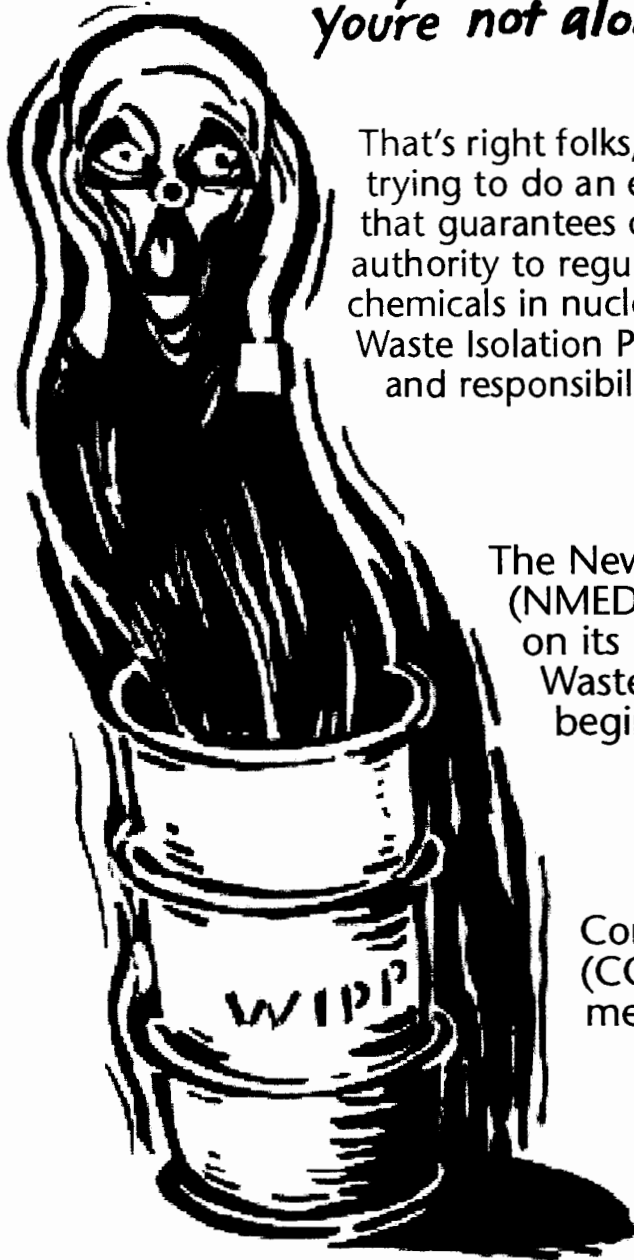


FEEL LIKE SCREAMING?

You're not alone. More WIPP hearings!



That's right folks, the Department of Energy is trying to do an end run around the Federal law that guarantees our state Environment Department authority to regulate the non-radioactive hazardous chemicals in nuclear waste headed for the controversial Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. New Mexico has a right and responsibility to regulate WIPP waste.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will be holding a public hearing on its Hazardous Waste Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) beginning:

Monday, February 22, at 9AM

PERA Building

1120 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) will hold a public information meeting about the hearing on:

Thursday, February 18th, at 6PM

Main Santa Fe Public Library

in downtown Santa Fe.

Say it again: No permit, no disposal!

For more information call CCNS at 986-1973

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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT HEARING FOR
THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
beginning FEBRUARY 22, 1999

1. Why should the public come to another WIPP hearing?

We can make a difference. This is a State hearing; all of the hearings in the past have been federal Department of Energy (DOE) or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hearings. This decision will be made in Santa Fe, not in Washington, D.C. We have a new opportunity to influence the future of WIPP at the State level.

WIPP will impact our land, air, water, and our highways. If WIPP opens, we will be stuck with the consequences forever.

We must encourage our New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to write a strong permit. NMED, under pressure from DOE, has already weakened its stance on environmental, safety and health protection criteria in the permit. NMED will be under pressure to further dilute the permit unless New Mexicans vigorously push for greater safety protection.

In its already submitted proposed Opening Statement for the February 22 hearing, NMED assured all interested participants that it will take "very seriously its mandate to fully and fairly consider all public comments prior to any recommendation regarding a final permit for WIPP."

Over the years, citizens have been asking hard questions about WIPP. These questions have generally not been answered fully. At this trial-like hearing, members of the public will have the opportunity to cross-examine the experts who will be presenting testimony. Citizens will press for direct responses to their questions.

New Mexicans can impact the State's permitting process. This permit will define safety at WIPP and will be legally enforceable. As the result of the successful input of citizens, WIPP can be made safer.

2. Procedure.

It is important to come to the hearing to witness the proceedings. Do not assume that if you do not take the time that others will be there. The hearing will last for two months or more. **Technical testimony will be presented Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.**, with breaks as announced by the hearing officer. **Public testimony will be taken from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. everyday.** You can either simply show up at the beginning of a public comment session and sign up to speak, or reserve a specific time by calling the **Hearing Clerk Tamella Gonzales at (505) 827-2425**. [Leave her a message with your name, phone number and the time you would like to speak. She will call you back to confirm your reservation.]

On the first day of the hearing, **Monday, February 22**, the hearing officer has granted an extended public testimony period. **This public testimony will begin at 2:30 p.m. and go to 5:15 p.m.** Please be there as a witness and as a speaker. An outpouring of public support for a strong permit on this day will set the tone and let the out-of-state hearing officer know how important this permit is to New Mexicans.

3. Information on the Web.

DOE's WIPP hazardous waste application, NMED's draft permit and fact sheets are available on the NMED web site at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/. Information on "Managing Hazardous Waste - RCRA Subtitle C" [RCRA stands for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. It is the federal law that regulates hazardous waste] is available at www.epa.gov/epaoswer/general/orientat. This helpful document is written in lay-person's terms. *Chapter 1: Hazardous Waste Identification* is particularly useful in understanding hazardous waste. For more information on WIPP, please see CCNS's web site at www.nuclearactive.org.