



# DON'T EXPAND WIPP!

The Department of Energy (DOE) has submitted a class 3 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for an outdoor nuclear waste storage pad at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Such storage would increase the total amount of waste allowed on the surface **by more than 500 percent** from 434.1 cubic meters to 2,270.1 cubic meters!

What's wrong with the request?

- **Dangerous to workers.** Because waste containers would be handled at least three times more than in the past, exposures to radiation and toxic chemicals would increase.
- **Illegal.** Federal law makes WIPP an underground disposal site, and not for surface storage.
- **Not needed.** A lesser amount (115.3 cubic meters) of "surge" surface storage has been allowed, but never all used. More surface storage is not needed for WIPP's underground operations.
- **Dangerous to the public.** Expanding WIPP to allow high-level waste has long been a DOE goal. The surface storage pad is similar to what could be used for high-level waste. High-level waste transportation and storage would endanger people throughout New Mexico and dozens of other states.

Tell NMED to **deny the request** in order to protect public health and the environment.

**Submit your comments by December 5, 2016 to:**

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Sponsored by: Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)([cardnm.org](http://cardnm.org)), Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS)([nuclearactive.org](http://nuclearactive.org)), Nuclear Watch New Mexico ([nukewatch.org](http://nukewatch.org)), and Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC)([sric.org](http://sric.org)).

