

Phil Orton

New Mexico Environment Department ,

I am writing to oppose New Mexico Environment Department's proposed permit that would establish mandatory shipment limits from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) before shipments from other cleanup sites can continue to be received at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

WIPP is a critical part of our nation's infrastructure. It plays an essential role in safely managing nuclear waste from cleanup sites across the United States while supporting thousands of good-paying union jobs, local businesses, and communities that depend on stable operations at nuclear facilities and cleanup sites.

The proposed shipment limits would create serious risks and disruptions far beyond New Mexico. Based on the historically low number of shipments received from LANL, the mandatory thresholds outlined in this proposal would be nearly impossible to meet. As a result, shipments from other cleanup sites could effectively be halted, which would slow or cease operations at WIPP itself.

Working people should not bear the consequences of decisions that weaken safety, threaten jobs, and destabilize critical systems that communities across the country rely upon. WIPP's ability to safely and consistently receive waste from cleanup sites nationwide is essential to maintaining responsible operations and protecting workers, communities, and the environment.

Sincerely,

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