

Beth Cohen

To the New Mexico Environment Department:

I am a proud resident of Albuquerque New Mexico, and I moved here in 1983 from the polluted over-crowded northeastern Atlantic coast to enjoy the clean open spaces and natural areas that our state of New Mexico offers. I attended and graduated from The University of New Mexico and have run my own small business in our state since graduating in 1991.

I am asking you to insist that the DOE close WIPP in 2024 as originally promised to our state and see that they start planning now for making repositories in other states. Do not allow the DOE to think of WIPP as the only nuclear weapons repository in the country. It was promised to New Mexicans as a pilot plant, with others being located in states other than New Mexico.

The DOE is not being honest and transparent with the people of New Mexico, most of whom do not know about the new risks the DOE is planning on exposing us to. The DOE is being carelessly reckless in planning to transport surplus plutonium in a powdered form across 10 states, past many communities twice for each shipment, and assuming that no accident will happen.

The federal government sold the WIPP project to us as ending in 25 years. By attempting to keep it open until 2080 or worse, forever, the DOE has shown itself as a master manipulator. This jeopardizes its credibility in negotiating with other states as well as New Mexico in any future projects.

It is time to put an end to this deadly and dangerous masquerade. It is bad business for our state. It is time that we move on to doing business that looks to a safer, cleaner and environmentally sound future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Beth Cohen
Albuquerque, NM