

John Wilks, III

Veterans For Peace, Chapter 063 (Albuquerque) strongly supports the proposed WIPP permit modifications as drafted by Secretary Kenny. Since 1943, DOE and its predecessors have recklessly contaminated and polluted the Pajarito Plateau and due to run off and wildfires, the properties of the County of Sante Fe, the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, and the Rio Grande as it flows into Cochiti Lake. It is obvious that DOE and NNSA has no intention of exhuming the waste in Area C and G as well as removing the 2,500 above ground drums of waste in Area G. The state of New Mexico naively and foolishly agreed to host the WIPP with the understanding the other repositories would be built, nothing by TRU estate would be admitted to the WIPP, and the WIPP would begin wrap-up after 25 years of operation. These understandings have been violated as have the provisions of the 2023 ten-year WIPP operational permit with respect to prioritization of shipment of legacy waste. The proposed permit modifications are necessary to assure health and safety of the environment and the residents of New Mexico.