Subject: Modern Pit Facility
From: "Plum, Jody - DOE" <Jody.Plum@wipp.ws>
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2003 09:29:31 -0700
To: "steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us" <steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us>

<<Modern Pit Facility - New Mexico State Legislature.doc>>

Steve, House Memorial No. 9 has apparently passed. This is in support of building the Modern Pit Facility here in Carlsbad on property adjacent to the WIPP. I recognize this is only a Memorial in support of the action, and that much work needs to occur, but thought you should be aware of what I have heard.
The New Mexico State Legislature passed House Memorial No. 9 (43 For and 16 Against) supporting the location of the Modern Pit Facility near WIPP. John Heaton sponsored the bill.

For more information on the bill and how it progressed through the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, please point your browser to:

http://legis.state.nm.us/session03.asp?chamber=H&type=M&number=009&Submit=Search

Title: LOCATE MODERN PIT FACILITY NEAR WIPP

Sponsor: Heaton

Location: Passed (43 For - 16 Against)

Actions:


HM009.pdf
HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

John A. Heaton

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO
LOCATE THE MODERN PIT FACILITY NEAR THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT
PLANT IN EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the production, manufacture, rehabilitation and
maintenance of plutonium triggers for the United States nuclear
weapons stockpile is vital to the national security of the
United States; and

WHEREAS, the national nuclear posture review identified
the lack of a modern pit facility as a "critical readiness
gap", which must be filled to ensure the viability of the
United States nuclear weapons stockpile deterrent; and

WHEREAS, the national nuclear security administration, a
division of the United States department of energy, has
initiated an environmental impact statement to determine the
..144740.2
need and location for a modern pit facility, and the waste
isolation pilot plant site has been identified as one of five
final candidate sites; and

WHEREAS, WIPP, the waste isolation pilot plant, was
created by the federal government to dispose of all defense-
related transuranic waste resulting from the nation's nuclear
weapons program and, thereby, makes a continued nuclear weapons
program possible by providing a safe and secure site for final
waste disposition; and

WHEREAS, the goal to minimize the transportation of
plutonium in its various forms, including wastes, across the
nation's highways is in the nation's best interest; and

WHEREAS, certain geographical, geological, environmental
and institutional considerations, including the proximity to
the WIPP site and the United States department of energy
Carlsbad field office, strongly suggest that the land withdrawn
for WIPP is the appropriate site for locating such modern pit
facility; and

WHEREAS, the great state of New Mexico has long focused
its resources and energy toward enhancing our nation's security
through its history of nuclear energy and weapons development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the national
nuclear safety administration be requested to locate the modern
pit facility in southeast New Mexico near Carlsbad; and

.144740.2
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the congressional delegation, the United States secretary of energy and the national nuclear security administration.
HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT number ___1___ to HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

Amendment sponsored by Representative John A. Heaton

1. On page 2, line 24, strike "safety" and insert in lieu thereof "security".

John A. Heaton

Adopted _______ Not Adopted _______
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date ________________
NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used for other purposes.

The most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

**FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**

**SPONSOR:** Heaton  
**DATE TYPED:** 02/13/03  
**HB:** HM 9

**SHORT TITLE:** Locate Modern Pit Facility New WIPP  
**SB:**

**ANALYST:** Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION

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(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)  
Department of Environment (NMED)  
Department of Public Safety (DPS)

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis of Bill**

House Memorial 9 would have the state House of Representatives resolve that the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) be requested to locate its proposed modern pit facility in southeastern New Mexico near the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) site near Carlsbad.

**Significant Issues**

Plutonium triggers, called pits, are a critical component of nuclear weapons. A Modern Pit Facility (MPF) is for the manufacture of plutonium pits, the portion of a nuclear weapon that generates the fission energy to drive modern thermonuclear weapons. Five DOE sites have been identified as potential MPF sites, two of which are in New Mexico (Los Alamos National Laboratory and WIPP).

NMED, DPS, and EMNRD all report that an MPF in New Mexico would have a tremendous economic impact, but would be extremely controversial. DPS points out that this type of facility would increase the potential terrorist acts in New Mexico.

**MFV/prr**
Mr. Speaker:

Your ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE MEMORIAL 9

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

James Roger Madalena, Chairman

Adopted ___________________________ Not Adopted ___________________________
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date ___________________________

The roll call vote was 5 For 4 Against
Yes: 5
No: Garcia, MP., Lujan, A., Madalena, Martinez
Excused: Picraux, Salazar
Absent: None

HM009EN1.wpd

Anderson, Hanton, Roberts, Vaugh, Wilson
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<th>Legislator</th>
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For more information, please call the Legislative Council Service at (505) 986-4600.