, Albuquerque, NM 87102

protectnewmexico@gmail.com

demandnuclearabolition.org

Megan McLean
Acting WIPP Group Program Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau – NM Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

September 19, 2023

Dear Ms. McLean,

We are *Demand Nuclear Abolition* (DNA), formerly known as the Nuclear Issues Study Group, a multi-racial and multi-generational grassroots collective for students, activists, and artists to challenge radioactive violence through education, activism, and art based in Albuquerque since 2016, and this is our comment on the WIPP Renewal Draft Permit.

Our group is opposed to nuclear expansion of any kind—whether it is plutonium pit production or waste expansion. These are forms of ongoing nuclear colonialism that disproportionately impact Indigenous communities and Communities of Color. We are deeply concerned about and strongly oppose the WIPP site becoming a de facto dumping ground for the nation’s nuclear waste.

We thank NMED for your efforts to hold the Department of Energy (DOE) accountable to the people of New Mexico, ensuring the promises made when we agreed to host the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) are kept in the WIPP operating permit renewal.

- We support requirements for **strict standards on the types of military waste** allowed including only “legacy” TRU and TRU mixed waste.
- The permit should require DOE to provide annual reports on the siting of other **repositories**, which is crucial to preventing New Mexico from being targeted for all of the nation’s nuclear waste.
- We support Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in using the full power and authority of her office to **prevent the expansion** of WIPP as she did when she signed SB-53 which stopped the Holtec centralized interim storage project from moving forward.

- We encourage the NMED to **strictly enforce** the various provisions of the Renewal Permit because the risks from the proposed expanded transportation would severely impact the health and economic well-being of New Mexicans.
- We strongly encourage NMED to honor the original commitment to closing WIPP by 2024.

Thank you for considering our input. Below are the names of our core group members.

Sincerely,

Demand Nuclear Abolition

Elizabeth Smith (Laguna Pueblo)
5851 Anderson Ave. SE, Apt. 11
Albuquerque NM 87108

Joel Lorimer
5700 Copper NE, Apt B1
Albuquerque NM 87108

Bianca Rivera
412 Cortez SE
Los Lunas, NM 87031

Brooke Holland
10401 Delicado PI NE
Albuquerque NM 87111

Rivala Garcia
534 Aliso NE
Albuquerque NM 87108

Téa Salazar
5812 Cochiti Dr. NW
Albuquerque NM 87120

Eileen O'Shaughnessy
3424 Campus Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Brendan Shaughnessy
3424 Campus Blvd NE
Albuquerque NM 87106

Susan Schuurman
2112 Charlevoix St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104