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October 7, 2019

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

RE: Public Input for WIPP Class 3 Permit Modification Request for New Shaft

Dear Mr. Maestas:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Class 3 Permit Modification Request calling for the Excavation of a New Shaft and Associated Connecting Drifts.

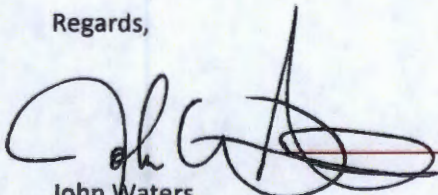
As someone whose father works at WIPP, I believe that the safety of the workers at the facility should be the primary reason for the approval. This new proposed shaft will make worker safety a priority by reducing exposure to diesel exhaust, NOx and other VOC's in the underground. As your air quality and occupational safety experts at the NMED are very aware, NOx and volatile organic compounds from diesel engine exhaust can be hazardous in the open and much more so in an enclosed space such as a mine.

In addition to the direct benefit on safety, the resulting increase in ventilation airflow into the underground would also create an unfiltered exhaust path through the existing Air Intake Shaft to allow the particulates created by the mining process to escape without compromising the HEPA filter system.

When this new shaft is complete, it would allow simultaneous mining, maintenance and waste emplacement operations to all take place safely. At this time, they cannot safely be concurrent operations due to this lack of airflow.

I am asking for your prompt approval of this modification. Thank you for giving those of us in Carlsbad the opportunity to provide input.

Regards,



John Waters
1308 W. Riverside Dr.
Carlsbad, NM 88220

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