



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

April 8, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

On March 1, 2022, a petition with 1,146 signatures expressing concerns with the expanding mission of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was delivered to my office. I have attached the cover page of this petition for your reference.

Specifically, the New Mexicans who signed the petition raised concerns about the transportation of the surplus plutonium waste stream between the DOE's Savannah River Site in South Carolina and the WIPP. They also raised concerns that the disposal of this waste stream will exceed the volume limits set in place by the federal Land Withdrawal Act. The petitioners would like to see the DOE develop a new disposal site in a state other than New Mexico.

The petition reflects ongoing frustration among New Mexicans regarding the lack of meaningful and transparent public engagement from the DOE on waste clean-up, shipments, and long-term plans for the WIPP. Because the issues raised in the petition can only be addressed by DOE, I am passing this petition along to you. As Governor, I take these concerns seriously and request that the Department of Energy take action to address the issues raised by New Mexicans.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

To: Governor Lujan Grisham
Fr: Cynthia Weehler
Re: Petitions opposing WIPP expansion
Date: March 1, 2022

Thank you, Governor Lujan Grisham, for accepting these petitions from constituents all over New Mexico. The signers are just now learning about DOE's planned expansion that it is trying to quietly put in place, piecemeal, without explaining the risks it exposes them to. They want you to know that they will support any actions you take to protect them from this planned expansion and that it is time for DOE to find other sites for this new waste.

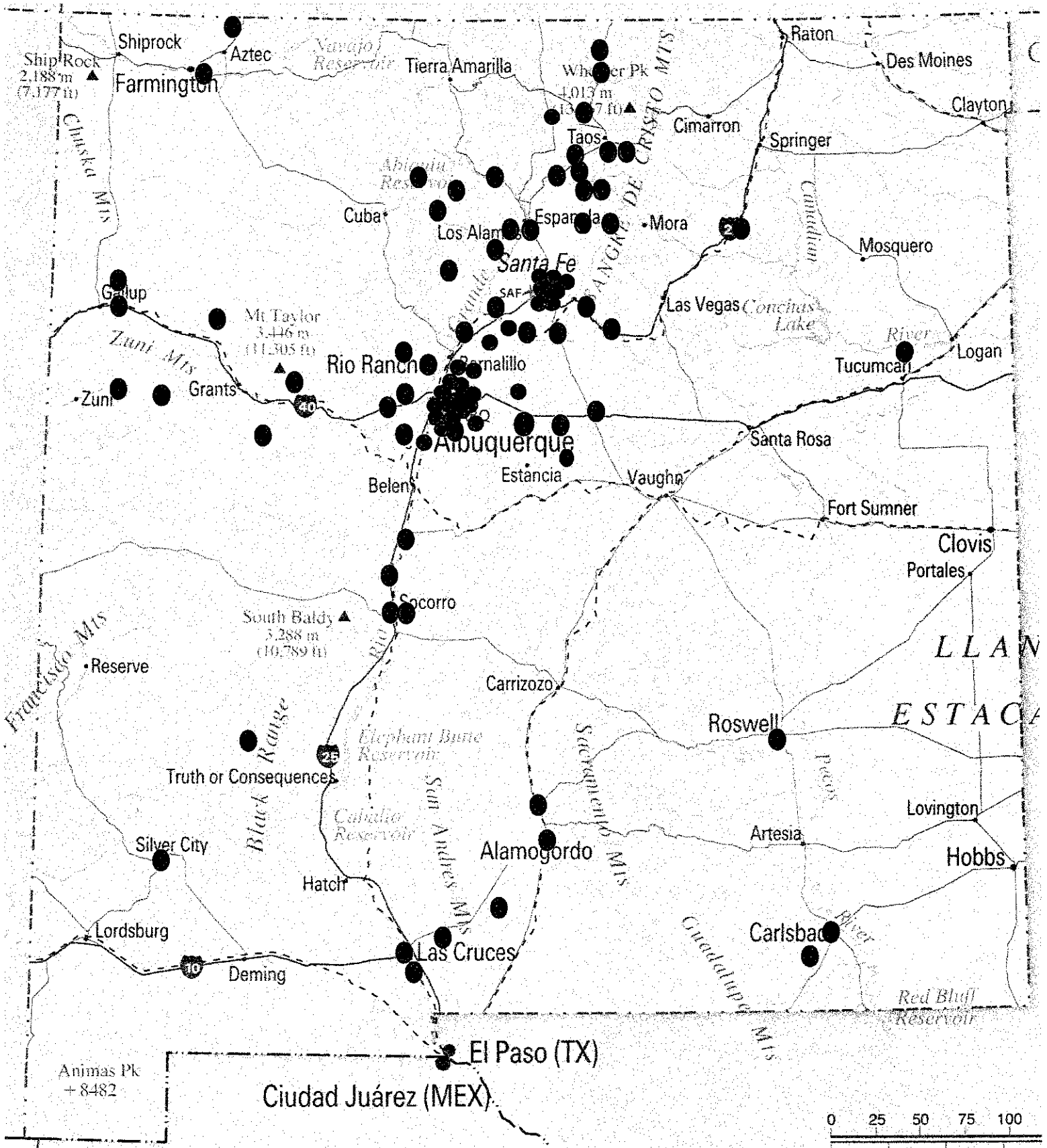
We respectfully ask when we can expect to hear from you and can be contacted through:

Cynthia Weehler
Co-Chair 285ALL
505-557-5666
cnthweehler@gmail.com

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2022 MAR -1 AM 11:10
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Who Signed the Governor's Petition?

Each dot represents one zip code; not one signer



Petition to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

We, New Mexicans, call on our Governor to protect the public health and our environment by taking all necessary actions to **stop the expansion of the nuclear waste facility** called the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico.

We oppose this nuclear waste expansion at WIPP because:

- > The federal government's expansion plans would transport each shipment of deadly waste **past our homes twice**, over and over for **the rest of the century**.
- > The plutonium nuclear waste in the WIPP expansion is a **different and more dangerous form**, will **remain dangerous** for hundreds of thousands of years, and endangers the health of my family and future generations.
- > Unless New Mexico says **NO** to WIPP expansion, other disposal locations will not be developed, and WIPP will always be the only dump site, which is not fair. New Mexico never agreed to bear the burden of being the **only** site.
- > The federal government's plans would expand the size of the nuclear weapons dump to **more than twice its current size** and more than is allowed. *
- > The federal government is not being transparent about expanding WIPP, even though it has clearly admitted its intention in published documents. By repeatedly refusing to discuss its plans with the public, most New Mexicans are not even aware of those plans.

We will strongly support our Governor taking all necessary actions, including denying permits for the piecemeal expansion.

Name	Zip Code	Signature
Frances Elizabeth Toole	87508	F. Toole
Hope Kiaba Abonthe Lemarck	87508	Hope Kiaba Abonthe Lemarck
Cynthia Bass	87508	Cynthia Bass
Alvin Lopez	87505	Alvin Lopez
Sharon Garcia	87508	Sharon Garcia
Sharon	87508	Sharon
W.A. Shradoff, Jr	87508	W.A. SHRADOFF, JR

* Federal law and legal agreements with New Mexico clearly limit the amount of waste at WIPP, but the expansion would allow more than that capacity, as described in the April 2020 National Academy of Sciences Report - Review of the Department of Energy's Plans for Disposal of Surplus Plutonium in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.