

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](mailto:Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](mailto:Megan.McLean@state.nm.us); [Biswell, David, NMENV](mailto:David.Biswell@state.nm.us)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waste Isolation Pilot Plant - Permit Modification
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 10:14:29 AM

From: pam gilchrist <pamgilchrist1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Cc: Kenneth Mayers <kmayers@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: [EXT] Waste Isolation Pilot Plant - Permit Modification

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

Re: PUBLIC NOTICE No. 20-03 - New Shaft at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Dear Mr. Maestas:

We object to the proposed permit modification that would allow construction of a new shaft and associated drifts (tunnels) into the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) underground. We also object to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) authorizing the construction of the shaft seven weeks before the draft permit was issued. It is clear there is no emergency requiring NMED to issue a temporary authorization for shaft construction. In fact, the New Filter Building will provide over 100% of the air required for the workers in the partially contaminated WIPP facility in the next year or so.

The new shaft actually is for new underground rooms that could more than double the disposal area because the existing, permitted panels will be filled in a few years.

The new shaft is all about expanding WIPP for more waste, including:

- high-level radioactive waste from Hanford, Washington and other sites;
- weapons-grade plutonium from the Savannah River Site in South Carolina;
- commercial waste from West Valley, New York; and
- 50 years or more of waste from building new nuclear weapons.

In 1999 and before, the Department of Energy (DOE) promised the People of New Mexico that WIPP would operate for 25 years and then close. DOE said they could cleanup the plutonium wastes around the nuclear weapons complex and get it to WIPP in 25 years.

Despite these promises DOE says now it needs to keep WIPP open FOREVER.

The current permit requires WIPP to close in 2024. It's time for NMED to support the promises DOE made to the People of New Mexico for closure of WIPP in 2024. The new shaft must be stopped. NMED must withdraw the temporary authorization to build the shaft and deny the modification request.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments.

Pamela Gilchrist
Ken Mayers

74 Monte Alto Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Biswell, David, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: PUBLIC NOTICE #2020-03 - New Shaft at the Waste IsolationPilot Plant (WIPP)
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:41:03 PM

From: pam gilchrist <pamgilchrist1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] PUBLIC NOTICE #2020-03 - New Shaft at the Waste IsolationPilot Plant (WIPP)

Dear Mr. Maestas,

We are calling on you to withdraw the current Temporary Authorization (TA) that allowed the drilling of the Utility "ventilation" shaft at WIPP without a complete public process.

It is your job as WIPP Group Manager to protect the land and people of New Mexico.

It is clear that this TA and the Department of Energy (DOE) permit application to continue operations indefinitely at WIPP put all New Mexicans and our enchanted homelands at severe risk.

You must not allow New Mexico to become the nation's nuclear dumping ground; as no other permanent repository has been created.

You must not bow to political pressure to sacrifice the future of all New Mexicans on the altar of the military/nuclear industrial complex.

I firmly believe that this WIPP expansion is part of the DOE's plan to continue nuclear weapons production.

Halt the drilling, abide by required public processes, deny the WIPP expansion permit. Demand that the DOE keep the promises they made to the People of New Mexico and close WIPP in 2004.

Most sincerely,

Ken Mayers

Pam Gilchrist

74 Monte Alto Rd.

Santa Fe, NM 87508

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10