



THE FUTURE OF WIPP:

CLEANUP ~~WASTE~~ **PLUTONIUM BOMB WASTE**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

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.

2050...AND BEYOND

NNSA HAS STATED CLEARLY:

"WIPP IS ESSENTIAL FOR PIT PRODUCTION UNTIL 2080."



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.

Non-governmental groups, including NukeWatch, joined the NM Environment Department in working out a new **WIPP Hazardous Waste Permit** with DOE. The New Permit provides for **greater regulatory oversight, improves safeguards, and authorizes disposal** of waste in two new underground panels over the next ten-years of the Permit term. And it also **prioritizes LANL legacy waste** from cleanup activities.

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**.

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**.

IS CHANGING

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

