

Margaret Hadderman 4/18/23

The WIPP facility in NM should not be the ONLY nuclear weapons repository in the entire U.S., so start planning storage facilities for other states with nuclear plants right now. Please also stop upgrading and increasing the types of radioactive waste for storage at WIPP and start being totally honest about the dangers to the public THAT MOST OF US DO NOT EVEN KNOW ABOUT. Your plans to transport surplus plutonium in powdered form across communities in 10 states is extremely reckless, maybe insane, as we all know accidents WILL happen. (Think East Palestine, OH!) WIPP MUST close in 1924, as promised. Stop trying to push this deadline haphazardly to 2080 or FOREVER. NM has already done its part, will have to deal with its LANL waste, and don't forget the NM atomic testing grounds of the '40s. Time to close WIPP and make each state responsible for storing its own radioactive waste!

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DOE should stop regarding the WIPP facility in New Mexico as the only nuclear weapons repository in the entire U.S. and start planning adequate storage facilities for other states with nuclear plants. DOE needs to abandon its plans to upgrade and increase the types of radioactive waste to be stored at WIPP and honestly explain dangers to the public that most of us know nothing about. Their plans to transport surplus plutonium in powdered form across communities in 10 OTHER states is extremely reckless, maybe insane, as we all know what recently occurred in East Palestine, OH. Accidents WILL happen. WIPP MUST close in 2024, as promised! DOE should stop trying to push this impending deadline to 2080 or forever. New Mexico has already done its part, still has to deal with LANL waste and residual effects of atomic testing in the 1940's. It's time for DOE to close WIPP permanently and make each state responsible for storing its own nuclear waste. Recent legislation passed by the NM State Legislature and signed by the Governor calls for ending WIPP and moving on. It's up to NMED to act promptly and make this happen! Thanks for considering these comments.

Margaret Hadderman 4/19/23

Since my comment yesterday, I recalled that the recently adopted radioactive storage legislation pertains only to Holtec's plans to build ANOTHER questionable storage facility near Carlsbad and Hobbs. However: Since New Mexicans have formally and lawfully rejected a new 1000-acre Holtec facility, why would they welcome DOE's plans to expand WIPP and dump even higher levels of nuclear waste from other states there indefinitely? Our state legislators may not be empowered to vote on a WIPP expansion plan, but the NM Environment Dept. can and MUST stand strong and beat back DOE's misguided pressure campaign on our behalf. We're counting on you to do so! Thanks for adding these comments to what I sent yesterday.