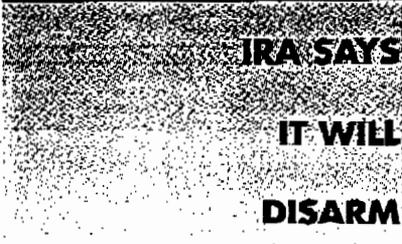


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Daily Record

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Maggiore signs extension orders

D. J. DeKEYZER
RECORD STAFF WRITER

The Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department signed orders Thursday extending the public comment period and setting a date for a public hearing for the Triassic Park waste site.

Steve Pullen, project manager for the Triassic Park draft permit project, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED, said Cabinet Secretary Peter Maggiore signed the orders Thursday morning.

Pullen said the time line for the public comment period varies, depending on the type of comment to be presented.

General public comments that are nontechnical, he said, may be submitted any time up through the hearing, set for Oct. 15 in Roswell.

Technical comments, dealing with specific sci-

entific, engineering or economic issues need to be submitted in writing by Sept. 21 so all parties to the hearing can be prepared to discuss these issues, Pullen said.

According to Pullen, even though Gandy Marley Inc. had requested a hearing, the decision to hold one was up to Maggiore. GMI was one of many hearing requests submitted, and the first to fulfill all the specific requirements of the regulations, Pullen said.

The Triassic Park draft permit, which is available for public viewing at the Roswell Public Library, is a massive, multi-volumed work. Pullen said the permit is larger than average because it is the first one to deal with a commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility in the state.

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Secretary

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He said in the past, the department has issued "quite a few" permits including operating permits for military bases to blow up explosives and storage permits for companies that transport hazardous waste around the country and store it here temporarily.

He said the department also has issued post-closure-care permits for facilities that were in existence when the new regulations went into effect and then decided to shut down instead of making changes to conform to the regulations. The permits issued in these cases were to manage the site in perpetuity.

"We've never issued a commercial hazardous waste disposal permit, which is what is different about this permit," he said.

For additional information regarding public comment or the public hearing, contact Pullen at (505) 428-2544 or online at steve_pullen@nmenv.state.nm.us.