Protection of worker and public health and safety must be the priority at WIPP. Yesterday's roof fall in Panel 7 strongly indicates that it is time for the Department to focus exclusively on closure of the south end of the WIPP site. It's time for DOE/NWP to formally withdraw its Class 3 permit modification request for expansion of surface storage.

Please advise.

Joni

WIPP Update

November 3, 2016
From DOE WIPP website

Rock Fall Causes Precautionary Evacuation of WIPP Underground

Employees evacuated the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) underground around 2:30 p.m. (MT) today in response to a reported rock fall. There were no injuries and no release of radiological contamination.

Employees working in the area of Panel 7 in the WIPP underground reported a loud noise and observed salt dust indicating a possible rock fall. The employees reported the incident to the Central Monitoring Room (CMR), and the CMR ordered an evacuation of the underground. The WIPP Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated around 3 p.m. as a precautionary measure to monitor the situation.

A team, consisting of mine rescue, geotechnical and radiological control personnel, is developing a plan to re-enter the underground on Nov. 4 to determine the exact location and extent of the rock fall.