

Tabitha Hrynick

I write in support of a future for the people of New Mexico which is safe from further nuclear harm. Already bearing the burden of unhealed wounds from abandoned and unsatisfactorily remediated uranium mines and related sites, and the legacy of the Manhattan Project and Trinity Detonation, New Mexicans can no longer also be asked to shoulder the risk posed by LANL waste at Area G and elsewhere. A wildfire, an earthquake, an act of war or terrorism, or other exceptional - but far from impossible – natural or human induced events, could catastrophically compound this legacy for our people from whom already too much has been extracted and sacrificed. The human cost of this is already not abstract – cancers diagnosed too young and across generations, elders lost before their time, economic losses associated with the cost of healthcare and loss of productive capacity, damaged mental health and wellbeing from the loss of loved ones, land and spiritually significant sites made inaccessible, and social and cultural connections severed.

I therefore support NMED's Agency Initiated Modification (AIM) to the WIPP permit to prioritize emplacement of LANL legacy waste which continues to endanger New Mexicans day after day. I appreciate NMED's initiative to protect the people of New Mexico in the face of federal pressure to prioritize waste from outside our state even as hazardous radioactive waste continues to sit within our own communities, above ground, awaiting disaster - or action.