

Mr. Ricardo Maestas
WIPP Group Staff Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

April 18, 2023

I respectfully submit the following comments on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Renewal Draft Permit.

New Mexico does not have a nuclear power plant. We are only responsible for disposing and safely storing waste from Los Alamos National Labs (LANL). New Mexico decided in good faith, to allow the storage facility in southern New Mexico. The promise was written into law and were legal agreements. Now the government has broken its promise and decided to change the original intent of the storage facility. They now want to include pure plutonium nuclear weapons triggers. The maximum amount of waste would exceed the original intent and most worrisome is that there would be no end date for the storage of toxic waste. New Mexico would become the dumping ground for all nuclear waste from power plants across the US and create a need to expand the site. This expansion would encroach on our oil and gas drilling which provided our state with a huge windfall this last year. Money the state is putting to good use. An expansion would also put the toxic waste site in an area that is prone to earthquakes from fracking. Expanding the site is unacceptable, a broken promise with no end date and a tragic accident waiting to happen.

States that decide to build and maintain nuclear power plants should be responsible for disposing their own waste in their state. If this is not possible then don't build a nuclear generated power plant. Germany just closed their last nuclear power plant in order to make the country safer and avoid the problem of storing high level radioactive waste.

"Hello America" are you listening and paying attention? We must realize the ramifications of these horrible decisions down the road. What will happen to future generations because of our missteps and mistakes today?

The risk of nuclear power and manufacturing of nuclear bombs are ultimately unmanageable.

I have attached a copy of a letter to the editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican in March of 2022.

Sincerely,


Paula McClean
Santa Fe, NM

Friday, March 4, 2022

THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

A-9

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Locally owned and independent, founded 1849

A waste solution

Let's solve the nuclear dumping problem once and for all. I suggest we move the "temporary" storage facilities to the grounds around the U.S. Capitol and the White House. It is already a radioactive environment, so add more fuel to the fire. Bring on the backhoes and front-end loaders and start digging in D.C. Then and only then will our government pay close attention to the nuclear disposal problem it has created.

Paula McClean
Santa Fe

SANTAFENEWMEXICAN.COM