

# Otero County – **Future Nuclear Waste Dump? You Decide!**

**You will decide.** Make your thoughts known to the Otero County Commission and the DOE! **Don't stay home.** The Department of Energy (DOE) is looking for a site to drill a few 3 mile deep test holes. Why?, to see if radioactive waste can be disposed of in the earth's crust. DOE has leased Otero County private land for this very purpose. Where exactly is the Borehole Site? --> 32°07'04.8"N 105°16'08.4"W Several safety/health/benefits questions come to mind that must be addressed (see a few below). How will emergency services adapt and serve?

**\*\*\* The DOE has stated that local residents must support this project. \*\*\***

If not, they will go elsewhere. In North Dakota DOE failed to get county/community support and were forced to leave by outraged citizens. **Now it is Otero County citizens turn. Do we want the DOE test site or not?**

## Questions, Observations, Facts

- **Question;** What are the actual benefits/risks for Otero County from the Nuclear Waste Disposal Test Project?
- **Question;** If site selection is as claimed, because the bedrock is like much of the USA, and no nuclear waste is coming, why pick this isolated location with few residents, limited access and little infrastructure? Why not drill the hole where there is paved highway access, a trained workforce, cable TV, motels, emergency services, etc? Wouldn't it be cheaper/easier? What are the ulterior motives we are not being told about?
- **Question;** What happens if the test shows that Otero County has the "perfect" geology for a nuclear dump? Will the dump then be put in New York State or Ohio or Pennsylvania or will they dump here in Otero County?
- **Question;** Once DOE has spent the \$35,000,000+ dollars on test holes, isn't it likely that DOE will dispose of bomb and fuel rod wastes here? Will DOE throw away the money, time and the perfect rural location?
- **Question;** If Otero County has the geology for radioactive waste disposal and has \$35 million already invested in tests, wouldn't there be considerable pressure from the "nuclear power States" and Washington DC, and our "own" Senators / Representative to dump waste here in eastern Otero County? Could we stop it?
- **Question;** Is this proposed deep borehole test the camel's nose working it's way into our tent? Is this project a prelude to eastern Otero County becoming a world leader in radioactivity (along with Chernobyl and Fukushima)?

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- **DOE claims** that no nuclear waste will ever go into these test holes and is willing to sign a binding contract.
  - **DOE states** if a binding contract is signed that signals this signing is consent to proceed.
  - **DOE claims** that isolated eastern Otero County was selected because it has base rock similar to many areas across the USA and so is representative of many areas in the USA such as New York State or Ohio.
  - **DOE has not precluded** future radioactive waste disposal in Otero County after the "test" holes are completed.
  - **This project is planned for private property.** Private property owners have rights. However, neighbors do not have to approve or consent this use. Not consenting does NOT affect private property rights.
  - **Many residents** in Eastern Otero County have found out that making a "deal" with a Federal agency such as the USFS, BLM, DOD is a risky business. See: <http://weed-skies.org/index.html> for examples.
  - **The Project is likely to help El Paso** and Dell City, Texas rather than Alamogordo and Otero County, NM.
  - **The Senators and Congressmen** that support the Nuclear storage test do not live in Eastern Otero County.
  - **These same legislators** supported the German Air Force / sonic boom corridors over Eastern Otero County. They support heavy military helicopter landing zones throughout the Lincoln Nation Forest (Otero County). Some support the Jumping Mouse, Checkerspot Butterfly, and Spotted Owl takings and on and on and on.
  - **Most people can not picture the hazards** from bomb and fuel rod radioactive waste. The time frame for the worst waste is just too long. WIPP had it's first accident after just 15 years, is that good? The United States is some 240 years old (give or take). Is that a long time? The Egyptian pyramids are something like 5,000 years old, is that old? When it comes to storing nuclear waste these times are nothing. "Spent" nuclear fuel rods will remain deadly to humans for over 250,000 years. Not 20 years, not 100 years, not 240 years. Things change over 250,000 years. Nothing man has build has lasted this long. Think about an accident.
  - **The DOE in partnership with the nuclear power industry** is desperate to find a way to dump highly radioactive fuel rods laying around the eastern/western power plants as well as DOE leftovers from bomb making. None of the States reaping the rewards of subsidized nuclear power want to have nuclear waste storage in their backyard.

**What Questions Do You Have? ATTEND A Meeting !!**

**Alamogordo at Patron's Hall, 1106 N. New York Ave., at 3 PM, March 14**

**Timberon at the Lodge at 6 PM March 15**

**Weed at the School at 6 PM March 16**

**Sign Petition : <https://gopetition.com/petitions/no-to-the-otero-borehole.html>**