

WATER, AIR AND LAND: A SACRED TRUST

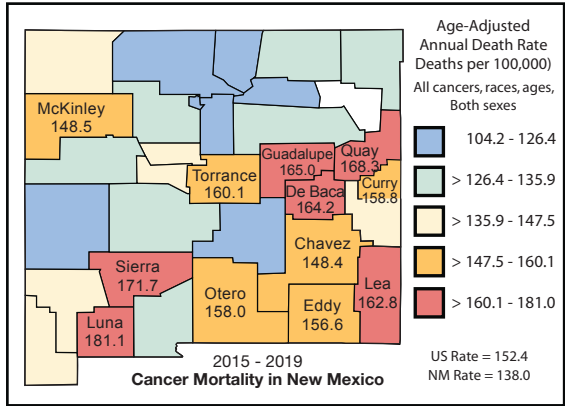
The uses of water, air and land are diverse in New Mexico and are changing dramatically with climate change. For caretakers of this sacred trust, this map offers a bird's eye view of the health of the environment in our state. It documents primarily energy-related sources of pollution, though in New Mexico other polluting factors are also at work. This map only shows major water basins and does not cover abatement sites, most solid waste facilities and voluntary remediation sites, among other things.

There is a concentration of high cancer death rates and low life expectancies in southeastern and south central New Mexico. Despite these health problems, new polluting facilities and the expansion of existing sites continue to be promoted in the area. This includes the expansion of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the proposed addition of two Consolidated "Interim" Storage Facilities (CISF): *Holtec International*, near WIPP, and *Waste Control Specialists* (WCS), currently, Interim Storage Partners (ISP). These CISFs would receive the entire inventory of US spent fuel rods and other radioactive High Level Waste. WCS is already a waste dump for hazardous and radioactive Low Level Waste, and stores explosive transuranic waste that was once destined for WIPP. Although located just over the border in Texas, WCS discharges its effluent into New Mexico. The addition and expansion of these three facilities alone would also add tens of thousands of future shipments of transuranic and High Level nuclear waste through our state. Though the SE and South Central areas have more than their fair share of pollution, contamination, and health problems, other areas of the state like the northwest corner with the methane spot, the Grants Uranium Mining Belt near I-40 west, and the area around Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) are also heavily polluted and contaminated.

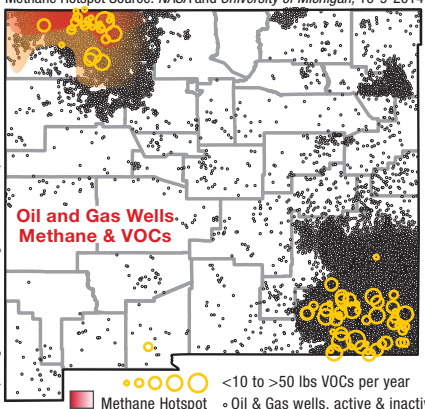
Note that fallout from the 1945 first atomic test at the Trinity site may very well extend south and west from the "official" plume shown on this map. Adequate testing has never been done, but thousands of people in Lincoln, Sierra, Otero and Socorro counties were exposed and suffered ill effects from that explosion. After the test, General Groves, military director of the Manhattan Project, stated that any future site for further atomic testing should be "preferably with a radius of at least 150 miles without population." As shown by Bryan Kendall's work, when the first atomic bomb exploded at the Trinity Site, more than 167,000 people lived within a 150 mile radius (green circle) from the blast. Though the Nevada Test Site theoretically met this no-population requirement, even 150 miles was not enough, as virtually every part of New Mexico, as well as other states across the country, have been covered by fallout clouds from the numerous aboveground nuclear detonations that took place in Nevada.

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Source: National Cancer Institute and the CDC
<https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/data-topics/mortality.html>



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Methane Hotspot Source: NASA and University of Michigan, 10-9-2014



CIS Railroad Transportation Routes

