

URGENT!!!

Ricardo Maestas
WIPP Group Staff Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
E-mail: ricardo.maestas@env.nm.gov

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.

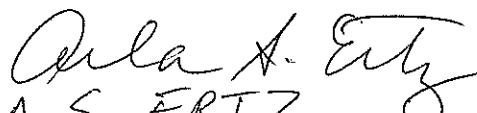
I would like to thank the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for their rewriting of the DOE's original application to address a number of my concerns. I support NMED's requirement that the DOE site other repositories, so that New Mexico does not bear the sole burden of disposing of the nation's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

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

In cooperation, 
Name: ARLA S. ERTZ
Address: 1115 REPUBLIC RD.
Date: APRIL 16, 2023