

## WE THE PEOPLE DO NOT CONSENT



Latest work started at Carlsbad Juneteenth Celebration June 2016, by New Mexico's Muralist Noel Marquez.

**Carlsbad, NM Celebrates Juneteenth** - by Randy Martin - 18 Jun.16 - The anniversary of the abolition of slavery came nearly two years late for the States of Texas and New Mexico, a well kept secret by the oligarchs of the times, the Cattle and Sheep Barons. There were no reparations paid for the deception. The local NAACP hosted the celebration of the anniversary of the good news of the abolition of slavery in Carlsbad, NM, on Saturday, June 18th. Juneteenth was celebrated by a diverse cross section of the community.

In the spirit of Mexico's most famous Muralist, Diego Rivera, Muralist, Noel Marquez, from Artesia, New Mexico, well known for his murals that grace the walls of communities throughout the region, started his latest work. Marquez brought children, community artists and environmental activists together under the banner of, **"We the People Do Not Consent to the Dumping of High Level Radioactive Waste in our Communities."** Marquez's latest mural speaks to the environmental injustice in Southeast New Mexico with paint and canvas. His community-centered piece tells the story of the Radioactive Dragon to be unleashed anew on the backs of the nation's most vulnerable and voiceless. A recurring theme of death and disease brought by the Radioactive Dragon dating back to the Trinity and Gnome Projects where the US government's callous disregard for the people of New Mexico, that has left generations genetically scarred and locked in inter-generational suffering from cancers and radiation related disease. New Mexico consistently ranks as one of the most impoverished states in the Union.

The art piece became ground zero for Mr. Marquez's latest work and a gathering point for the sharing of information about the Department of Energy's corrupt ambitions to transform the northern most reaches of the Chihuahuan Desert, one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, into the nation's High Level Radioactive Waste dumping ground. The operators of a low-level nuclear waste dump at Andrews Texas, bordering New Mexico, is seeking variance to its permit to allow dumping of high-level waste and a new dump is being planned for construction near the WIPP site at Carlsbad, New Mexico.

The planned High-level Radioactive Waste Dumps will hold spent commercial nuclear fuel rods placed in subsurface containers as an interim solution for 100+ years. The waste will remain deadly for 100,000 years with no technology or place in sight that will allow for safe permanent storage. The sites will in effect become permanent dumpsites for the nation's high-level commercial radioactive waste. The waste will be stored using much the same technology where it is stored in place today, begging the question; why move it? Aside from bogus security claims, the obvious answer is so the DOE can spawn a new industry amassing billions of dollars for their sponsored Multinational Corporations, their Investors (the one percent) and their bought local Hosts.

Carlsbad's economic elite, whose legacy was established following the conquest of Mexico and the near genocide against the regions indigenous population, has amassed billions of dollars over generations on the backs of the conquered people of New Mexico. Following the decline of ranching and regional agriculture, Southeastern New Mexico's Cattle and Sheep Barons, wealthy with stolen land, turned to rise of the petroleum industry exploiting the land and the people to extract the abundance of oil, natural gas and potash reserves. Their post peak-oil venture is to transform Southeastern New Mexico into a radioactive dumping ground through the labor of a community coerced into silence by the legacy of ruling families that have controlled the region's wealth for generations.



Marquez Right discusses issues with event attendee.

The DOE's most recent failed exploit, the Waste Isolation Pilot Project, a low-level radioactive waste dump used by the DOE to clean up decades of radioactive negligence at the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories. WIPP took its first low-level radioactive waste shipment in 1999 and in 2014 spewed black smoke after more than a decade of negligent operation that led to an equipment fire and a subsequent radiation release, contaminating the environment and 22 workers with plutonium and americium. The facility has been shut for nearly two years with a cleanup cost of more than \$1b. Its date for reopening remains uncertain.

New Mexico assessed a fine of \$74m against DOE and after the DOE protested, the state negotiated it down to \$54m, still the largest fine in history against DOE. The fine was the pretense of punishment for DOE's role in negligent processing of radioactive waste that led to the explosion that contaminated the environment and workers at WIPP. The DOE of course protested the fine. Unscrupulous government officials in New Mexico again negotiated with the DOE to put the fine towards development of the infrastructure to support future nuclear transportation needs of the planned HLW repositories and expanded mission of WIPP. Environmental Justice was again denied the people of New Mexico, as the ruling elite took bribe money in the form of a fine to flood the state coffers and line the pockets of usual benefactors in Southeastern New Mexico. The fine is in effect a bribe paid to those who would host the nation's radioactive garbage.

## The Blue Ribbon Scam

WIPP has indeed proven to be instructive for the DOE. In the late 1970s, the citizens of New Mexico, gathered tens of thousands of signatures on petitions and had mustered up enough support to hold a referendum to stop the construction of WIPP. New Mexico's Congressman Bill Richardson, who later became Secretary of the Department of Energy, eventually caved in to the DOE and gave WIPP to the US government through the WIPP Land Withdraw Act making a referendum null and void.

Years later, Yucca Flats was slated to become the Nation's "permanent" high-level radioactive waste dump for spent commercial fuel, but its implementation was thwarted by activists who managed to block the DOE's attempt to get a land withdraw from Nevada. DOE gleaned a valuable lesson from Yucca Flats and realized it needed to fabricate an extra-democratic process that would take the democratic rights away from communities that might exercise them to block siting of radioactive waste dumps in the future.

Under President Obama, a "Blue Ribbon Commission" was tasked with finding a way to expedite siting of the high-level waste dumps. The Blue Ribbon Commission recommended development of a "Consent Process" that will in effect allow DOE to bribe communities with "cash incentives" to take on these new radioactive dumpsites. Since no permanent site could be established at Yucca Flats, "interim sites" are being pushed on communities in its place. These sites will hold the HLW until a, theoretically safe, permanent site can be established sometime in the next 100 years.

The DOE is currently holding meetings throughout the country to engage communities and industry in a process to define a "Consent Process" for these interim storage sites (radioactive dumps). During their February meeting in Chicago, it became clear DOE's ambition was to get Congress to fund tens of millions of dollars in bribe money for communities that would take commercial high-level waste. The major goal of their "Consent Process" is to program out the kind of dissent that stopped the radioactive dump at Yucca Flats.



Community Artists and Children work together on Marquez's latest piece.

The ruling elite in Eddy and Lea counties in New Mexico, the local benefactors of WIPP, are already proclaiming "Community Consent" for their new high-level waste dump dumpsite even before DOE has a Consent Process established.

The DOE appears to be using the development of its Consent Process, in revival style tent meetings, to trump up business from the HLW producer sites, agitating a false urgency to remove the waste from the communities where it is stored, so it can be moved to West Texas and New Mexico.

What is telling is, the DOE is holding meetings across the nation to develop a Consent Process, providing access to the high-level radioactive waste producing communities, but there are no meetings planned in New Mexico and West Texas where the high-level waste dump sites are already in the permitting stage and land for the sites have been acquired. All before the DOE has established its so called, "Consent Process" that is supposed to be used to determine siting for the high-level waste "storage sites."

In the meantime, DOE has called for WIPP to take "down-blended" weapons grade plutonium stockpiled at the Savannah River Site in North Carolina. The DOE, Congress and their Corporate Partners have bilked taxpayers out of more than \$12b in the construction of MOX plant at the Savannah River Site. The Savannah MOX plant was intended to reprocess weapons grade plutonium into fuel for nuclear power plants.

Siting cost concerns, the DOE decided to abandon construction of the nearly completed MOX plant. The AREVA Corporation was integral partner to construction of the Savannah MOX plant and a major benefactor to the now defunct project. AREVA operates the world's largest MOX plant in France and now appears to want in on the radioactive waste disposal at WIPP. DOE recently fired the operators of WIPP and installed AREVA as its new operator. The expansion of the mission of at WIPP now includes disposal of weapons grade plutonium.

DOE also has its eyes set on moving its enterprise of fraud and corruption from the Hanford Site in Washington State to WIPP. The radioactive tank waste stored at Hanford is planned for reclassification making it eligible for disposal at WIPP. Hanford has been a spectacle of corruption, bribes, cover-up, clean-up delays, lies and deceit. Hanford is the personification of DOE, has enabled a corrupt and unscrupulous industry to bilk 100s of billions of dollars from the US taxpayers annually. DOE operates a revolving door of employment between the National Laboratories, the Corporations it supports and Employees in State and Federal governments. They all work in collusion to grease the skids for the DOE "Consent Projects" that will bring toxic radioactive waste to rest on the backs of the poorest of communities in the United States.

There has been virtually no public discussion of the logistics involved with moving the nation's high-level radioactive waste. Some "approved" containers do exist for transport, but container design and transport modes are ill defined and will be subject to decades of definition and legal wrangling unless fast tracked. Spent fuel rods that are currently stored at nuclear power plants have been stored there since the plants opened; moving the waste around to repack and transport it will create more contamination, spills and leakage. First responders are ill equipped to deal with the accidents along the routes or in the repackaging process. How will the spilled waste be cleaned-up and where will it be disposed? How will the government compensate those who are injured in the spills and leakage? There are volumes of unanswered questions of intermodal transport involved using railcars, barges and trucks. As DOE attempts to fast tracking the transportation issues, communities will be left at risk and \$100s of billions will be spent in vain attempts at resolution of a hydra of political and technical issues.

The communities of Carlsbad and Andrews have been chosen for these high-level radioactive waste dumps because the DOE thinks they can easily buy them off and the DOE does intend to buy off communities with the tens of millions of dollars being negotiated from Congress for exactly that purpose. The Barons that rule these communities will gladly line their pockets with all the largesse that comes their way as will their unscrupulous partners planted in the State government.

They will promise jobs to the current generation kept impoverished by the legacy of those who stole the land from their families long ago and they will attempt to unleash the Radioactive Dragon once again as a scourge on those who tragically suffer its menace to this day. Under protest, WE DO NOT CONSENT and WE WILL RESIST.

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