

David Barnett

I am writing to express my support for the NMED Agency Initiated Modification (AIM) which seeks changes to the WIPP Permit that clarifies the priority to emplace legacy waste and reduce the risk of LANL legacy waste.

Cold War nuclear waste from the 1950s-on is stored at LANL in fabric tents on a mesa in a wildfire zone. This waste should go to the appropriate waste dump in New Mexico, called WIPP, before the next wildfire. Eight fires have burned around LANL in the last 45 years and 3 burned onto LANL property. One fire almost reached the tents that hold this waste.

The smoke plume of one fire at LANL covered parts of 5 states. If radioactive particles were in the plume they would settle, making the land unusable for the 500,000 years it takes plutonium to decay.

I live only 42 miles from LANL so I am very fearful of this possibility affecting my ability to continue to live in my home just outside Santa Fe. I was actually shocked to learn some of this waste has been stored in tents for 70 or so years! If a terrorist were to discover the location of these tents and use a drone to blow them up, we would also have a nuclear disaster on hand. It is totally irresponsible to store such dangerous waste in a tent!

NMED is working for New Mexicans to change the permit so the DOE must move it before the next wildfire. I fully support NMED's permit modifications to the WIPP permit. Please take action on this request for modifications immediately.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.