



Energy
Communities
Alliance

Local concerns. National impact.

ECA WIPP SURVEY RESULTS

Overview

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) reached out to over **1000** individuals over the course of 10 weeks and asked the following questions:

Should DOE Prioritize “Legacy” TRU Waste or Treat all TRU Waste Equally for Disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Under the New Permit with the State of NM?

How will your site/community be affected by the reprioritization of waste shipments at WIPP?

Respondents represented communities around all current and projected future WIPP waste generators, plus additional DOE sites.



Respondents came from the following locations:

- Aiken County, SC
- Albuquerque, NM
- Anderson County, TN
- Benton County, WA
- Bonneville County, ID
- Butte County, ID
- Cathlamet, WA
- City of Carlsbad, NM
- City of Aiken, SC
- City of Idaho Falls, ID
- City of Oak Ridge, TN
- City of Richland, WA
- City of West Richland, WA
- Clark County, NV
- Eddy County, NM
- Erie County, NY
- Esmeralda, NM
- Franklin County, WA
- Kennewick, WA
- Lenoir City, TN
- Los Alamos, NM
- Mesquite, NM
- Montrose, CO
- Nye County, NV
- Orchard Park, NY
- Paducah, KY
- Pasco, WA
- Pooler, GA
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Roane County, TN
- Santa Clara Pueblo
- Sante Fe City, NM
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Springville, NY
- Toppenish, WA
- Town of Ashford, NY
- West Valley, NY



Background

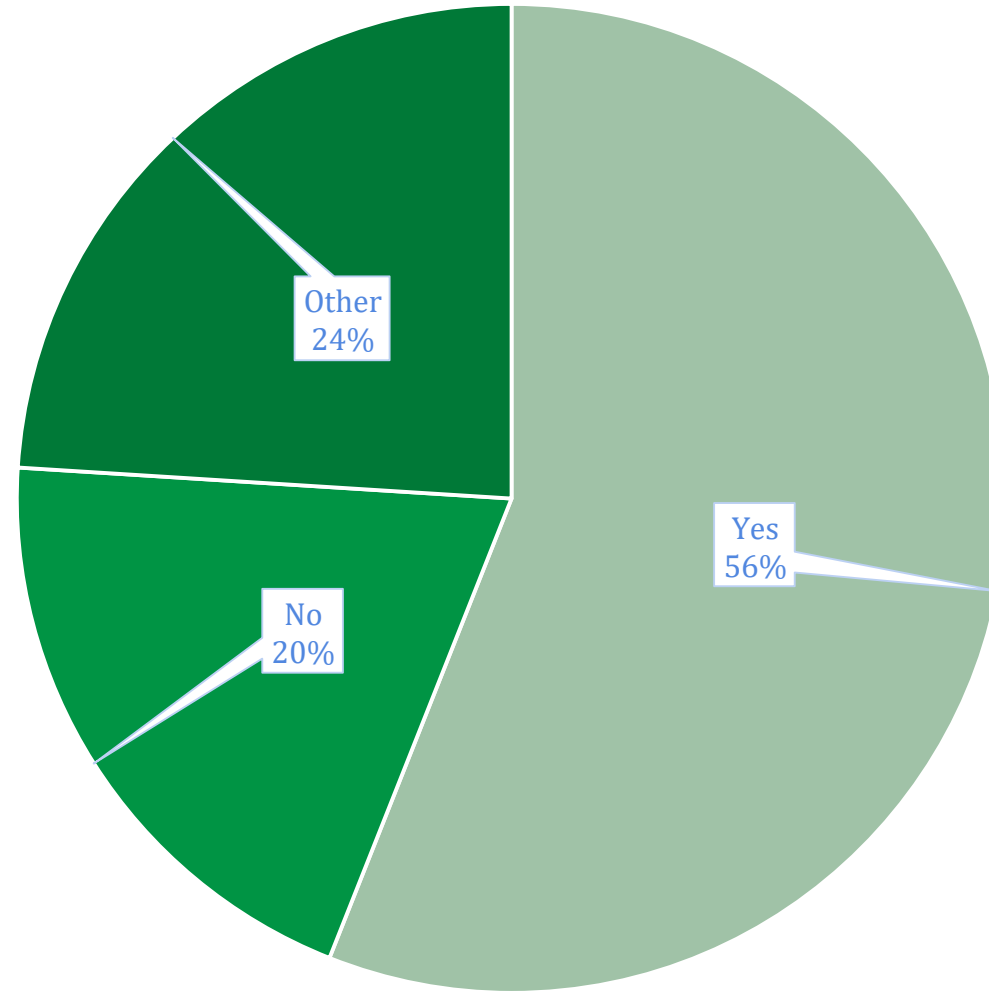
WIPP, as a requirement under its state permit, must develop a plan that defines “legacy” waste and describes how its disposal will be prioritized in the future underground disposal Panel 12. That panel will be reserved for “legacy” waste and is expected to begin receiving waste in approximately 2029. This plan could affect the prioritization of non-legacy waste shipments and the accessibility of WIPP as a disposal route for waste at certain generator sites. As a result, **ECA** requested feedback from the communities around the DOE sites, along with local, state and Tribal governments on these issues.

The WIPP mission includes disposal of defense transuranic (TRU) waste from the DOE sites in communities.
ECA defines “Legacy” waste as TRU waste associated with the Cold War and pre-Cold War periods.

The results of this survey allow ECA to provide input to DOE on its plan development and equip ECA members around WIPP and generator sites to participate fully in the WIPP decision-making process.



Should DOE prioritize the disposal of Legacy TRU Waste over newly generated TRU waste?



What should DOE consider in setting the definition of Legacy TRU Waste?

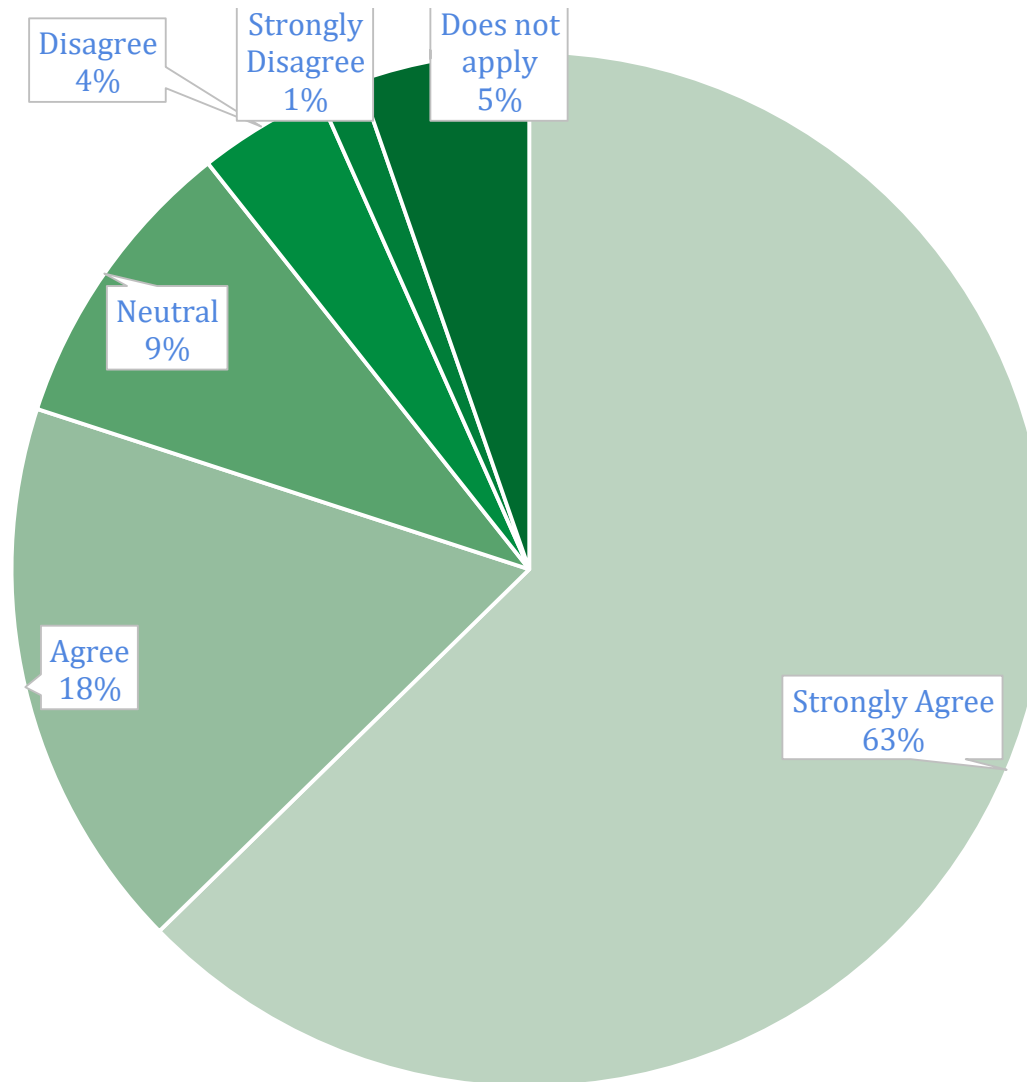
A majority of respondents thought that...

- Age (60.7%)
- Risk (66.67%)

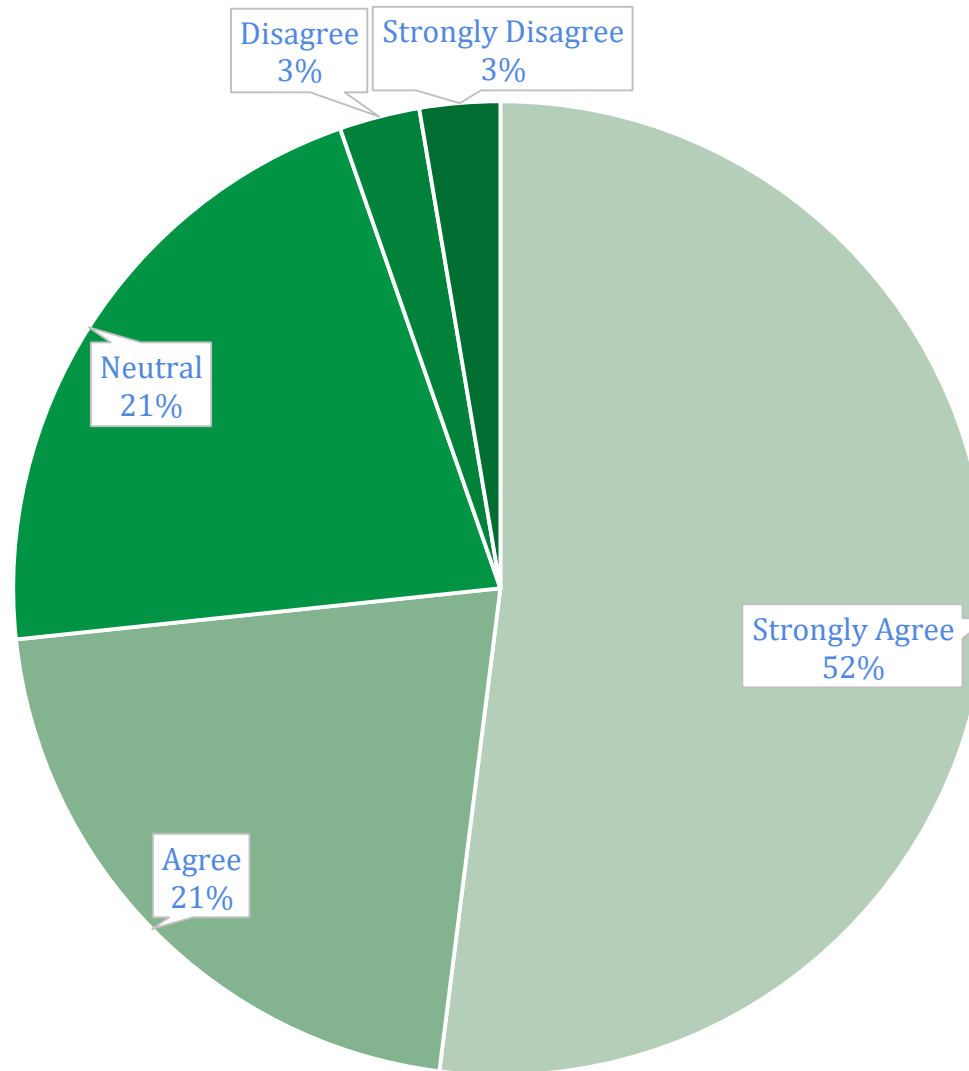
...should be considered when defining Legacy TRU Waste.



WIPP plays an important role in the cleanup of your local DOE site...



The development of the Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan is a priority for your community or Tribal Government...



In order of importance, rank how DOE should consider the following factors in developing the Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan.

(1 having the least importance and 5 having the greatest importance)

		1	2	3	4	5
	A	20.00%	8.0%	22.67%	17.33%	32.00%
a) Increase public awareness regarding how waste disposal is prioritized across the DOE complex	B	9.33%	8.0%	18.67%	25.33%	38.67%
b) Progress and efficiency of clean-up activities across generator sites	C	22.67%	17.33%	26.67%	17.33%	16.00%
c) Costs and budget constraints						
d) Compliance with generator/storage site-specific agreements	D	6.67%	5.33%	18.67%	30.67%	38.67%
e) Risk prioritization and risk reduction at generator sites	E	6.67%	2.67%	9.33%	20.00%	<u>61.33%</u>
f) Alignment of WIPP operational plans with generator site missions and timeframes	F	2.67%	17.33%	22.67%	23.33%	32.00%
g) National Defense Priority	G	18.67%	18.67%	22.67%	17.33%	22.67%



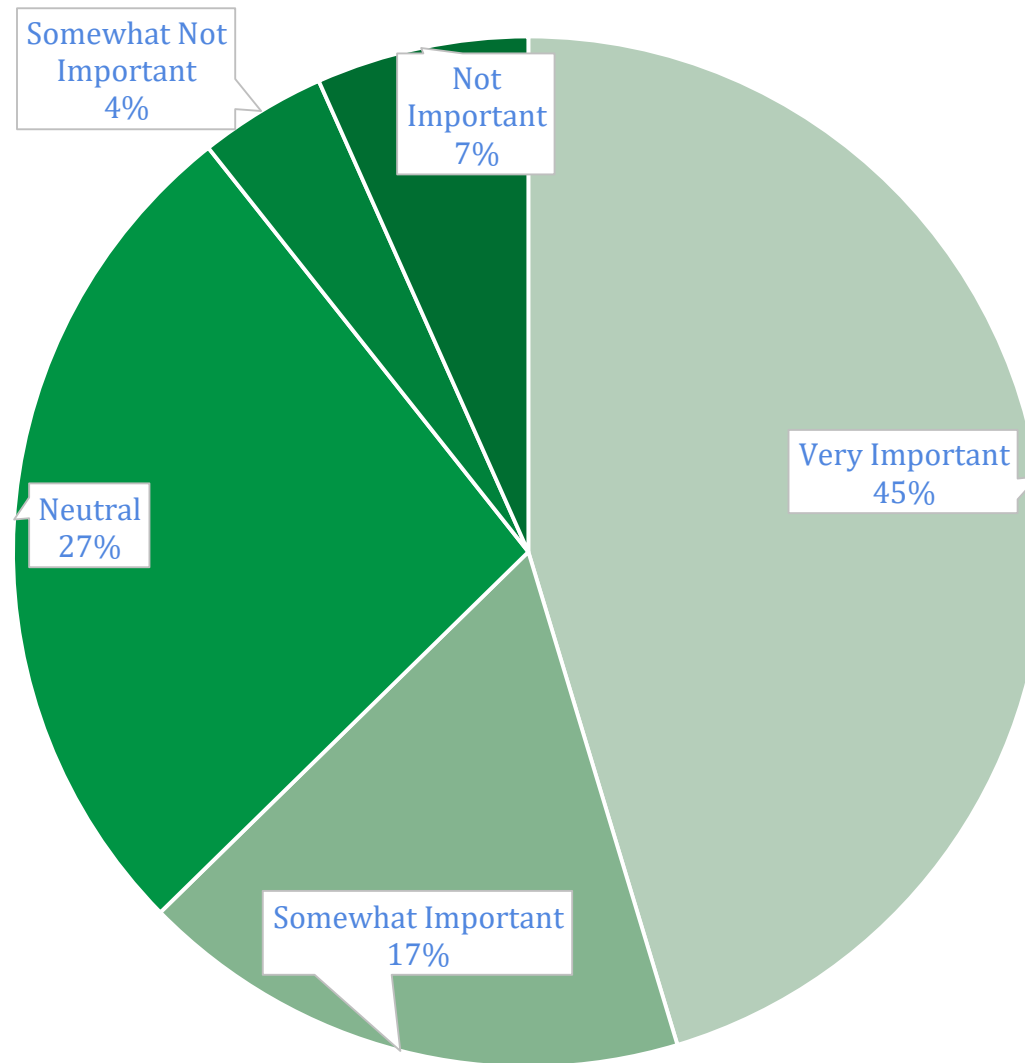
Assign a level of importance to the following reasons why the Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan is important.

(1 having the least importance and 5 having the greatest importance)

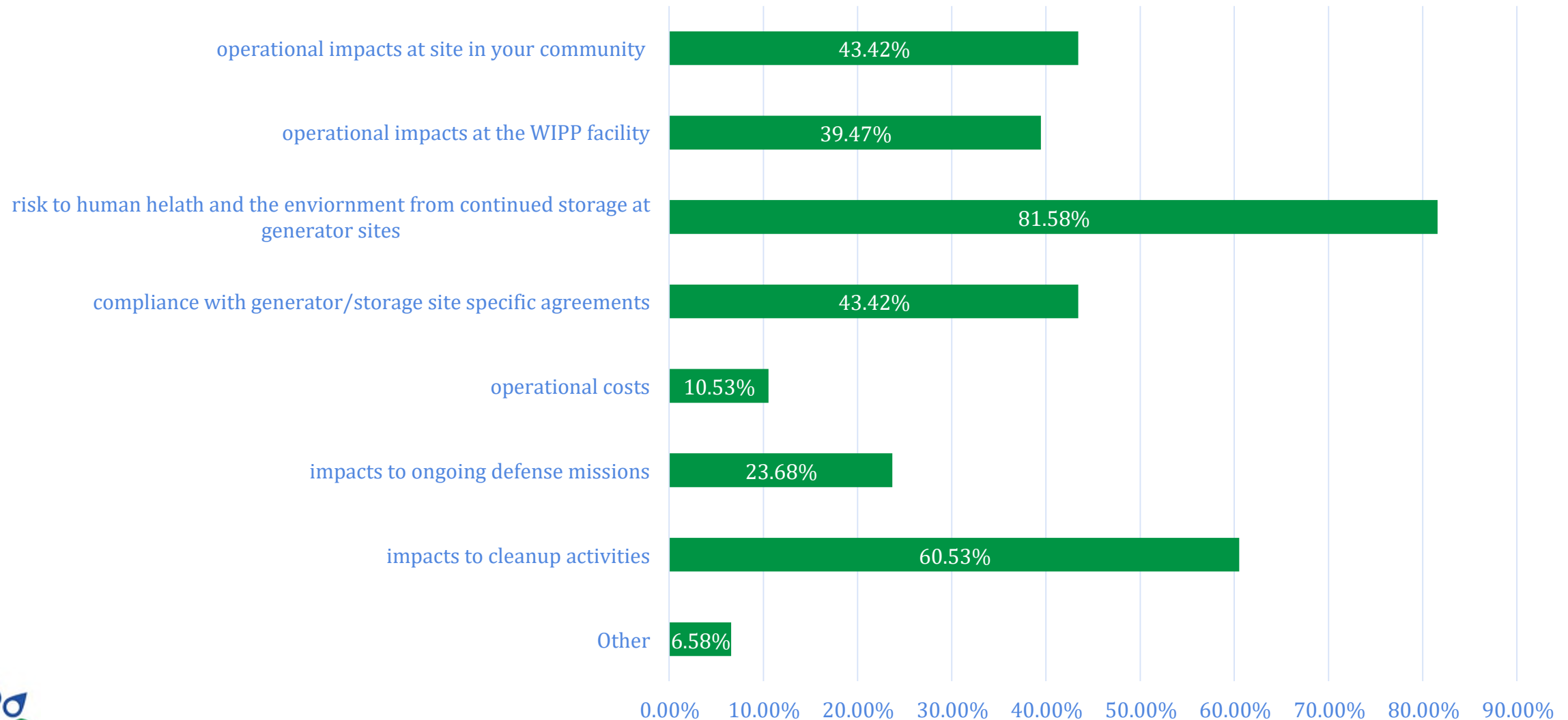
		1	2	3	4	5	Weighted Average
a) Ensure TRU wastes are properly disposed at WIPP	A	8.00%	4.00%	1.33%	20.00%	66.67%	4.33
b) Emphasize the importance of clean-up activities from generator sites							
c) Provide transparency about the waste types and missions at DOE TRU generator sites	B	8.00%	5.33%	4.00%	30.67%	52.00%	4.13
d) Allow the public to better understand DOE's long-term plans for TRU waste management and the future of WIPP	C	6.67%	13.33%	16.00%	26.67%	37.33%	3.75
e) Assist in the prioritization and planning for the TRU waste management across generator/storage sites	D	8.11%	16.22%	14.86%	25.68%	35.14%	3.64
	E	5.33%	1.33%	20.00%	25.33%	48.00%	4.09



In your opinion, how important is it to reserve Panel 12 (a portion of the WIPP site that is being developed) for legacy TRU mixed waste over other types of TRU waste?



Under the required plan, Panel 12 will be reserved for disposal of legacy TRU waste “to the extent practicable.” What factors do you feel are important to consider when defining the phrase “to the extent practicable”?



Do you work at the site for DOE or a contractor?

Yes: 15%

No: 85%



Conclusions

- Respondents represented all current and projected future WIPP waste generators, plus additional DOE sites.
- Stakeholders see the Plan as a useful platform to emphasize the importance of clean-up activities and provide transparency regarding prioritization and proper disposal of defense TRU waste.
- The definition of Legacy TRU Waste should account for risk and age of waste. However, specific dates or time of cleanup are less important.
- A majority of respondents agree that prioritization of legacy waste is important.
- Respondents underscore that the reservation of Panel 12 for legacy waste “to the extent practicable” needs to consider impacts at generator sites, including risks from continued storage of waste, compliance with existing agreements, impacts to clean-up progress, and operational impacts.

