

Stop “Forever WIPP”

Radioactive and Hazardous
Materials Committee

August 5, 2022

Clovis, NM

Don Hancock

Southwest Research and Information Center

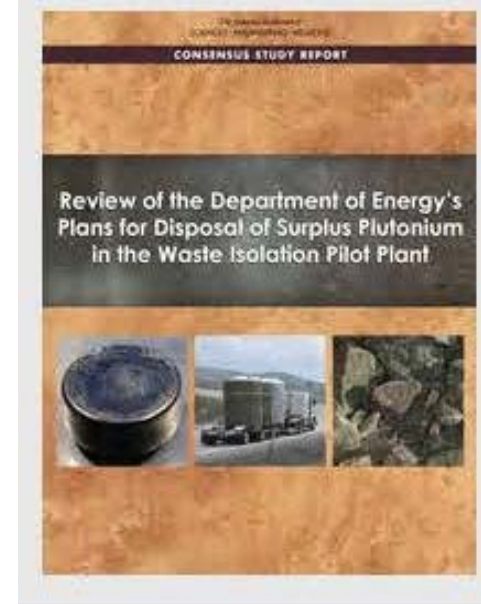
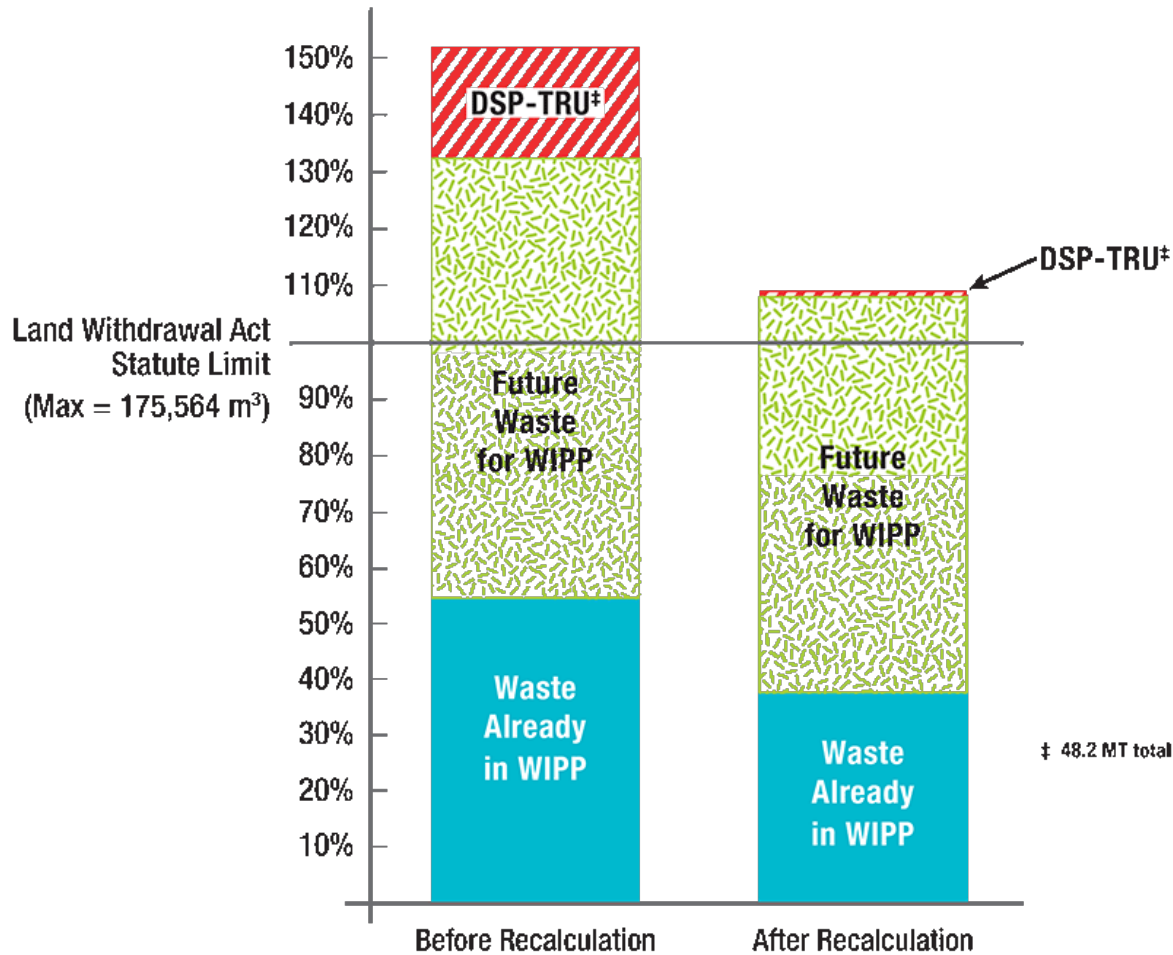
WIPP's Mission

- “Start Clean, Stay Clean” to dispose of up to 175,564 m³ of defense transuranic (TRU) waste – *100,969 m³ as of 7/30/2022*
- 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 – *DOE wants no disposal end date*

Other repositories are necessary for legal and technical reasons

- WIPP 1979, 1992, 1996 laws
- Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 & 1987
- Future waste generation, as there is no policy to stop TRU waste production
- Reduce transportation risks and costs
- No state, including New Mexico, is willing to host the only repository
- “No plan” for another TRU repository
 - Ike White, DOE EM-1, 5/17/22

DOE Waste Exceeds WIPP limits



DSP-TRU Waste
 Future Waste for WIPP
 Waste Already in WIPP

DSP-TRU is diluted surplus plutonium transuranic waste that was generated by defense program activities.

Petition to Governor Lujan Grisham

Petition to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

New Mexicans call on Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to stand up for public health and the environment by stopping the expansion of the nuclear waste facility called the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico.

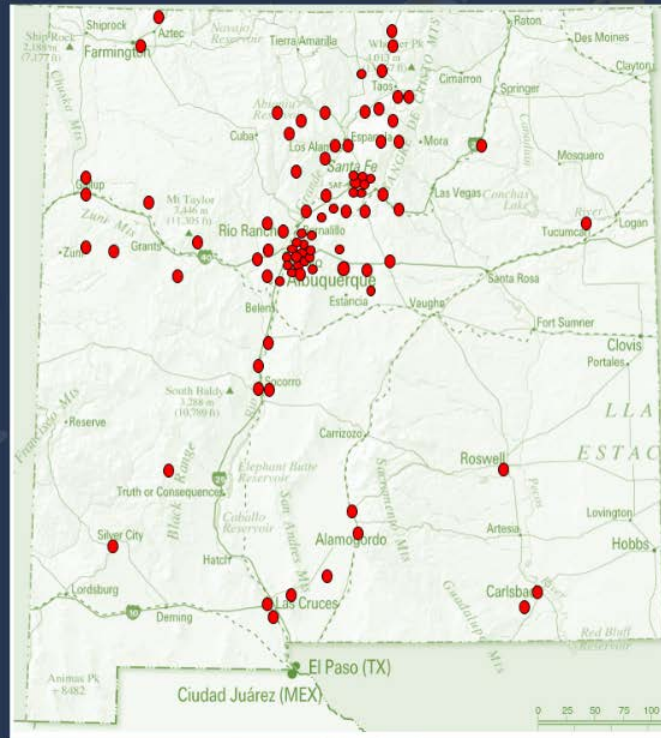
New Mexicans oppose the nuclear waste expansion at WIPP because:

1. The federal government's plans would transport more nuclear weapons waste to WIPP than is allowed.*
2. The plutonium nuclear waste in the WIPP expansion is still dangerous for hundreds of thousands of years and endangers the health of our families and future generations.
3. Unless New Mexico says 'NO' to WIPP expansion, other disposal locations will not be developed, and WIPP and NM will always be the only dump site, which is not fair. New Mexico never agreed to bear the burden of being the only nuclear waste dump site in the country.
4. The federal government has not been transparent about its WIPP expansion plans, and has repeatedly refused to discuss the plans publicly, including in hearings on the WIPP Permit. Many New Mexicans are not even aware of those plans. We deserve a transparent and fair process that includes the voices of all impacted communities.

We strongly support, and urge our Governor to take all necessary actions, including denying permits for the piecemeal expansion.

* Federal law and legal agreements with New Mexico clearly limit how much waste WIPP can take, as described in the April 2020 National Academy of Sciences Report - Review of the Department of Energy's Plans for Disposal of Surplus Plutonium in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Who Signed the Governor's Petition?



EACH DOT REPRESENTS ONE ZIP CODE; NOT ONE SIGNER

LAS CRUCES 88001, 88005
 EDGEWOOD 87015
 CARLSBAD 88220
 ALGODONES 87001
 POLVADERA 87828
 SAN YSIDRO 87053
 VALLECITOS 87581
 PLACITAS 87043
 PECOS 87552
 LA JOYA 87028
 LAMY 87540
 RAMAH 87321
 ABIQUIU 87510

LA JARA 87027
 ROSWELL 88203
 CERRILLOS 87010
 LA LUZ 88337
 TIJERAS 87059
 CHACON 87130
 SANDIA PARK 8704
 RANCHOS DE TAOS 87557
 MORIARTY 87035
 LOS ALAMOS 87544
 FARMINGTON 87401
 EMBUDO 87531
 EL PRADO 87529
 QUAY COUNTY 88401

SILVER CITY 88061
 COYOTE 8701
 ALAMAGORDO 88310
 RIO RANCHO 87124
 SOCCORO 87801
 SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO 87052
 SANTA CRUZ 87567
 PENA BLANCA 87041
 LOS OJOS 87551
 LA PLATA 87418
 GLORIETA 87535
 GALLUP 87301
 CHIMAYO 87522

SANTA FE 87501, 87502, 87504, 87505, 87507
 ALBUQUERQUE 87121, 87122, 87123, 87125, 87116, 87115, 87114, 87111, 87109, 87105

Governor to DOE Secretary



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

April 8, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585


Dear Secretary Granholm,

On March 1, 2022, a petition with 1,146 signatures expressing concerns with the expanding mission of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was delivered to my office. I have attached the cover page of this petition for your reference.

Specifically, the New Mexicans who signed the petition raised concerns about the transportation of the surplus plutonium waste stream between the DOE's Savannah River Site in South Carolina and the WIPP. They also raised concerns that the disposal of this waste stream will exceed the volume limits set in place by the federal Land Withdrawal Act. The petitioners would like to see the DOE develop a new disposal site in a state other than New Mexico.

The petition reflects ongoing frustration among New Mexicans regarding the lack of meaningful and transparent public engagement from the DOE on waste clean-up, shipments, and long-term plans for the WIPP. Because the issues raised in the petition can only be addressed by DOE, I am passing this petition along to you. As Governor, I take these concerns seriously and request that the Department of Energy take action to address the issues raised by New Mexicans.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your reply.

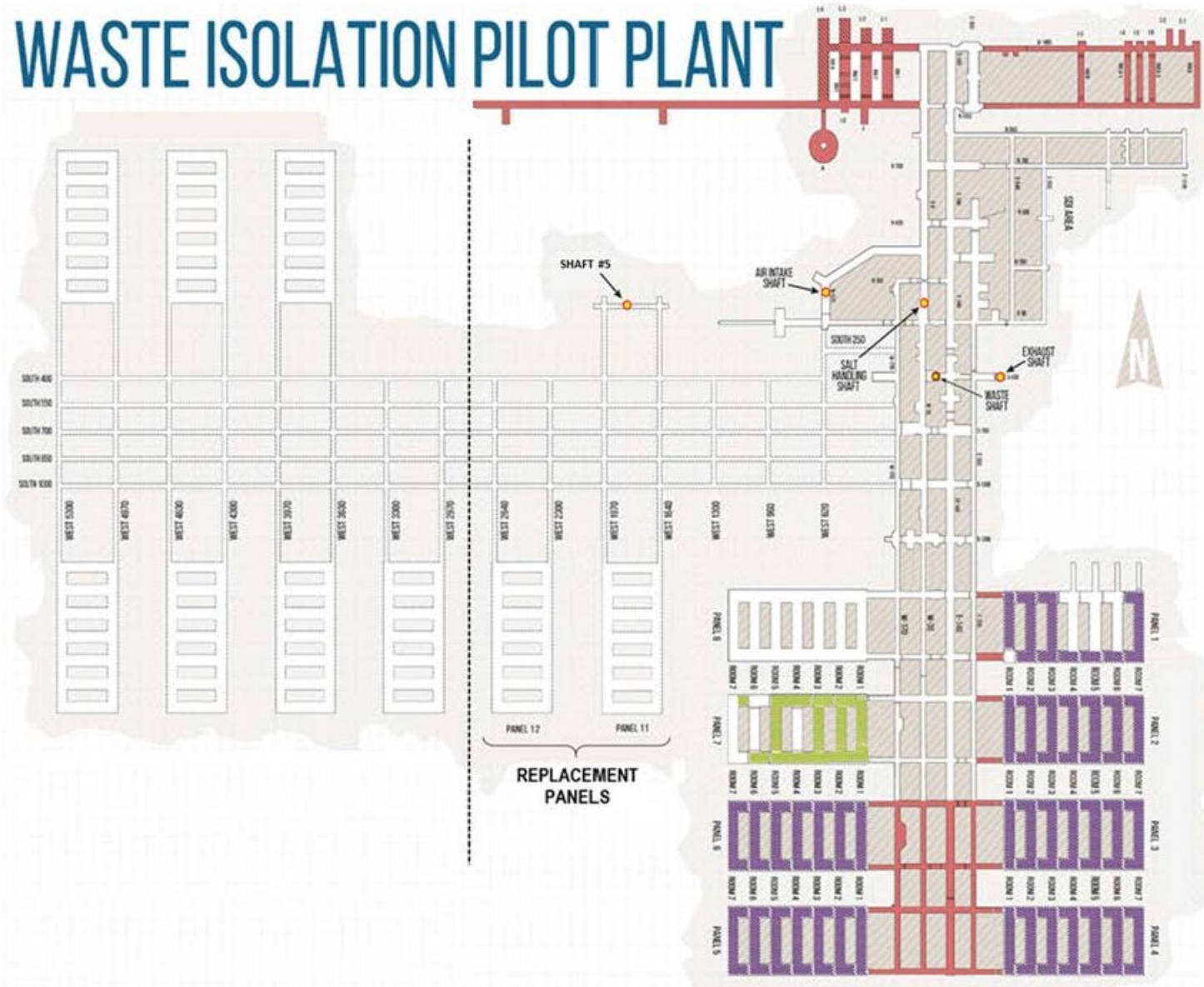
Sincerely,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

June 27, 2022 DOE to NMED

“Based on the potential category waste stream inventory estimates in the 2021 ATWIR, final facility closure could begin no earlier than CY 2083.”

Doubling WIPP's Underground Capacity

WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT



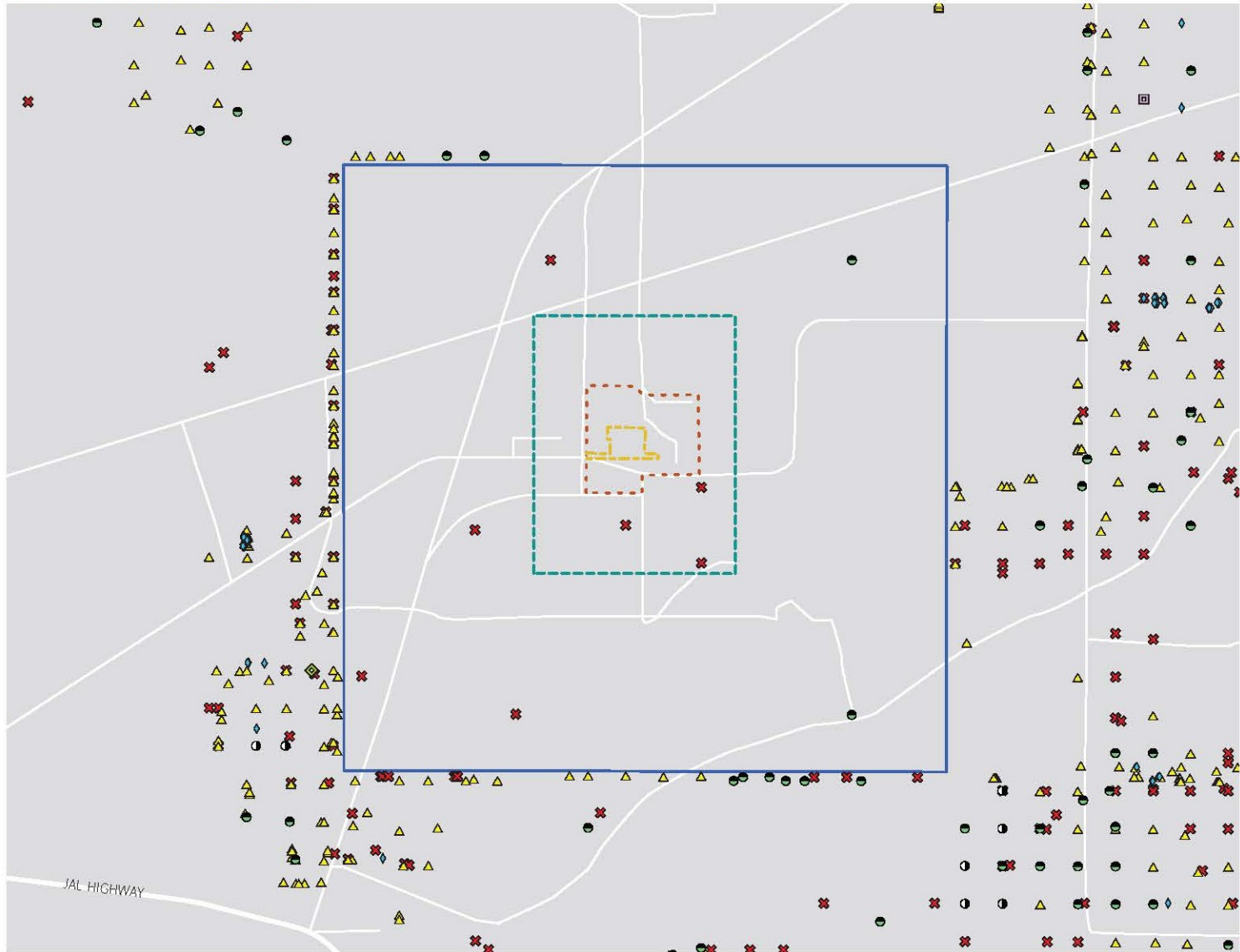
DOE to NMED – July 12, 2022

“The Permittees object to any inclusion or reference to a final facility footprint beyond Panels 11 and 12 in the Administrative Record”

- Waste volume to fill doubled capacity
- “other repositories”
- “prioritization of generator site shipments”
- and four other issues

“The C&C Agreement has no current role in DOE’s present or future plans for the WIPP.”¹⁰

OIL AND GAS DRILLING NEAR WIPP*



- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| WIPP Facility Boundaries: | Property Protection Area | Exclusive Use Area | Off Limits Area | Land Withdrawal Area | |
| Oil and Gas Wells: | Active | Cancelled | New | Plugged (not released) | Plugged (site released) |
| | Temporary Abandonment | | Temporary Abandonment (expired) | | |

*Oil and gas drilling activity within five miles of Wipp's outer boundary; the map is significantly zoomed in from that range and there are also well pads that include multiple wells that might not be immediately apparent. Sources: *FracTracker Alliance*; *New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department*; *Energy Intelligence*

Worker Contamination Claims

As of 07/31/2022

Combined Part B (Cancer) & E (Toxics)

	CLAIMS	CASES
Applications Filed	188	150 *
Total Compensation Paid	48	42
Total Dollars		\$5,595,000
Total Medical Bills Paid		<u>\$1,552,593</u>
Total Paid		\$7,147,593

*Applications filed represent **86 unique workers**

As of 08/5/2018

Total Paid **\$3,305,600**

*Applications filed represent **57 unique workers**

Public Asks

- DOE to openly and regularly discuss plans for existing waste, future waste generation, surplus plutonium, plutonium pit waste, and other repositories
- NMED Permit renewal limits the time period of WIPP disposal operations, improves safety requirements, and limits future expansion
- State officials take actions to ensure that WIPP limits are upheld and DOE begins siting another TRU waste repository

Contact Information

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