



FW: Class3 modifications at WIPP

Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 1:52 PM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV; Allen, Pam, NMENV

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Gray [mailto:wgwgray@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 1:24 PM
To: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Subject: Class3 modifications at WIPP

Dear Ms. Kliphuis:

I'm the State Representative for District 54, which is largely in Eddy County, home to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Issues related to worker safety are very familiar to me, as I spent my career in the oil refining, marketing, and petroleum transportation industry. As a businessman and elected official, I know the challenges of applying a limited budget in the most efficient use possible.

When NMED considers the proposed modification regarding panel closure at WIPP, I hope it will take into consideration the considerable cost savings that can be realized by allowing run-of-mine salt to be used instead of concrete barriers. The salt is just as protective, yet costs practically nothing, because the salt is already there. The engineered barriers, by comparison, are priced in the vicinity of \$75 to \$100 million. Using salt for the closure is a simple, efficient design that will protect workers throughout WIPP's life cycle, and it makes sense for the taxpayers.

I understand the other two aspects of the proposal (repository configuration and VOC monitoring) also involve improvements and wise spending. I want to encourage the NMED to approve the Department of Energy's proposal to make the changes related to panel closure, repository configuration and VOC monitoring.

WIPP is a world-class facility because of its ability to continually evaluate operations and look for ways to improve. These proposed changes are good ones, and I encourage the NMED to support them.

William J. Gray

State Representative,
District 54

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