



ENCLOSED

Oct. 26, 2002
Box 351
El Prado, NM 87529

OCT 2002

WASH DC

Dear Mr. Zappe,

This Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste modification, as i am sure you can imagine, is something which i totally oppose. Please deny this request and suggest they begin site selection and NEPA-EIS for another site for the RH-waste. From transportation issues to the handling facilities this is a huge request. Though it may have been authorized by Congress, it was not a serious consideration during the permit hearings because DOE withdrew its' content. Visual inspections^{of drums} and verification of content are vital to safety for obvious reasons, and not something to be trifled with. Issues of panel and room closure which are proposed in another recently proposed modification need to be addressed in reference to this notion, too,

You know that during the permit hearings, all of the parts of the permit were looked at as one, and now these permit modifications are coming in so fast and furious that the complex issues which, even then, got pigeon holed, are now so isolated and remote that they are removed from consideration. Will this waste travel in that same elevator we rode? Will other people be traveling in it on the same day? If 95% of this waste is not produced yet, i say, DON'T PRODUCE IT!!! This massive war machine has got to be stopped. I attended the march on Ronald Dumsfeld's house and took with me this little petition. Unfortunately there was not time to approach but a fraction of these people, ~~perhaps~~ 2000+, but i kept busy for those hours explaining this issue and collection autographs, signers. Many of these folks who i did talk to, did know about this issue and others of the ^{other} WIPP and LANL plans; and oppose it all, too,

Since "DOE will submit information about modifications made to the facility" implies that these details are not yet disclosed, it seems that there is inadequate information in this request to do anything but reject it. The original RH-TRU plan included a separate handling building with double air lock doors, and lots of extras which were spelled out with, not after the concept.

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This request is so huge that it seems more like an alteration, rather than a modification, and should require a much more ^{trying} strenuous process, like an EIS. I am now, at the last minute, ^{to} find out more about the permittees' compliance history, but alas, your off in Carlsbad, all circuits are busy, and you are probably too busy too. But, i'll say that i do not think that their compliance history is good enough to permit NMED to further extend the trust and confidence in either DOE or Westinghouse TRU Solutions.

I encourage you to find the best way to derail this proposition. And, lend my support to any effective method of stoping this notion completely. So do all these wonderful people, and thousands of others who you probably will not hear from.

This legal end-run to avoid the permitting process must not be allowed or encouraged in any way. New Mexicans are looking to you to defend us from these merchants of death and destruction. The cumulative impact of these many alterations must be considered with complete circumspection. This modification procedure seems to dilute the opportunity for expert witnesses and technical testimony that is so essential to the NEPA process. Basic issues of site selection and methodology, for example, are being circumvented. Health and human safety cannot be protected by such a disjointed process. And, also, people with bad compliance records cannot be trusted and need to face more restrictions, oversight and fines. Obviously, independently you cannot take such bold moves, but there are many well informed citizens who encourage you to shut down the DOE and its' affiliates. WE demand compliance and responsible clean-up, and will stand with you for this cause.

Many thanks for all your hard work,

bonnie bonneau



Taos County, New Mexico
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Mr. Steve Zappe, NMED;

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