

From: [Cynthia Weehler](#)
To: [Hearing](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for DNFSB hearing of Nov. 16, 2022
Date: Monday, December 26, 2022 1:07:11 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I spoke as a member of the public at the hearing in Santa Fe, NM, on Nov. 16, 2022. I would like to submit the following question/comment to the board as part of the public comment process.

On Feb. 14, 2014, the explosion of a drum occurred inside WIPP, irradiating much of the underground mine, closing it for 3 years, making parts of the mine unusable permanently, and costing \$2 billion to reopen. The cause occurred during packaging of the drum at LANL, in which an organic absorbent (kitty litter) was mixed in the drum with unknown hazardous chemicals (and radioactive materials). Many more drums with the same packaging concerns are still sitting at 3 sites, unable to be moved because it can't be determined that they can be moved safely.

The drum exploded inside the mine after it had been taken out of the TRUPACT container in which it was shipped. TRUPACTs are designed to protect the contents of the drums from accidents on the road, ie: from impacts occurring **outside** the TRUPACT. As far as I have determined, no studies have been done to determine if the TRUPACTs would contain an explosion **from within**. Why have there been no studies to determine this? If there have been studies, what are the results?

Thank you,

Cynthia Weehler
Co-Chair, 285ALL