

Patricia Sciarrotta

To: New Mexico Environment Department

I am writing to strongly support the New Mexico Environment Department's modification of the LANL permit to expedite removal of legacy nuclear waste that is stored above ground so that it is moved to WIPP by July 1, 2028. I am a long-time resident of northern New Mexico, and DOE's irresponsible storage of legacy waste threatens us all.

This dangerous waste, which was created in the 1950s, currently sits in 2,500 poorly marked drums in makeshift fabric tents in a known wildfire zone that has already experienced devastating wildfires. This waste must be moved to the WIPP where it can be safely stored underground. In fact, it should have been moved there decades ago, but DOE is not fulfilling its legal agreements.

DOE should not be allowed to produce nuclear weapons and waste in New Mexico while not addressing this legacy waste and the tremendous danger it poses to all New Mexicans.

A radiation release from a wildfire at the above-ground storage site would cause immeasurable damage, including death to countless people, potential cancers, and devastating effects on property values, agriculture, ranching, and recreation. The economic impacts from immediate and long-term contamination would be enormous.

Thank you,

Patricia Sciarrotta

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