



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*  
*Harold Runnels Building*  
**1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110**  
**Telephone (505) 827-2855**  
**Fax (505) 827-2836**



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

## **Environment Department Grants DOE Request to Postpone Hearing on WIPP Waste Inventory**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) hearing officer today granted a motion made by the U.S. Department of Energy to postpone the public hearing for the state's proposed permit modification for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located near Carlsbad. The length of the extension is 30 days.

The NMED proposed modification to WIPP's permit seeks to ensure that this facility remains solely devoted to the disposal of low-level transuranic waste. By modifying WIPP's permit, NMED intends to ensure that DOE's assurances to the State of New Mexico remain unchanged.

The public hearing on this proposal had been scheduled to begin on June 1. It will now begin on July 6. The public comment period on this proposed permit modification remains open until the hearing is concluded. Written comments can be sent to the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505-6303.

A draft of NMED's proposal is available online at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp).

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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