

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] Re: Public comments on NMED TA and authorization for WIPP new shaft
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:45:23 AM

From: Geri Rhodes <geriraf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:52 PM
To: Sue Small <to_suesmall@hotmail.com>
Cc: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Re: Public comments on NMED TA and authorization for WIPP new shaft

I couldn't agree more. There should be no expansion of WIPP. Adhering to the agreed closing-down schedule will force those who produce the waste to find permanent solutions. Putting public comment after action is contrary to all good faith efforts.

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On Mon, Aug 10, 2020, 7:45 PM Sue Small <to_suesmall@hotmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Maestas

Allowing excavation for the new and unnecessary shaft at WIPP to proceed prior to considering public comments about this DOE enlargement action is indefensible. Considering public comments after the fact is a sham. Activity on this project must stop and a real public evaluation of these plans and what they portend must be undertaken.

The NM Environment Department's approval in April 2020 of the Temporary Authorization and other moves by DOE will result in WIPP changing from a pilot plant to a permanent repository for highly radioactive waste. New Mexico and its citizens are holding the DOE to the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act and other agreed upon standards limiting WIPP to storage of less than 6.2 million cubic feet of radioactive wastes. Additionally, we are holding the DOE to the closure date for WIPP in 2024. WIPP is to end acceptance of radioactive waste in 2024 and begin a 10 year closure period through 2034. Allowing WIPP to continue past 2024 is a breach of public trust and a breach of contract.

The new shaft is unnecessary and is 1,200 feet away from the WIPP site. The 2018 approved New Filter Building will soon be online and will supply any additional airflow required for worker safety. The new shaft is not needed and once completed will only add to overage in the storage capacity for WIPP, contrary to the initial agreements.

It is unfortunate and a dereliction of stewardship for the NM Environment Department to allow the TA and associated activities to continue while collecting public comments. Stop the excavation and engage in meaningful public discussion of WIPP's future in our state.

Please respond to my comments with specific actions you and our NM Environment Department will take.

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