



# THE FUTURE OF WIPP:

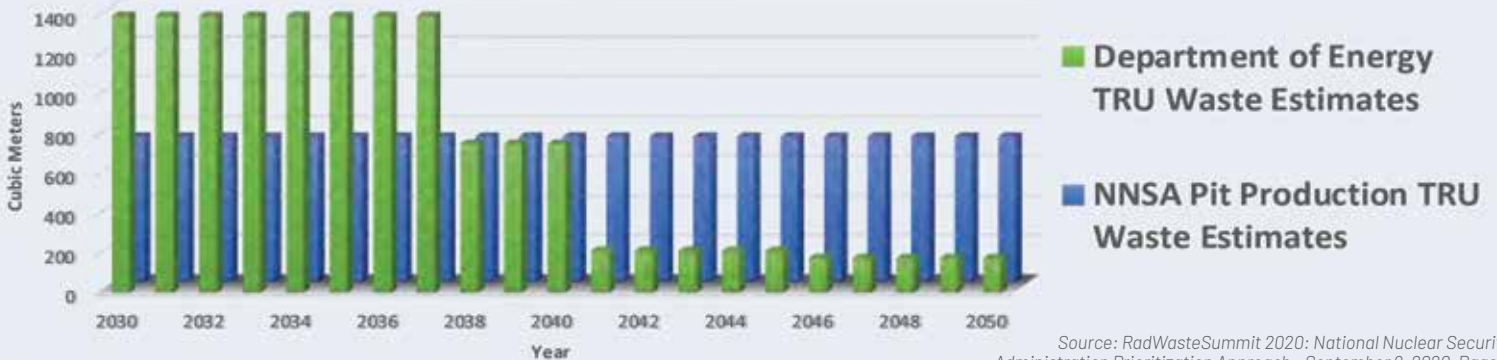
# CLEANUP WASTE **PLUTONIUM BOMB WASTE**



## 20 Year TRU Waste Projections



DOE/NNSA TRU Waste 20 Year Projections (2030-2050)



Source: RadWasteSummit 2020: National Nuclear Security Administration Prioritization Approach - September 9, 2020, Page 8

## THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT (WIPP) HAS SO FAR BEEN A CLEAN UP SITE.



NNSA's mission is plutonium pit production → plain & simple.

As you can see clearly in the National Nuclear Security Administration's chart above, NNSA is getting ready to dump radioactive wastes from plutonium pit production at WIPP for the next 30 years. Waste from expanded pit production will soon far outweigh cleanup wastes.



## DOE TRU WASTES:

DOE transuranic (TRU) wastes are plutonium contaminated wastes from the past production of nuclear weapons. In 1999 WIPP was first granted a hazardous waste permit by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to dispose of TRU waste 2,150 feet below ground in a mined geologic salt repository.

versus

## NNSA PIT PRODUCTION PLUTONIUM WASTES:

Plutonium pits are the essential radioactive cores of nuclear weapons. The U.S. is implementing a \$2 trillion "modernization" program to keep nuclear weapons forever, helping to fuel a new nuclear arms race. The Pentagon has identified expanded plutonium pit production as the #1 modernization issue. No future pit production is to maintain the safety and reliability of the existing nuclear weapons stockpile.

2050...AND BEYOND

NNSA HAS STATED CLEARLY:

**"WIPP IS ESSENTIAL FOR PIT PRODUCTION UNTIL 2080."**

THE WIPP PERMIT is scheduled to be renewed every ten years and the **final closure date of WIPP** can be set in this renewal. NMED is proposing a provision that will require DOE to make a case for Permit renewal at the end of each Permit term. This change includes requiring an **accurate inventory of radioactive TRU wastes** destined for WIPP, including pit production at the Los Alamos National Lab.

NMED is also adding a new Permit condition that triggers the revocation of the Permit if the Land Withdrawal Act volumetric disposal limit for wastes of 6.2 million cubic feet is **increased or otherwise changed**.

Thirdly, NMED is adding a new Permit section to require the **prioritization of waste from New Mexico** generator/storage sites for emplacement at WIPP.

As we can clearly see from the chart, **this DOE plan** for the future of WIPP will **overwhelmingly end up being new pit production wastes**.



**A Public Hearing: is currently scheduled to start Aug. 28, 2023**

The Hearing can be observed by the public, and public comments will be possible. Learn more: <https://nukewatch.org/wipp-hearing-determination-request/>

**IS CHANGING**


ALL FUTURE PIT PRODUCTION is for speculative **new designs** that can't be tested because of the international testing moratorium, thereby perhaps eroding confidence in the stockpile. Or, alternatively, these new designs could push the U.S. into resuming testing, **which would have severe proliferation consequences**.

Pit production will add an estimated 57,550 cubic meters of radioactive plutonium wastes over 50 years, more than half of WIPP's projected future capacity. The National Academy of Sciences has already concluded that **WIPP doesn't have sufficient capacity for all of DOE's planned radioactive wastes**.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## WIPP's Critical Mission

- WIPP opened in 1999 and has now operated for more than 20 years.
- Despite being located in New Mexico, out-of-state sites have been given priority over radioactive wastes from Los Alamos Lab.
- WIPP's originally stated mission was to "Start Clean, Stay Clean." But in 2014 an improperly prepared waste drum from LANL ruptured, which contaminated and shut down WIPP for 3 years.



**NOW THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION & DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ARE TRANSFORMING WIPP INTO A RADIOACTIVE WASTE DUMP FOR EXPANDED NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION** 