

 **ENTERED**

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STEVE MCCUTCHEON
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

November 12, 2016

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

Ricard.maestas@state.nm.us

Dear Mr. Maestas:

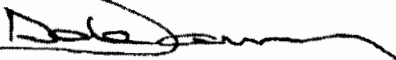
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Addition of Concrete Overpack Container Storage Unit" Permit Modification Request related to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. We understand that the New Mexico Environment Department will soon review these public comments and decide on its next move. Having reviewed this issue with members of Carlsbad's Nuclear Task Force, I'm writing to encourage approval of this request.

WIPP has time periods in which it can handle disposal of waste more quickly than it can handle transport to the facility, as well as time periods in which the transport process will move more quickly. Having a temporary storage unit above ground allows for some leeway to accommodate these differences. Most importantly, we understand that these concrete overpacks are designed to withstand tornadoes and seismic activity. This process will not present any increased risk to the members of this community or to WIPP's workers.

The arguments being made by anti-nuclear groups from northern New Mexico in opposition to this PMR have no technical basis. The argument that "the surface storage pad is similar to what could be used for high-level waste," for example, is based on speculation and association. We appreciate the NMED's review of this PMR based on technical analysis.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and I encourage the NMED to approve this proposed permit modification.

Sincerely,



Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway

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