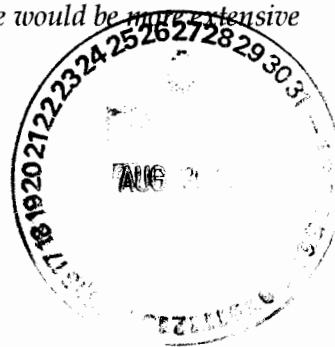


Dear Trais Kliphuis:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could be too radioactive to over-pack.

The shielded containers request once again is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

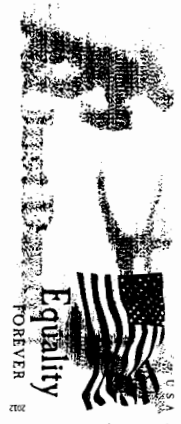
name Sterling Sherwood
address 1224 Nakomis NE #1
Albuquerque



Mr. Sterling Arthur Sherwood
Unit 1
1224 Nakomis Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112-6047

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87100

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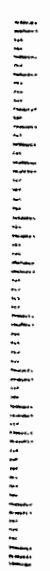


TIMING PERSON

NMED

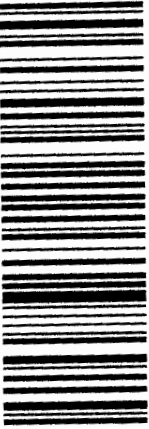
2005 Rodeo Park Drive East Bldg 1
Sta. 1a Fe, NM 87505

9750388313



TEACH
TOLERANCE
Ms. Jeanne Green
11B Los Padillas Rd.
El Prado, NM 87529

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS, FOLD AT DOTTED LINE
CERTIFIED MAIL™

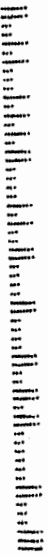


7011 2970 0000 3632 8665

Travis K. Kipphuis (Public Comment)
NMED
2905 Rodeo Park Dr. E., Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505



8750556913





ENTERED



Trais Kliphuis
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear *Trais Kliphuis*,

I am very concerned that shielded containers at WIPP allow more remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. I request a public hearing on shielded containers, which should be a class 3 modification to allow additional public comment and hearing.

The Department of Energy (DOE) opened the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in 1999 when "Remote-Handled" (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste was prohibited. Since RH waste has been permitted, DOE still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity. Consequently, about one-half of the planned RH space in the walls of the underground rooms cannot be used because contact-handled (CH) waste has been emplaced. If NMED approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with CH waste.

At the surface of containers, RH TRU waste dose rate is more than 200 millirem per hour and can be up to 1,000 rem per hour. If a shielded container is damaged or leaking, DOE says it will be overpacked in the CH Bay, but in case of a severe leak that might not be possible without substantial radiation doses to workers. The modification request states that shielded containers could be overpacked, but neither the Standard Waste Box nor the Ten Drum Overpack is big enough for a three-pack.

The entire Waste Handling Building, both CH and RH Bays, is permitted for 194.1 cubic meters of TRU waste, of which 11 cubic meters can be RH waste. The modification request includes no limits on the number of RH shielded containers that could be in the CH Bay, effectively substantially increasing the amount of RH waste allowed.

DOE also has stated that it would use shielded containers to bring commercial waste, much of which is more radioactive than RH waste, to WIPP in its Greater-Than-Class C waste environmental impact statement. Thus, DOE's plans are to use shielded containers as a way to expand WIPP beyond its legal mission of disposal of up to 175,564 cubic meters of defense TRU waste, the limit set by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act of 1992. WIPP should not be the dumping ground for profit-making commercial nuclear power waste. New Mexico has sacrificed enough of our environment. Don't let the nuclear power industry pawn off on us their dangerous, life-killing waste as well.

Given the dangers of RH waste, the need for much more information, the complexity of the changes proposed, and the public concern about RH waste, shielded containers require a class 3 modification request, which provides for more extensive public comment and an opportunity for public hearing. In response to the 2011 request, DOE was told by dozens of people that it was a class 3 request. Please take heed of the public's needs, not just for-profit industry. We are the people. We don't want it.

Sincerely, Jeanne Green, El Prado, NM 87529

