

FW: In Support of WIPP

Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 2:07 PM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Cc: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV



From: Michelle Whitzel [mailto:michellewhitzel@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 2:04 PM

To: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV

Subject: In Support of WIPP

Carlsbad is a very experienced mining community. There are many third and fourth generation mining families in Carlsbad, and some of our most experienced miners go to work at WIPP because they appreciate the site's focus on safety.

There are three parts of this proposed permit modification and two of them are related to mining. One wants to use a thick layer of salt to block a panel when it is finished instead of an expensive concrete block and an explosion isolation wall. But we now know there isn't a risk of explosion, so the wall isn't needed. And we've completed several panels at WIPP without a using concrete block and it is very clear that would not be practical. I think using a thick layer of salt is a smart and affordable way to close the panels.

The panel closure issue is also important because it isn't a wise move to try to restructure drifts that are decades old. And it isn't like there is a shortage of space to mine in WIPP. This isn't changing the rules about what comes to WIPP or altering limits, it is simply being smart.

Finally, WIPP wants to upgrade the list of target compounds and associated risk factors. These changes to VOC monitoring are changes designed to keep up with EPA changes. This is simply modernizing the monitoring process. It's a sensible suggestion, just like the other two parts of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Whitzel

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