



CCNS FAX

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety

Date: 12/9/91.
 To: Kathleen Sinneros
 From: John Stroud
 Re: WIPP wastes to LANL?

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Message:

The enclosed page is from DOE's Reply Brief in the Washington lawsuit. DOE says it can always take WIPP wastes back out & send them to LANL (or, maybe Rocky Flats!?!). I thought LANL's RCRA permit was for on-site generated TRU waste. Am I wrong?
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Thanks.

DR. G
 Comments



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argument was fundamentally correct. Nevertheless, that response is better understood with greater factual explanation.

In the unlikely event that the WIPP site is determined to be unsuitable for interim or permanent storage of TRU waste, DOE has readily available a number of alternatives for the interim storage of the retrieved waste. (Admin. Rec. IV. JJ., Pages 5-1 through 5-5.) First, DOE may choose to store the waste at any one of a number of DOE-approved TRU waste storage facilities located throughout the United States. Among those sites having interim status under RCRA, which allows for the storage of mixed TRU waste, are: the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Hanford Engineering Development Laboratory, the Savannah River Site, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Rocky Flats Plant, and the Nevada Test Site. These six sites, as well as the Los Alamos National Laboratory, possess the facilities and infrastructure for storage of mixed TRU waste. Accordingly, DOE would have its choice of at least seven facilities at which it could store TRU waste retrieved from the WIPP site. At any one of these sites it is feasible for DOE to construct a dedicated facility to provide the retrieved waste with protection from the elements and unwarranted intrusion. Further, the retrieved waste would be monitored by a trained staff to minimize the chance of undetected deterioration of the waste containers. It is clear, therefore, that, in the unlikely event that the WIPP site is determined to be unsuitable for long-term or interim storage of TRU waste, DOE can both retrieve any waste emplaced at the WIPP