



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

 ENTERED

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Mr. Ricardo Maestas
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Subject: Comments on the Class 3 Permit Modification Request, Excavation of a New Shaft and Associated Connecting Drifts for Permit NM4890139085-TSDF

In December 2017, the U.S. Department of Energy requested a permit modification request (PMR) to construct a new shaft and associated drifts at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. I encourage the State New Mexico to grant the requested PMR without further delay. The new shaft will benefit waste disposal operations by providing better ventilation control; furthermore, the additional airflow will increase worker safety in the underground. Due to the current level of airflow, there are constraints on the numbers and types of machinery that can be operated, resulting in loss of efficiency.

The new shaft will bring a much-needed update to the WIPP underground ventilation system and take advantage of many of the technology developments that have occurred since the WIPP Site was originally constructed. I support the PMR and see it as a needed improvement.

Sincerely,

Cathrynn Novich Brown

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