

April 16, 2023

New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am a resident of Berkeley, California, and I have just attended the WIPP Educational Conference via Zoom. Although I have been kept abreast of the history and immense controversy surrounding WIPP, I was truly appalled and shocked by the facts, the science, and the proposals for expansion that were presented and which are under consideration by your Department now. If there ever was an environmental peril whose scope is beyond our imagining, this is it; if there ever was a profound and compelling need to pause, to study, and to question deeply the consequences of expansion, this is it.

I implore you - not only in the name of New Mexicans - but in the name of civilized society and humanity itself, **DO NOT MOVE FORWARD** with this planned expansion. Every affected person, and this would mean *everyone* living in your fine state and every state through which radioactive, TRU waste material will be transported, every congressperson, mayor, and governor in those states, every environmental scientist and attorney and national organization and community group must be invited to participate in the decision-making process. The occurrence of **accidents** in every human endeavor lies within the nature of human existence itself! An accident of this magnitude could have global reach.

I urge your Department, the State of New Mexico, and the federal EPA to scrutinize its own history of mismanagement and broken promises regarding the safety, security, and purpose of WIPP as it exists now, and that you do so before seeking to enlarge and expand it. You have the power do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Jill Boornazian
jillboornazian@gmail.com

