

Bert Snyder

I am very concerned that DOE is attempting to change the terms under which the state of New Mexico agreed to allow the siting of WIPP. It was agreed that this would be a PILOT PROJECT, for storage of transuranic waste from LALN, with an expiration of 25 years. While this was transpiring DOE would create other sites around the country.

No other sites have been established and DOE now wants to include plutonium waste. In the absence of other repositories and the change in the materials to be stored it is clear that WIPP will no longer be a pilot project ;but rather the only facility in the nation permanently. That isn't what we signed on for.

In order to accomplish this the plutonium will be transported back and forth across country through 10 states via semi-truck for thousands of miles for years with the possibility of fatal accidents potentially impacting communities along the route. The fatality risk is very high as powdered plutonium is a known carcinogen.

It is inappropriate for New Mexico to be the nation's only nuclear dump in perpetuity.