

## What is WIPP?

WIPP is the world's only geologic repository for radioactive waste disposal. Waste is emplaced 2150 feet underground in a salt mine in southeastern New Mexico

WIPP can legally receive **only nuclear weapons waste** (not waste from nuclear reactors). The waste is limited to materials contaminated by 'transuranic' radioactive elements—mostly plutonium.



Transuranic (TRU) waste is not Low Level or High Level waste, though it can be so “hot” that it must be handled by machines. Most WIPP waste also contains hazardous chemicals.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Go to  
[www.StopForeverWIPP.org](http://www.StopForeverWIPP.org)  
or find us on Facebook

There you can:  
Learn more

View short animated educational videos

Sign up to receive information and action emails

Join us and others working on solutions

## Stop the WIPP Expansion

New Mexico must not become a national nuclear sacrifice zone!

The Stop Forever WIPP Coalition includes:

Southwest Research and Information Center

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping

Nuclear Watch New Mexico  
Veterans for Peace

Conservation Voters New Mexico  
The 285ALL community organization

and many individuals



Stop the WIPP Expansion

and

Don't let New Mexico become a national nuclear sacrifice zone

[www.StopForeverWIPP.org](http://www.StopForeverWIPP.org)



## Promises Made To New Mexico

More than 40 years ago, when the state of New Mexico agreed to host the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near the city of Carlsbad, the Department of Energy (DOE) made promises to the people of New Mexico that limited WIPP in various ways.

### These promises were written into laws, regulations, and legal agreements

and include:

- The allowable waste is limited to materials contaminated by transuranic elements
- The amount of waste is limited
- The State is responsible for permitting WIPP's operation and closure
- WIPP operations end in 2024, at which time closure begins
- WIPP is a "pilot" plant, and there will be other repositories that would share the burden of disposing the nation's nuclear weapons' waste



## Broken Promises and WIPP Expansion

DOE is now trying to expand and extend WIPP in a variety of ways:

- Waste would include pure plutonium from "pits," (nuclear weapons triggers) not just items contaminated by plutonium
- The maximum amount of waste would be exceeded by newly generated waste
- There would be NO ending date for waste operations
- DOE has "no plans" for another TRU repository.

### An Expanded WIPP Means Expanded Risk

Expanding WIPP in these ways will greatly increase the number of waste shipments on our highways—essentially forever. This vastly increases the risk of a transportation accident and a radioactive release on our roads. In 2014 WIPP had a release that contaminated much of the underground mine. With no end date, this is more likely to happen again.

The pure plutonium pits DOE wants to transport, eventually to WIPP, would be in powdered form for at least part of their journey. This is the most dangerous form of plutonium as it is easily inhaled and remains in the lungs. It would be impossible to clean up from our homes, schools, farms and ranch lands.

## WIPP's Permit Renewal Happening Now!

WIPP's 10-year Hazardous Waste Facility Operating Permit renewal is being considered NOW by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

DOE's renewal application proposes eliminating the end of waste disposal, in 2024 and more than doubles the underground disposal area.

New Mexicans can make their voices heard by writing letters and giving oral comments at the public hearings.

Go to [www.StopForeverWIPP.org](http://www.StopForeverWIPP.org)

for more information on how you can participate, see sample letters and informational videos, and sign up to receive timely notices and action alerts, to voice your concerns on the WIPP Permit Renewal.

