



From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Biswell, David, NMENV](#); [Tellez, Hernesto, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comments about Proposed WIPP Expansion
Date: Monday, September 17, 2018 12:01:59 PM

From: mtnviewco@aol.com <mtnviewco@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 11:46 AM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: Public Comments about Proposed WIPP Expansion

Dear Mr. Maestas:

I oppose the expansion of the amount of waste disposed in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) – a proposed 28% increase – all by changing the way waste is measured. I object to the proposed definitions for the *TRU Mixed Waste Volume* (“the gross internal volume of the outermost disposal container”) and the *Land Withdrawal Act TRU Waste Volume* (“the volume of TRU waste inside a disposed container.”)

Rather than increasing WIPP’s capacity, the New Mexico Environment Department should deny the request because the Permittees (the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractor, Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC) have not explained why the expansion is needed and where the additional waste would be disposed. I am very concerned about the segmentation of the recent permit modification requests that do not allow the public to review the Permittees’ entire expansion plan.

Over its 19 years of operations, DOE has shipped many empty (dunnage) drums, has not filled containers to capacity, yet the contractors have been paid fully – and in some cases received bonuses. To allow the proposed expansion risks the health and environment for all New Mexicans.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Cristy Holden
Taos, New Mexico

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