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I strongly urge NMED stand fast and say 'no' to DOE's attempt to remove limits to the original mission.

WIPP's original mission was based on legal promises between New Mexico and the DOE. NMED must stand firm and hold DOE to its promises.

A definite date for WIPP to stop taking waste must be included in this permit. The current end date is 2024. If the permit doesn't give a clear end date, WIPP will remain open forever. New Mexicans don't want this.

The permit must limit the form of waste so that DOE can't include oxidized plutonium as a new waste stream. Transporting this new form of powdered plutonium is more dangerous to neighborhoods.

The new permit wants WIPP's volume increased because DOE mismanaged the scheduling of shipments, resulting in closure of empty rooms with no waste in them. DOE must accept responsibility for this and not put the burden of needing more time on New Mexicans.

The new permit's expansion is partly due to new waste streams from plutonium pit production. This is a new project that is not part of WIPP's mission. It will overflow the repository and must not be included in WIPP.

DOE is using this permit renewal to turn WIPP into a permanent repository for nuclear weapons' waste. NMED must hold DOE to the original limits.

The WIPP pilot plant must be closed and new repositories built in other states. New Mexico has done its part. Other states need to take responsibility for this waste, too.