

ENTERED

August 8, 2016

Ricardo Maestas
New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505



RE: WIPP Class 2 Permit Modification Request Two-Item package

Dear Ricardo,

WIPP needs a new permit

The permittees admit that there are 683 containers in the WIPP underground with Hazardous Waste Numbers D001 and D002 that are not allowed by the permit. Permittees' July 29, 2016 Written Notice to John Kieling and Kathryn Roberts - http://www.wipp.energy.gov/library/Information_Repository_A/Responses_to_Administrative_Order/Attachment_Final_Report_Regarding_Application_of_D001_and_D002_HWN_with_Attachments.pdf

The Permittees shall design, construct, maintain, and operate WIPP to minimize the possibility of a fire, explosion, or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of transuranic (TRU) mixed waste constituents to air, soil, groundwater, or surface water which could threaten human health or the environment, as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.31).

The fact that there are 683 containers with prohibited items and that there were 148 incorrect Uniform Waste Manifests also demonstrates that there are many deficiencies in the Permit.

CARD agrees with SRIC's conclusion that until there is a revised permit to address those and other deficiencies, WIPP should not be allowed to re-open. NMED should notice the permittees that they are not allowed to re-open the facility until a significantly revised permit is provided for public comment and is approved by NMED.

This current request to modify the permit should be denied (Item 2)

Reducing ventilation requirements in an active room would reduce protection of human health and the environment.

Item 2 - Active Room Ventilation Flow Rate

The request would effectively eliminate the requirement of Permit section 4.5.3.2:

The Permittees shall maintain a minimum active room ventilation rate of 35,000 standard ft³/min (scfm) in each active room when waste disposal is taking place and workers are present in the room, as specified in Permit Attachment A2, Section A2-2a(3), "Subsurface Structures (Underground Ventilation System Description)," and as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.601(c)).



In conclusion, the modification proposed, though of convenience to the permittees, is not protective of the WIPP worker and should be denied. The permittees are currently in violation of the Permit. The Permit should be revised in a wholesale rather than in a piecemeal manner.

Sincerely,
Janet Greenwald
Co-coordinator, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)
215 Harvard SE
Alb NM 67106