

# Geoff Campbell

WIPP Renewal Draft Permit

To the New Mexico Environment Department,

New Mexicans deserve better from their elected officials than to have the DOE quietly try to push through a project as seismic as WIPP expansion and extension. WIPP was a pilot program and it needs to be shut down next year in 2024 as was promised to generations of New Mexicans by their government. Why are we the only state with a nuclear weapons repository? It's been 30 years and the government promised other states would step up and build their own repositories. Why has this not happened?

As a Democrat I'm really concerned that I don't know which way Governor Grisham is leaning regarding the extension and expansion of WIPP. On this issue there should be transparency. I need to know that my children will grow up in a safe environment where leadership counts, where standing up to the DOE with their broken promises counts, because powdered plutonium has NO business being driven back and forth along our highways and Interstates.

Transporting powdered plutonium across 10 states is an absolutely insane idea! Deregulation on our highways and pressures from companies to push long-haul drivers to the limit have greatly increased highway accidents and fatalities on all our roads. Data Driven: Truckers, Technology, and the New Workplace Surveillance by Karen Levy (Princeton University Press, 2022) states; 'Truck crashes on US highways kill about five thousand people and injure about one hundred and fifty thousand more per year'; as Levy notes, such numbers have been climbing steadily. Why does it make sense to the DOE to drive plutonium from Texas to New Mexico, across the country to Florida and then back to New Mexico when we all know tractor trailers jackknife every day in the U.S.? (FMCSA United States Department of Transportation lists 4,842 large trucks crashed by jackknife in 2020 alone)

WIPP must close in 2024 as was promised to all New Mexicans. Sincere negotiations with the DOE should only take place after closing the 'pilot' program to insure goodwill between the DOE and the people of New Mexico.

Thank you very much for taking my comments.