

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

I'm especially concerned about the proposed use of powdered plutonium, which, if there is a trucking accident in transport, would travel very easily in the air. People would very likely breathe in this hazardous material; once it lands in our lungs, it will continuously irradiate our bodies from the inside out. Like you, I want to keep the people of New Mexico safe.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

In cooperation,

Raychel Kool
2700 Campus Blvd NE, UNM SRC 1123, Albuquerque NM 87106
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