Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be over-packed.

Shielded containers will allow more remote-handled (RH) waste to be emplaced at WIPP because RH waste would continue to be disposed in walls of the underground rooms. Thus, there would be not only more RH waste at WIPP, but also more shipments of RH waste throughout the state of New Mexico, increasing the risk of accidents and exposures to the public.

The amount of RH waste in the Waste Handling Building would dramatically increase because substantial amounts of RH waste would be in the contact-handled waste portion of the building, where they currently are prohibited.

DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste (Greater-Than-Class C waste), expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Thank you for fully considering and responding to my comments.
Pat Gonzales
P.O. Box 7064
Albuq. NM 87194

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505
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name  Dorelen + Meredith Bunting
address  3423 Smith Ave SE apt #1  Ada, NM 87006
RE: WIPP Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded C.

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name ANNE THOMPSON DAVENPORT MD

address P.O. BOX 2283

SANTA FE NM 87504
Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505