

Ashley Marie

To the New Mexico Environment Department:

1. 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. Insist the DOE start planning now for repositories in other states.

2. The DOE is playing a shell game with New Mexico by:
changing the way the waste is measured so that more panels have to be excavated,
adding new types of waste and new sources from which that waste comes,
not being honest and transparent with the public, most of whom do not know about the new risks
DOE is planning on exposing them to.

3. 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. This is ridiculous, as any adult knows.

4. WIPP must close in 2024 as promised. 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.

Thank you for taking the time to do this important thing. Those who will negotiate for us in the upcoming hearing will be able to use every comment that identifies a specific request. They use our comments to justify their arguments. And they will be up against very expensive lawyers on the federal government side. But they have us, our comments, and will do their best to help us protect ourselves.