

RESOLUTION 2013-06:



*"Support for the Removal of Excluded Waste Prohibition on WIPP Permit."*

**Whereas**, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a Department of Energy (DOE) facility located 26 miles from Carlsbad that uses deep salt beds to permanently and safely dispose of defense-generated transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste and

**Whereas**, for the past 14 years WIPP has safely and efficiently transported and disposed of TRU waste from around the country and

**Whereas**, the Hanford Site, in the state of Washington, is one of the locations storing TRU waste that was largely generated during the Cold War for the nation's nuclear weapons program and

**Whereas**, a portion of the nation's TRU waste at the Hanford Site is contained within tanks, commonly known as Hanford Tank Waste and it is the DOE's preference that such waste be transported to and safely disposed of at WIPP and

**Whereas**, there is a urgent need for this TRU waste to be cleaned up and moved from the tanks to permanent interment at WIPP as some of those tanks are apparently leaking and

**Whereas**, in 2004, the New Mexico Environment Department issued a prohibition on the Hanford Tank Waste being disposed of at WIPP due to perceived "chemical compatibility" issues, but a 2012 study concluded that these issues do not exist and

**Whereas**, the DOE has now submitted a permit modification request calling for the removal of this 2004 prohibition and

**Whereas**, this Hanford Tank TRU Waste will still have to qualify as TRU waste and meet rigorous Waste Acceptance Criteria, including not being in liquid form, before it could be sent to WIPP- as any other contact-handled and remote-handled TRU waste currently being sent to WIPP, and

**Whereas**, sending TRU Hanford Tank Waste to WIPP would use existing transportation routes, packaging, transportation and disposal processes and

**Whereas**, the Carlsbad Department of Development (CDOD) is a private non-profit agency with a membership consisting of almost 100 chief executive officers in industry, business and finance, the City of Carlsbad, Eddy County Board of Commissioners, New Mexico State University-Carlsbad, and others, all with a mutual goal of promoting the economic and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Carlsbad and Eddy County,

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that I, Don George, President of the Board of Directors for the Carlsbad Department of Development, on this day of May 2, 2013, acting on order by majority vote of the Board of Directors, do support the DOE's Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department to remove the excluded waste prohibition and encourage the NMED to approve the request.

Donald L. George,  
President of the Board of Directors,  
Carlsbad Department of Development

