

Stop “Forever WIPP”

Radioactive and Hazardous
Materials Committee
October 21, 2020

Don Hancock
Southwest Research and Information Center

WIPP's Mission

- “Start Clean, Stay Clean” to dispose of up to 175,564 m³ of defense transuranic (TRU) waste
- Safely transport waste by truck through more than 20 states without serious accidents or releases
- Safely remove TRU waste from DOE sites
- Safely close, decontaminate, and decommission the WIPP site beginning in 2024

WIPP's Mission is not

- Storage, transportation, disposal of any high-level waste or spent nuclear fuel
- Storage, transportation, disposal of any commercial waste
- Storage, transportation, disposal of 34+ metric tons of surplus plutonium
- Storage, transportation, disposal of any waste from future nuclear weapons plutonium pit production

Other repositories are necessary for legal and technical reasons

- WIPP 1979, 1992, 1996 laws
- Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 & 1987
- Multiple sites needed and there should be viable geologic formations
- Reduce transportation risks and costs
- No state, including New Mexico, is willing to host the only repository

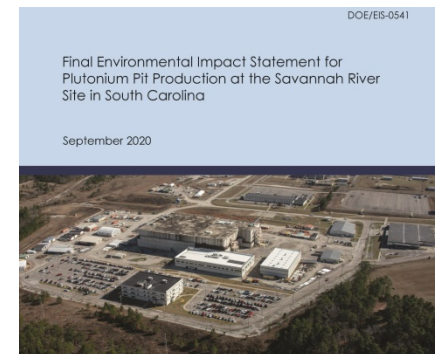
DOE Wants “Forever WIPP”

- Operate WIPP through 2050 for “the existing defense TRU waste inventory.”
- “WIPP is currently anticipated to operate beyond 2050.”
- WIPP operates until at least 2080 for Waste from new Plutonium Pit Production at LANL and SRS.
- WIPP operates until at least 2080 for Waste from new SRS Plutonium Pit Production.
- No other repositories discussed.



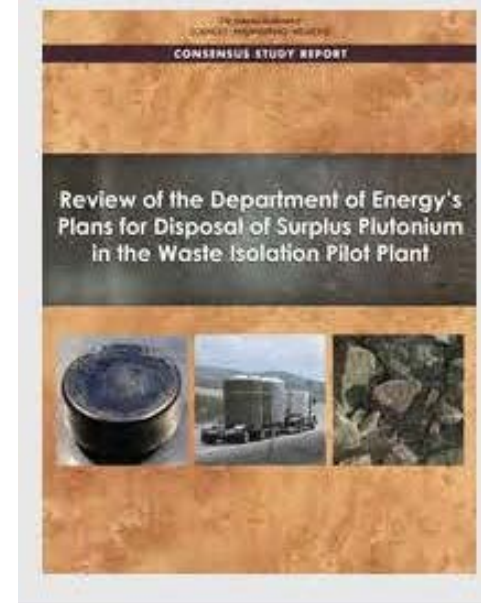
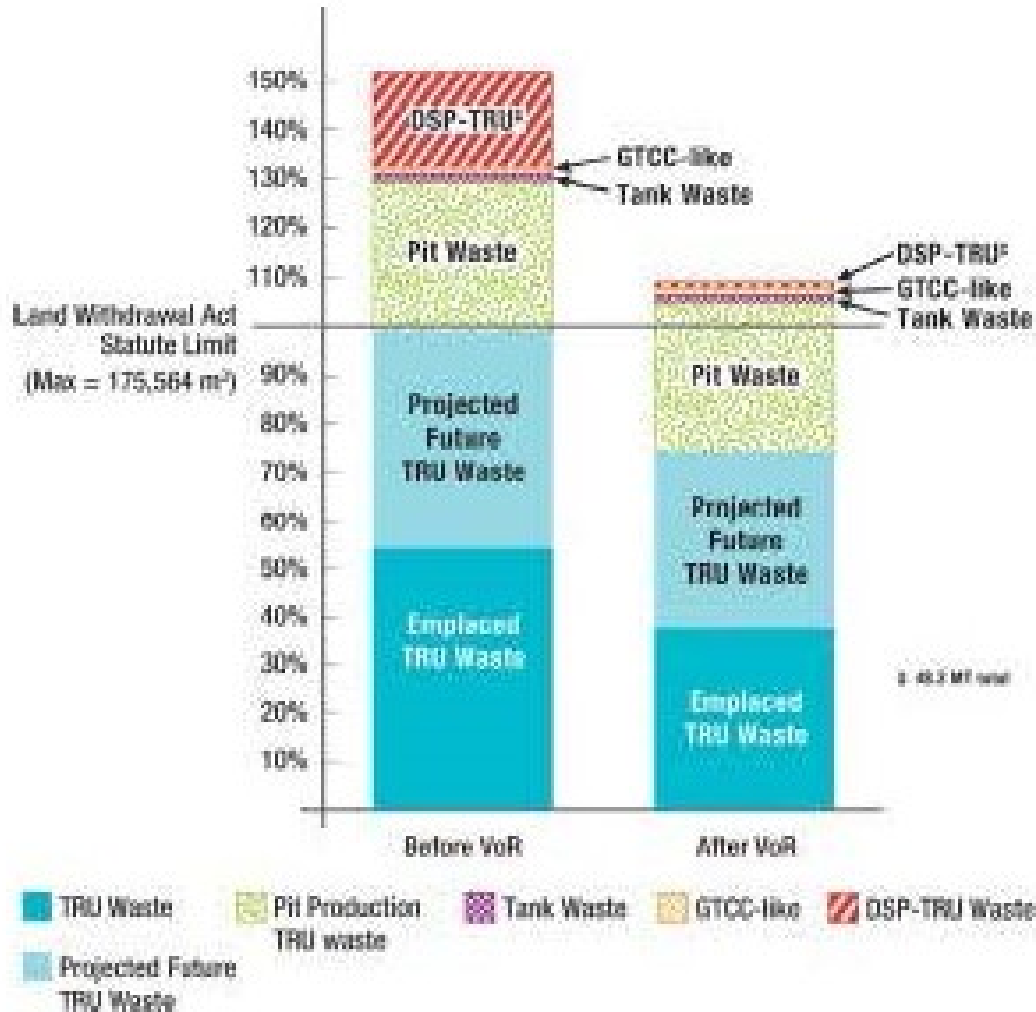
DOE/EIS-0204-0001-0000
December 2019

Final Supplement Analysis of the
Complex Transformation Supplemental
Programmatic Environmental Impact
Statement



U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Savannah River Site

DOE Needs Bigger “Forever WIPP”



DOE Needs More WIPP Permit Changes

- Permit Renewal Application proposes deleting the 2024 waste operations end date and replacing it with no date:
“The Disposal Phase will last until the disposal objectives of the DOE are reached.”

What have other states done?

- 1960s and afterwards – **Colorado** says get waste out of Rocky Flats
- 1995 – **Idaho**-DOE Settlement Agreement:
TRU waste out by 2015 or 2018
- 2019 – **Idaho** Supplemental Agreement: at least 55% of shipments to WIPP from INL
- 2020 – **Nevada**-DOE Agreement to remove ½ MT of plutonium by 2026; send no more
- 2020 – **South Carolina**-DOE Agreement:
\$600 million penalty; plutonium out by 2037

What to do?

- New Mexicans strongly object to “Forever WIPP.” 97+% of commenters oppose the new shaft.
- NMED should maintain historic volume and time limits in the Permit.
- New Mexico officials can state that waste volume and time limits will be enforced and that DOE and Congress must start now to identify new repositories.

Contact Information

Don Hancock

Southwest Research and Information Center

PO Box 4524

Albuquerque, NM 87196-4524

(505) 262-1862

(505) 262-1864 (fax)

sricdon@earthlink.net

www.sric.org

