

Jana Theis

New waste streams that weren't considered appropriate for WIPP should not be included now. Any extension to the current permit, expiring in 2024, should have a defined, limited time period. Other repositories should be built in other states. New Mexico should not carry the burden for all. The WIPP location is surrounded by Permian Basin fracking and drilling for oil and gas - hardly a safe and secure location for nuclear waste. Long distance shipping, by truck or rail is highly dangerous in itself. The I40 and I20 corridors are smack in the middle of one of the most extreme weather areas in North America. Hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, flooding, etc. are common, and becoming more frequent in that area. In 2022, according to the Federal Railroad Administration, there were at least 1,164 train derailments in the United States. Regular cross country shipping of nuclear waste is highly dangerous, as conceived in this planned expansion of WIPP. All in all, this is a very bad deal for New Mexico and many others.