August 5, 2016

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

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