



From: Me
To: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Cc: Jeffrey Dillon
Subject: Nuclear Waste, WIPP, Area 55, Citizen Concerns, Hazards, DOE Reports of Adversity of Environment and Minority People, ETC.
Date: Sunday, September 09, 2012 1:46:34 AM

Dear Trais Kliphuis:

I live in Taos County, and though it is not in the fifty mile radius of a foreseeable disaster, the winds do blow this way. I remember the smell of the fires at Los Alamos a few summers ago, and how the smoke filled the skies. I don't believe there is anything safe about storing the waste, about the safety of shielded containers, or about the transportation of the plutonium rods or bits that would be part of all this. Though our nation needs a solution to nuclear waste, placing it in this pristine environment at the expense of poor and minority communities is wrong.

We must all share the burden equally. Those who use the power should be expected to handle their share of the waste, so please don't let more waste come to New Mexico. Perhaps the first peoples walked on these lands in New Mexico some 12,000 years ago. A nuclear accident is not impossible with terrorism threats, poor management at LANL, and a lack of dedicated resources. Our world's history could be obliterated as well as the current occupants of the beautiful southwest. I pay my taxes, and support our constitution. Where does it say, the few should pay for the many?

I urge you and this committee to act in accordance with the ordinary people who live here, who have made this area home. I will continue to educate myself and my family and my friends here in Taos County, and around the world about the plans and activities at Area 55 and in New Mexico, generally. The world is with us.

Additionally, I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could be too radioactive to over-pack.

The shielded containers request once again is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Bullard

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