

[Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us](mailto:Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us)

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,

It is imperative that you 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 also your job to ensure the required public participation requirements are met in a non-discriminatory manner. The Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is incomplete. The Public Notice does not notify the public about how they can access language services for Low English Proficiency speakers. The Fact Sheet does not state that DOE is digging the shaft NOW!

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.

Halt the drilling, correct and abide by required public processes, and deny the WIPP expansion permit.

Demand that the DOE keep the promises they made to the People of New Mexico and close WIPP in 2024.

Most sincerely,

*Virginia Aromando*

Virginia Aromando  
25 AVENIDA DE LA PAZ  
LAMY, NM. 87540