

**Mr. Steve Zappe :re Modifications to Hazardous Waste Facility permit
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive
Building E, Santa Fe, NM 87505**

This Modification proposal, if allowed, would spell out the end of any of the assurances the state of New Mexico has been given over the years by the DOE as to the safety concerns of its citizens.

1. If the contents of the shipping containers are not confirmed until (and If) the shipment reaches WIPP, any accident on route will involve unknown and probably multiple hazardous substances which cannot be delt with before serious consequences ensue.

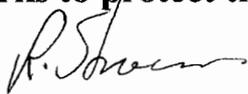
The DOE is now renegeing on the years of promises that the shipments through the state would be as safe as possible under the circumstances.

2. Any extension of the size of the above ground storage or the time allowed for above ground storage will lead to the WIPP site becoming a virtually "permanent" aboveground dump. Dont forget that the citizens of New Mexico were assured that WIPP would be safe because "all radioactive waste would be buried deep in the salt dome".

I also would like to mention that WIPP was sold to us in the first place as a "pilot project" which I understood as having a short life span. The DOE has lied consistantly about the real objective of WIPP and this is obviously one more step in turning Southern New Mexico into nothing but a giant waste dump for DOE hazardous and radioactive waste.

3. Authorizing WIPP to "manage prohibited items" will mean that the WIPP site will end up being used for uncharacterized radioactive, hazardous and mixed wastes which again the people of New Mexico have been constantly assured would not be the case.

If NMED cannot stop this modification then you should at the least get the the State government out of this charade and FIND something else to do that actually Works to protect the environment.

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