

FW: WIPP in Carlsbad

Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 2:08 PM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Cc: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV



From: Kay Tigert [mailto:rlverbend@cavemen.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 2:00 PM
To: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Subject: WIPP in Carlsbad

Hello, my name is Kay Tigert and I just wanted to add a little bit about the DOE's proposed Class 3 modification to WIPP.

I strongly support mining out two new panels instead of attempting to enlarge the main access drifts. The main access drifts were mined with the intent that they would remain open and usable for the entire lifespan of the repository, but they would have to be enlarged to serve as disposal panels. Significant ground control efforts have been expended in these drifts over the years to ensure mine safety. Widening the drifts to prepare for waste disposal may carry unknown risks. Mining new panels is the smart, safe choice.

WIPP has a lot of infrastructure needs, and if worker safety is the issue, money could be better spent meeting those needs. Instead of spending millions of dollars on concrete barriers we are not even sure are possible, use the money on things like road maintenance that will actually ensure the continued safety of WIPP's employees.

Making some changes to the VOC monitoring program to monitor more prevalent chemicals is also a good idea, as is changing the process to make it easier to switch chemicals in the future.

WIPP's operational success is why everybody is paying attention to the project, and one reason for that operational success is a willingness to evaluate all situations and look for ways to improve. I support all three parts of this permit modification.

Thanks for your time.

