February 28, 2014

Secretary Ryan Flynn  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Secretary Flynn:

We appreciate your statements on February 20 in Carlsbad: “Our primary focus is investigating what happened here at the WIPP site.” And: “One event is far too many.”

We agree with you that the federal, state, and public resources should be focused on what happened with the radiation leak at WIPP, how to clean up the contamination, and how to prevent future events. That focus will be required for at least several months.

However, such a focus is contrary to the fact that on February 14, before the radiation leak was detected, NMED issued the draft class 3 permit modification for 60 days of public comment. The draft permit would expand WIPP’s underground waste panels, reduce panel closure safety barriers that protect workers and the public from releases, and change the underground volatile organic compound (VOC) monitoring system. Those matters are complex and controversial at any time, but especially so given the radiation leak event and the many uncertainties that it raises about WIPP’s current performance and what permit requirements are needed to prevent any future event. Significant public resources from our organizations and individuals are required to review the draft permit and submit written comments. Then, NMED, WIPP, and public resources would be required to revise the draft permit, prepare for and conduct the public hearing, and complete the post hearing activities, before NMED could issue a final permit.

Therefore, we request that you use your authority and withdraw that draft permit. Once the radiation leak investigation and recovery occur, we would urge NMED to re-evaluate the draft permit in light of what is learned and make needed changes to protect public health and the environment before issuing a new draft permit for public review and comment.

We believe that withdrawal of the draft permit at this time is needed and prudent, and we urge you to promptly take that action.

Sincerely,

Janet Greenwald  
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping  
Albuquerque, NM  
contactus@cardnm.org

Scott Kovac  
Nuclear Watch of New Mexico  
Santa Fe, NM  
Scott@nukewatch.org

Joni Arends  
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Santa Fe, NM  
jarends@nuclearactive.org

Don Hancock  
Southwest Research and Information Center  
Albuquerque, NM  
sricdon@earthlink.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Email/Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonnie Head</td>
<td>Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance</td>
<td>Milan, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:headjonnie@gmail.com">headjonnie@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave McCoy</td>
<td>Citizen Action New Mexico</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dave@radfreenm.org">dave@radfreenm.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Gordon</td>
<td>Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susangordon@earthlink.net">susangordon@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Evers</td>
<td>Post-1971 Uranium Workers Committee</td>
<td>Grants, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leversredfence@aol.com">leversredfence@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Marie Cecchini, mm</td>
<td>Office of Life, Peace, Justice &amp; Creation Stewardship, Catholic Charities</td>
<td>Gallup, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rcecchinimm@centurylink.net">rcecchinimm@centurylink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Anderson, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Stop the War Machine</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:citizen@comcast.net">citizen@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Anita Amstutz</td>
<td>Albuquerque Mennonite Church</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastor@abqmennonite.org">pastor@abqmennonite.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petuuche Gilbert</td>
<td>Laguna Acoma Coalition for Safe Environment</td>
<td>Laguna and Acoma, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Petuuche@aol.com">Petuuche@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Rodriguez</td>
<td>Aqua es Vida Action Team</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:darobe3@centurylink.net">darobe3@centurylink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Shaw</td>
<td>Grey Panthers of Albuquerque</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Anita Amstutz</td>
<td>Albuquerque Mennonite Church</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastor@abqmennonite.org">pastor@abqmennonite.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Meiklejohn</td>
<td>New Mexico Environmental Law Center</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmeiklejohn@nmelc.org">dmeiklejohn@nmelc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beryl Schwartz</td>
<td>Peace Action New Mexico Education Fund</td>
<td>Taos, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:berryls@taosnet.com">berryls@taosnet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Reynosa</td>
<td>SouthWest Organizing Project</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juan@swop.net">juan@swop.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheri Kotowski</td>
<td>The Carnelian Center</td>
<td>Dixon, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:serit@cybermesa.com">serit@cybermesa.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlene Perrotte</td>
<td>Partnership for Earth Spirituality</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marlenep@swcp.com">marlenep@swcp.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Shields</td>
<td>Amigos Bravos</td>
<td>Taos, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bshields@amigosbravos.org">bshields@amigosbravos.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Henderson</td>
<td>Olé</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mhenderson@olenm.org">Mhenderson@olenm.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ShannYn Sollitt</td>
<td>NetWorks Productions</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:networks@networkearth.org">networks@networkearth.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bob Aly
Available Media Incorporated
Albuquerque, NM
room2@earthlink.net

Rose Gardner
Alliance for Environmental Strategies
Eunice, NM
nmlady2000@hotmail.com

Pat Leahan
Las Vegas Peace & Justice Center
Las Vegas, NM
patleahan@desertgate.com

Charles Powell
Veterans for Peace, Albuquerque Chapter
Albuquerque, NM
crp66@juno.com

Sofía Martinez
Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and Mora County
Wagon Mound, NM
sofiam@unm.edu

Sanders Moore
Environment New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM
sanders@environmentnewmexico.org

Roberta Salazar
Rivers and Birds
Arroyo Seco, NM
riversandbirds@gmail.com