As Mayor of the host city for the WIPP facility, I believe our concerns should be foremost in the minds of the New Mexico Environment Department. As you are aware, a representative from my office gave public comment at your meeting in Santa Fe. The City of Carlsbad supports the proposed modification to the WIPP facility. We believe it ensures that the NMED has more control over the waste characterization process. It allows the NMED to periodically check waste being shipped from other facilities to ensure it is acceptable at the WIPP. It allows for a small increase in capacity (25%) while allowing containers to be stored in additional areas. None of these activities impact human health or environment.

Once again, we would request that the NMED approve this modification request in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary L. Perkowski
Mayor, City of Carlsbad

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