

Chad Chandler

I would like to submit a comment IN FAVOR of the New Mexico Environment Department's proposed changes to the WIPP operating permit.

WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) started operations in 1999 for the purpose of being a repository for nuclear waste in Carlsbad, New Mexico. This pilot plant, was to expire /close in 2024.

The Presidents EO is to expand nuclear pit production by 300 percent

April 2026: The New Mexico Department of the Environment makes modifications to the permit after the WIPP permit was up for renewal.

These modifications will hold the US Department of (DOE) Energy accountable to remove the radioactive or "legacy "waste,

The Legacy waste has been on Los Alamos National Labs property, in more than 2200 barrels for 80 years, is now covered by tents.

Many organisations are compelled to act for fear of the next WildFire on the Mountain.

stopforeverwipp.org and www.fireonthemountain.xyz and www.burythebarrels.org among many other organizations, see websites galore

On April 23, the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) issued a public notice announcing a draft permit for public comment concerning the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, which is currently the only repository for transuranic waste from nuclear weapons production. This type of waste includes clothing, rags, tools, debris, and other items contaminated with plutonium and other highly radioactive elements.

Under the existing WIPP permit, the US Department of Energy (DOE) is required to prioritize the cleanup of legacy cold-war era waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

A memo from NMED earlier this year states that the DOE has failed to meet requirements to clean up legacy waste at LANL and prioritize the disposal of this waste in WIPP. In addition to fining the DOE for other violations, NMED initiated a permit modification to WIPP's operating permit to require explicit standards and metrics for the disposal of LANL's legacy waste.

NMED has proposed mandatory volume targets requiring that LANL legacy waste account for 55 percent of total WIPP disposition volume from 2027 through 2031, increasing to 75 percent starting in 2032. Additionally, NMED has proposed that legacy waste stored above ground at LANL Material Disposal Area-G, which currently houses more than 2,000 drums of waste stored in tents, be shipped and emplaced at WIPP by July 1, 2028.

As the DOE moves forward with resumed nuclear weapons production, it is crucial that they are held accountable to cleaning up existing waste that has posed risks to nearby communities for decades—before generating even more waste.

Thank you for your attention to the very important matter.

Sincerely,
Chad F. Chandler