

ENTERED

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I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed Triassic Park Hazardous Waste Facility. I feel this operation should not be approved for several reasons. The increased hazardous waste traffic generated by this dump poses a threat to surrounding communities through which the shipments must pass. Few law enforcement area emergency responders have the training and equipment to deal with hazardous materials incidents. Almost no law enforcement (the first on any accident scene) have even ~~been~~^{even} trained at the awareness level. What safeguards will be taken to ensure no accidents take place enroute to the site? The proposed location could seriously impact groundwater in the area. As a private entity, the Facility would not be under the close scrutiny that a public Facility would be. What safeguards would be in place if the owners abandon the site ~~and~~ without any regard for cleaning up the mess? No amount of bonds would cover the cleanup costs that would fall to the taxpayers.

Dickinson

The increase in traffic would negatively impact the local area both from the physical condition of the roads to the safety issues of increased accidents.

With the WIPP site already located in South East New Mexico, the addition of the Triassic Park Facility would paint the area as the dumping ground of the South West. Once the door is opened to Triassic, there will be others lining up to dump here.

There are endangered species in the area of the proposed site that could be negatively impacted. Other non-endangered species would be affected also.

The proposed site's location adjacent to the Mescalero Sands National Recreation Area seems like very poor planning and will degrade a beautiful area. As I understand the Facility will have a waiver of the ground water monitoring requirements. Why should they be provided with such a waiver especially in light of the closeness to the sensitive habitats of the recreation area?

Given the general weather conditions of Southeastern New Mexico, it seems rather likely that material (both gaseous and solid) will be carried ~~off~~ off the site onto adjoining private and public land. IF the Facility will be so safe, why not place it Santa Fe?

Having recently moved to New Mexico from Alabama, I am familiar with the negative impacts of Hazardous Waste. The Emk site in West Alabama is one of the worst sites in the South East. This Facility will haunt the state for decades after it lives out its useful life span.

Having formerly worked in Emergency Management, I know the risks faced in dealing with Hazardous material. Serving on a HAZMAT response team was difficult enough dealing with known substances, dealing with unknowns contained in waste would be a danger to any responders to any accident scene.

No matter what level we agree is safe for any toxic chemicals, experience shows that new information in the future ~~to~~ will lower to toxic thresholds. This has been the case with many site including those I am familiar with, the PCB contamination in Anniston, Alabama, and the PCB contamination and chemical weapons Facility and the Anniston Army Depot. This is part of why I left Alabama.

The NM Environmental Dept should be protecting the citizens of the State (who pay taxes to fund the Dept.) not grant permits to irresponsible, profit-driven businesses that will degrade the natural environment of New Mexico.

Since the local people will be impacted the greatest, they should be given the opportunity to decide the ~~issue~~ beyond the chance to voice opinions at public forums. If put to public vote, the permitting of the Facility would fail. This alone should put an end to the permit application process.

South eastern New Mexico is already over taxing its water supply. Surface water has all but disappeared and ground water is going fast. The required water for this Facility would further diminish the precious resource of the region.

These are but a few of the questions and comments I have regarding the Triassic Park Facility. As a college instructor, I wish to receive answers to ~~the these~~ issue as to how ~~the~~ NMED will address these issues so I may explain to my students how the state proposes to protect its citizens.

Sincerely,



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What else can we do at this stage in the process?
Is there any possibility that they will secure radioactive waste permits.

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