

March 28, 2018



To: Ricardo Maestas
New Mexico Environment Department
Ricardo.maestas@state.nm.us

Dear Mr. Maestas:

My name is Edward T. Rodriguez, a lifelong resident of Carlsbad. I'm also Ward 1 member of Carlsbad's City Council who was recently elected Mayor Pro Tempore.

I, not only a citizen of Carlsbad, but as an elected official am grateful for the opportunity to comment on a subject as important to us as the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the proposed modification seeking clarification of transuranic (TRU) Mixed Waste Disposal Volume Reporting.

I believe the current permit has mistakenly allowed the overpack volume to count against WIPP's total waste contained. This modification deals with the issue of overpack containers, and even though I have no background the nuclear industry, it is easy to see that this modification of the formula used to calculate actual waste, is the right thing to do to maximize the effectiveness of the mission of WIPP. To consider the entire container in the calculation is like looking at a box of cereal and assuming it is full, top to bottom, when we all know it is not and must read the box to know how many ounces are in that box, regardless of it's size.

This permit modification is simply a way of making sure that the WIPP facility can continue its performance of duties, which are critically important to our entire nation, in the most productive and cost-effective manner possible.

I greatly encourage the New Mexico Environment Department to allow this proposal to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Edward T. Rodriguez

