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I strongly support the New Mexico Environmental Department's (NMED's) modifications of the WIPP permit because the Dept. of Energy (DOE) has failed to perform its obligations under the original WIPP permit. The modifications would set deadlines for DOE compliance and sanctions if DOE again fails to meet its obligations. The original agreement called for DOE to move Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL's) nuclear waste to WIPP before adding other states' nuclear waste to WIPP. That has not happened. Waste from other states has been sent to WIPP while LANL's nuclear waste is still stored above ground under tents in areas that are in a wildfire zone. Wildfires are frequent and severe in the area. If a wildfire were to reach the above-ground site, radioactive waste would be reduced to minute particles and spread over a huge area. The lungs of thousands of people and animals would be poisoned and the land on which the particles fell would become unusable for any purpose for hundreds of years. Storing LANL's waste above ground under tents in a wildfire area is a national disaster waiting to happen. The NMED modifications to the WIPP agreement with DOE are essential to pressure DOE to meet its obligations and remove the threat of a major disaster from residents of NM, surrounding states, and beyond. The NMED modifications to the WIPP agreement are in the best interest of all Americans.