



**Allen, Pam, NMENV**

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**From:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2016 1:28 PM  
**To:** Allen, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** FW: comments for WIPP Class 2 permit

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**From:** Joan Brown,osf [<mailto:joankansas@swcp.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2016 3:54 PM  
**To:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Cc:** joan m brown  
**Subject:** comments for WIPP Class 2 permit

August 7, 2016

Mr. Ricardo Maestas

New Mexico Environment Department

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Public Comment about June 2016 Class 2 Permit Modification Requests about  
Reducing Room Ventilation Rate and the Contingency Plan at the  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Dear Mr. Maestas:

I provide the following public comments about the Class 2 Permit Modification Requests to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) hazardous waste permit issued by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

1. Reducing Room Ventilation Rate. The request should be denied. This request puts workers at risk and is not aligned with the moral responsibility of the facility to provide adequate ventilation that protects worker and public health. If it is not possible to honor this commitment then the facility should not be reopened.
2. Contingency Plan. The Plan should be revised to include the new horizon at WIPP with the underground contamination since February 2014. The facility is not the same as before February 2014 and to deny this reality is to act in an irresponsible way moving into the future. Since the accident, the E-300 drift (tunnel), which cannot be used as a secondary evacuation route because respiratory protection equipment is and



must be required to be used in more than 2,000 feet of that drift. The problems caused by the underground contamination cannot be denied and must be addressed before WIPP can be re-opened.

Finally, the public is quite concerned about the situation at WIPP because it has grave implications for the future generations. This facility is unlike any in the country and must be handled in an exemplary manner.

Please include my name on the WIPP facility mailing list.

Thank you for considering these concerns and I look forward to your response

Sincerely,

Sr. Joan Brown, osf

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Joan Brown, osf  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light (NMIPL)

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"There is no inner world without the outer world." Thomas Berry, Author of The Great Work