



# Otero County's Department of Energy (DOE) Borehole Nuclear Waste Disposal Research Facts You Should Know

2017, Facts & Opinion by Walt Coffman, 1014 NM Hwy 24, Weed, NM 88354



## Private Property Rights and the Deep Borehole Field Test (DBFT), Facts:

- Fact:** No present or proposed law/ordinance restricts land owner's private property rights.
- Fact:** DOE required that all DBFT nuclear research be on **leased private land, not federal land.**
- Fact:** **Government agencies manage 87% land in Otero County.**
- Fact:** DOE demands public support, including local government support (per DOE DBFT project contract).
- Fact:** DOE plans an incremental consent-based process for siting **future nuclear waste disposal sites.**
- Fact:** DOE asks for Otero County County Commission's stance on the DBFT (DBFT contract pg 16, 18).
- Fact:** When DOE does not get support for the DBFT on their leased land they cry "private property rights".
- Fact:** DOE and the property owner (lessor) may drill, local resident's opposition or not.
- Fact:** Free speech and opinion is not a law and is not forbidden. It does not affect property rights.
- Fact:** Newspaper articles in opposition to the DBFT do not affect property rights.
- Fact:** Local government opinions about the project do not affect property rights.

## Project Facts:

- Fact:** A "good" DBFT means Otero County is the USA's only borehole site for nuclear waste disposal.
- Fact:** The words "nuclear waste" affect Otero County property values. The effect is not positive.
- Fact:** The DBFT has never been done before. It is an experiment. No one knows what will happen.
- Fact:** The project is funded by \$37,000,000 in your tax money from the Department of Energy (DOE).
- Fact:** The project is for nuclear waste disposal research. Focused on bomb making waste.
- Fact:** DOE plans to use deep boreholes for their bomb lab radioactive waste disposal, which is expanding.
- Fact:** DOE has many nuclear sites. This "military" nuclear waste amounts to 11,000+ tons of solids.
- Fact:** DOE military radioactive waste includes 100 million gallons of liquid waste.
- Fact:** By 2018 DOE is legally obligated to remove waste in their contaminated Hanford, WA facility.
- Fact:** DOE Los Alamos National Lab site is contaminated, waste must be disposed of. Goals past due.
- Fact:** DOE has a poor history for environmental damage and contractor performance failures.
- Fact:** DOE has a poor record for honoring contracts and is currently being sued by multiple entities.
- Fact:** DOE has refused to have representatives at public meeting (NM, ND, SD). They were invited.
- Fact:** The "Advisory Board" paid by the project contractor have ties to DOE and DOE nuclear waste sites.
- Fact:** The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) exists for **independent review** of DOE.
- Fact:** **NWTRB recommended independent expert review of the project drilling program.**
- Fact:** DOE refused the NWTRB recommendation for independent review of drilling plan. DOE hires only.
- Fact:** DOE Otero County DBFT contractor has zero experience in large, 3 mile deep borehole drilling.
- Fact:** Two holes thru the Salt Basin Aquifer? **Actual number of holes/size/depth is unlimited (contract).**
- Fact:** **NWTRB stated DBFT data will have little application to other locations, just Otero County.**
- Fact:** **DOE agreed that information from the DBFT will have limited application to other locations.**
- Fact:** NWTRB recommend "A transparent pathway from the Deep Borehole Field Test to siting" (dump).
- Fact:** DBFT sites in North Dakota, South Dakota and New Mexico are opposed by the local community.
- Fact:** The Salt Basin Aquifer is the largest fresh water aquifer (most water) in New Mexico.
- Fact:** Damage to the salt basin aquifer would impact Otero County as well as counties in Texas.
- Fact:** Texas has sued New Mexico over water, and won.
- Fact:** Texas is spending millions of dollars developing water output from this fresh water aquifer.
- Fact:** **No representatives from any Texas jurisdiction have been involved in public meetings.**
- Fact:** Liability for aquifer damage is not clear in the TerranearPMC contract and not answered when ask.
- Fact:** Liability for future damages is not clear in the TerranearPMC contract and not answered when ask.

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