

Brian L. Goldbeck

Dear Sirs:

As an Army veteran of 28 years, I am very familiar with the risks posed by nuclear radiation, so I write in support of the WIPP Agency-Initiated Modification Draft Permit as proposed by NMED for several reasons. Unfortunately, DOE's past irresponsible storage of legacy waste threatens the health and safety of people and their property in several states, including ours.

Living in Santa Fe and so close to Los Alamos, I understand that the Department of Energy (DOE) shipments from Los Alamos National Labs (LANL) to the nuclear waste dump, WIPP, must be over 50% legacy waste from LANL. Further, all the legacy waste in the 2,500 drums in the tents has to be in WIPP by July 1, 2028. Suffice it to say I am skeptical given past performance. And, given on-going drought conditions, a wildfire can occur at any time between now and then at LANL, as has happened before, so getting the legacy waste into WIPP now is essential.

As a veteran who understands U.S. national security interests, I believe DOE can only be allowed to make nuclear weapons and waste in New Mexico and near our home, if it takes the safety of New Mexico and New Mexicans seriously. The proposed permit modifications are needed because DOE is not fulfilling its legal agreements, but it can, it should, and it MUST. Otherwise, much more stringent legal limitations will be required.

Sincerely,

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