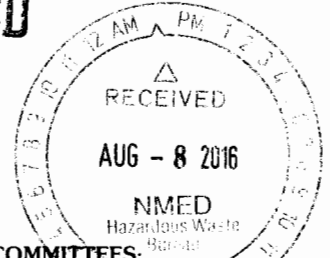




State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
 Santa Fe

ENTERED



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COMMITTEES:
 Chair: Transportation & Public Works
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 Judiciary

INTERIM COMMITTEES:
 Chair: Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee
 Interim Legislative Ethics Committee
 Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee

Advisory Member:
 Jobs Council
 Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee
 Water & Natural Resources

August 5, 2016

Mr. Ricardo Maestas
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

VIA E-MAIL TO
ricardo.maestas@state.nm.us
 & ORIGINAL VIA U.S. MAIL

RE: U.S. Department of Energy's Request for Class 2 Permit Modification of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit pertaining to, *inter alia*, alternative measures for room ventilation rates; room closure alternatives; simplification of RCRA contingency plan implementation criteria; and acknowledgement of new WIPP fire department

Dear Mr. Maestas,

I attended the public meeting held at the Skeen-Whitlock Building in Carlsbad on June 30, 2016 on the subject matter captioned above. The presenters outlined the substantive permit changes in detail, including the rationale behind them. In my opinion, all of the Class 2 permit changes are reasonable under extant circumstances and, if granted, are likely to facilitate recovery of the mine and enhance future WIPP operations without diminishing worker health and safety, the health and safety of the public, or adversely affecting the environment.

For the public record, I wish to express my support for each of the Class 2 permit modifications requested by the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

Cathrynn Novich Brown

