

Stop “Forever WIPP”

Radioactive and Hazardous
Materials Committee
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WIPP's Mission

- “Start Clean, Stay Clean” to dispose of up to 175,564 m³ of defense transuranic (TRU) waste
- Safely transport waste by truck through more than 20 states without serious accidents or releases
- Safely remove TRU waste from DOE sites
- Safely close, decontaminate, and decommission the WIPP site beginning in 2024

WIPP's Mission is not

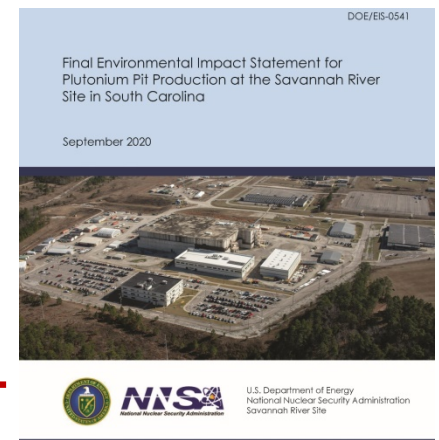
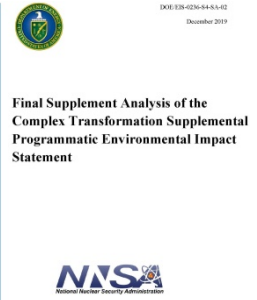
- Storage, transportation, disposal of any high-level waste or spent nuclear fuel
- Storage, transportation, disposal of any commercial waste
- Storage, transportation, disposal of 34+ metric tons of surplus plutonium
- Storage, transportation, disposal of any waste from future nuclear weapons plutonium pit production

Other repositories are necessary for legal and technical reasons

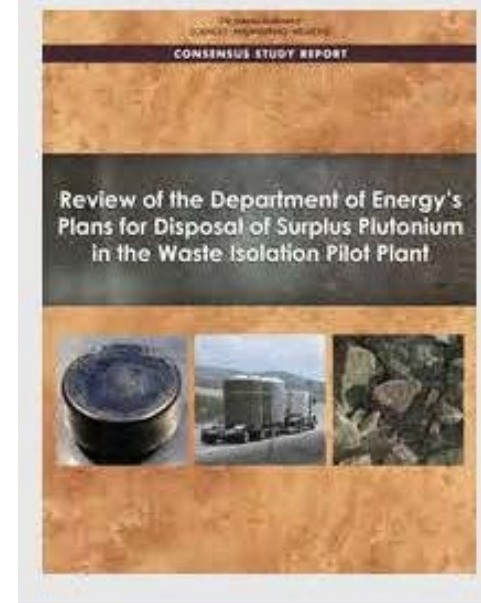
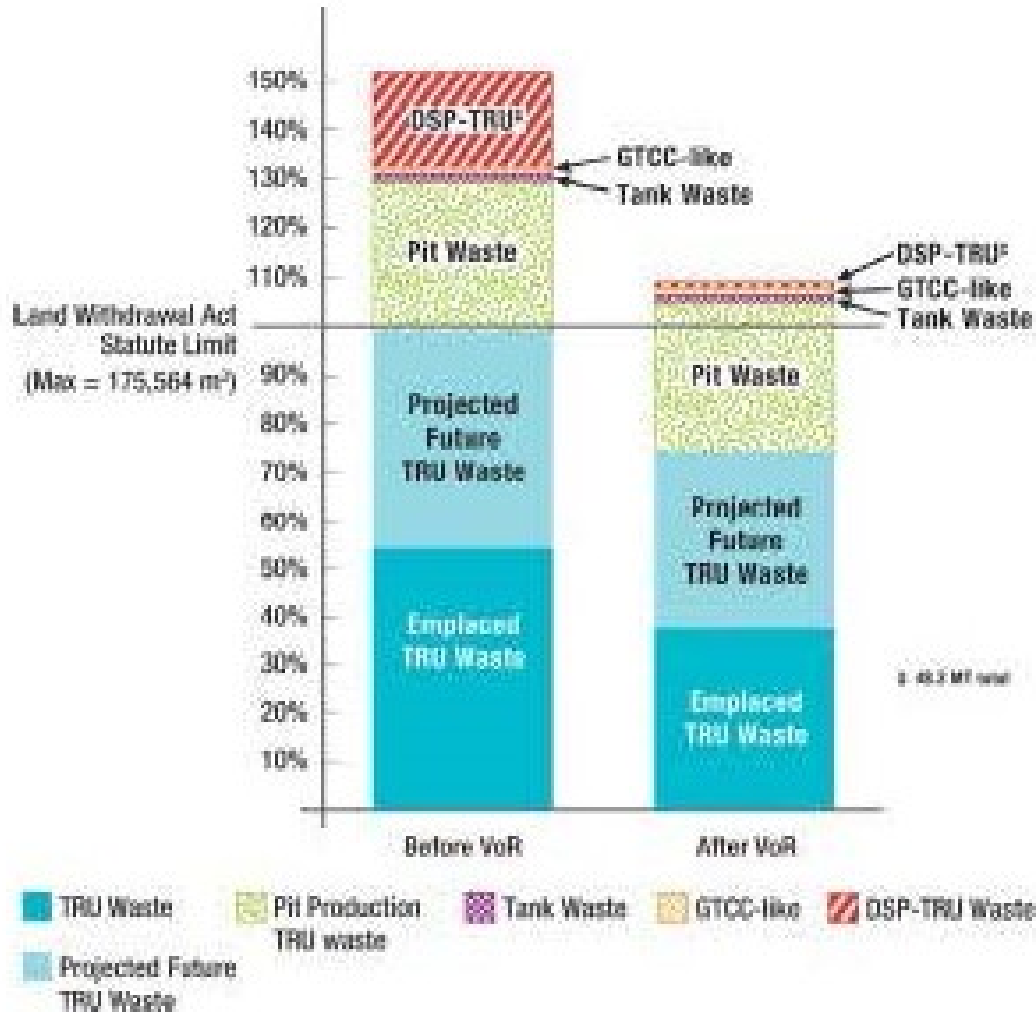
- WIPP 1979, 1992, 1996 laws
- Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 & 1987
- Multiple sites needed and there should be viable geologic formations
- Reduce transportation risks and costs
- No state, including New Mexico, is willing to host the only repository

DOE Wants “Forever WIPP”

- Operate WIPP through 2050 for “the existing defense TRU waste inventory.”
- “WIPP is currently anticipated to operate beyond 2050.”
- WIPP operates until at least 2080 for Waste from new Plutonium Pit Production at LANL and SRS.
- WIPP operates until at least 2080 for Waste from new SRS Plutonium Pit Production.
- No other repositories discussed.



DOE Needs Bigger “Forever WIPP”



DOE Needs More WIPP Permit Changes

- Permit Renewal Application proposes deleting the 2024 waste operations end date and replacing it with no date:
“The Disposal Phase will last until the disposal objectives of the DOE are reached.”

What have other states done?

- 1960s and afterwards – **Colorado** says get waste out of Rocky Flats
- 1995 – **Idaho**-DOE Settlement Agreement:
TRU waste out by 2015 or 2018
- 2019 – **Idaho** Supplemental Agreement: at least 55% of shipments to WIPP from INL
- 2020 – **Nevada**-DOE Agreement to remove ½ MT of plutonium by 2026; send no more
- 2020 – **South Carolina**-DOE Agreement:
\$600 million penalty; plutonium out by 2037

What to do?

- New Mexicans strongly object to “Forever WIPP.” 97+% of commenters oppose the new shaft.
- NMED should maintain historic volume and time limits in the Permit.
- New Mexico officials can state that waste volume and time limits will be enforced and that DOE and Congress must start now to identify new repositories.

Contact Information

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