

April 20, 2018



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

Re: WIPP Class 3 Modification

Dear Mr. Maestas:

As a resident of Carlsbad for most of my life, I am very familiar with mining in salt. My grandfathers and uncles on both sides of my family worked in coal mines in Northern New Mexico and Wyoming since the early 1900's. My father spent over 45 years in coal and potash mines. I myself worked in one of the mines for a short time during my college years. To say the least, most of the residents of Carlsbad have close connections to mining.

Because of this background, we as a community understand the operations of mining in salt, and the risks and challenges that brings. When it comes to the mining operations of WIPP, it is much easier for us to understand how and why things are done for worker safety.

As a business owner in Carlsbad, I volunteer on many of the community civic projects. I currently am serving as Chairman of the Mayor's Nuclear Task Force Permit Modification Review Committee. We are challenged with reviewing all Permit Modification Applications for WIPP.

I along with the other committee members have spend several days meeting with WIPP, NWP, Sandia and Los Alamos personnel to make sure we have a complete understanding of the current Class 3 Permit Modification. We have reviewed this modification on several occasions.

The proposed changes to Panel Closure design is a very good improvement over the original design. It provides for a faster way to safely close the panels while providing at least an equally sufficient barrier to the original design, which we felt had a lot of unanswered engineering questions.

Because of my involvement in this research, I completely support the approval of the WIPP Class 3 Modification.

Sincerely:

Dave Sepich

180417

