

# ***Speak Out Against More Plutonium at LANL & WIPP***

The Department of Energy (DOE) plans to ship 13.1 metric tons of plutonium from nuclear weapons to Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) and to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

## ***What are DOE's Plans?***

DOE has released the *Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SPD DSEIS)*. The preferred alternative is for the Savannah River Site (SRS) to process 6 metric tons of plutonium and ship it to WIPP for disposal with other contact-handled transuranic (TRU) waste. For 7.1 metric tons of plutonium in "pits" – the triggers for nuclear bombs – some or all would be shipped from the Pantex Plant in Texas to LANL to be disassembled. The resulting plutonium oxide powder would be shipped to SRS to be fabricated into plutonium-uranium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel to be used in the Sequoyah (Tennessee) and/or Browns Ferry (Alabama) Nuclear Plants operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

## ***What are concerns about DOE's plan?***

- LANL is not meeting its waste cleanup schedule, and its facilities do not meet seismic standards in case of a severe earthquake. Bringing thousands of plutonium pits to LANL would further endanger public health and safety and divert resources away from cleanup.
- Doubling the amount of TRU waste coming from SRS will likely exceed WIPP's capacity. As a result, TRU waste from LANL and other sites might not fit into WIPP.
- Plutonium should be immobilized so that it can be safely stored until new disposition options are available. Immobilization would also be less expensive than MOX.
- MOX is not viable as there are no utilities that want to use MOX fuel in existing power plants because of its costs, dangers, and the need to make changes to the reactors.

## ***What Can I Do?***

Submit written comments to: Sachiko McAlhany, NEPA Document Manager, SPD Supplemental EIS, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2324, Germantown, MD 20874-2324, by **September 25, 2012**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

*August 8, 2012*

Thank you!

Dear Sachiko McAlhany:

*I am very concerned about Department of Energy plans for surplus plutonium. No additional plutonium should be brought to Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), which has a cleanup mission and cannot meet seismic standards in the case of a severe earthquake. WIPP has a limited mission and does not have the capacity for all surplus plutonium. Stop MOX and immobilize and safely store plutonium until technically sound, suitable disposition facilities are available.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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