

Michele Chavez

This comment regards the recent WIPP Permit Modification that seeks changes to the WIPP Permit that clarifies the priority to emplace legacy waste and reduce the risk of LANL legacy waste.

I urge you to use every opportunity available to your agency & the NM government to -insist- that the LANL 'legacy waste' that is currently stored above ground within LANL be assigned the -very- highest priority for transfer and permanent storage underground within WIPP.

While this was already a very worthy goal prior to the present-days far higher 'fire risk' situation across the entire US Southwest, the 'new' & unprecedented level drought & hence wildfire/megafire risk make it all the more urgent that the all-too-vulnerable above-ground LANL legacy waste NOT be left to the whims of 'where' the next northern NM mega-fire consumes. While the damages/harm of any mega-fire are horrific enough, the damages/harm if that fire's smoke & residual is RADIOACTIVE is simply -too- much worse to allow to happen. So, that Legacy waste -must, ASAP, be placed in a truly safe & stable location, which WIPP is.

Respectfully,
Mike Chavez, Albuquerque, NM