

Dear Mr. Maestas:

I want first to commend the NMED for its attempts to strengthen oversight of the WIPP. I am deeply concerned about the Department of Energy's attempts to renege on promises made to New Mexico when the plant opened in 1999.

There must be other DOE repositories planned and in development. There must be no new waste streams, such as surplus plutonium which was never agreed by New Mexico. Certainly there should be no new "replacement panels" until other weapons waste storage sites are announced. I applaud the provision that the Permit will be revoked if waste volumes allowed at WIPP are increased, even by Congress

The end date for bringing wastes to WIPP has always been 2024, after which a 10-year site-closure period would begin. Because of the two publicly known excuses DOE has for an extension – the 2014 drum explosion preceded by the truck fire – may make a 3 year extension permissible, but do not justify indefinite extension. The mismanagement of WIPP in the past requires stronger oversight and transparency. Please include these in the new Permit.

Expanding the deliveries beyond legacy weapons waste to diluted plutonium from weapons to be replaced by new designs should not be allowed. This would make WIPP not just a storage facility but a facilitator of a dangerous new nuclear arms race toward weapons which are either untested, or introduced into our arsenal by restarting testing. Why on earth would we want to do that? Please SAY NO TO NEW WASTE STREAMS.

As protectors of our state, the new Permit should require prioritizing Legacy Wastes from New Mexico; that is from LANL, Sandia and other contaminated nuclear weapons sites.

Lastly, strengthen the requirement to site another repository in a state other than New Mexico; require progress, public involvement and consequences.

I was born in Roswell and still have family there. They are already experiencing earthquakes from fracking in the Permian Basin even though they are considerably farther away from the oil and gas fracking wells. There needs to be a requirement that earthquake activity be monitored and publicly reported.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Mary Burton Riseley  
318B Sena St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
April 17, 2023