

Senator Tom Udall  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Martin Heinrich  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall and Senator Heinrich:

I am very concerned about the Department of Energy (DOE) rushing to re-open WIPP this year despite unresolved public and worker safety issues and because of the many proposals to expand WIPP, if it is re-opened.

The WIPP underground remains contaminated, so operations have to be greatly changed, including workers being dressed in “ebola suits.” Ventilation will not be restored to the pre-2014 levels until 2021 or later – the new system is not designed and how much it will cost is unknown.

The transuranic (plutonium-contaminated) waste from manufacturing nuclear bombs can be in safe storage at generator sites, so there’s no emergency requiring the rush to re-open.

DOE recently announced that it wants to expand WIPP for commercial Greater-than-Class C (GTCC) waste from nuclear reactors and for tons of weapons-grade plutonium. DOE also wants to have a defense high-level waste repository and some people want to “volunteer” WIPP!

There is time for my requests to be fulfilled. Please:

\* Tell DOE to improve the ventilation and other safety requirements before WIPP re-opens

\* Insist that DOE drop the expansion proposals

\* Require DOE to affirm that WIPP will not be considered for the defense high-level waste repository

\* Obtain additional congressional assurances that the WIPP law is not going to be changed to allow the proposed expansions.

WIPP is a public health and safety issue now and for many generations to come!

Thank you.

---

Name

---

Address City State Zip

NM