

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Biswell, David, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Re: PUBLIC NOTICE No. 20-03 - New Shaft at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:36:46 PM

From: Bruce Campbell <madroneweb@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Re: PUBLIC NOTICE No. 20-03 - New Shaft at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

Dear Mr. Maestas:

I vehemently object to the proposed permit modification that would authorize construction of a new Waste Isolation Pilot Project shaft and drifts (tunnels) for WIPP.

Excuse me, how does the bureaucratic logic work that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) apparently allowed construction to begin on another shaft at WIPP 7 weeks before issuance of the draft permit? This flies in the face of logic and bureaucratic coherence, and also took place long before a public hearing was held. Also, the New Mexico facility which had serious explosive nuclear problems in tunnels, WIPP, sounds like it is no longer a mere "pilot project" but a forever lousy supposed containment of radioactive waste in this state populated primarily by Latinx / indigenous which is an eternal insult to indigenous people and people with their heads screwed on correctly.

I call for prosecution of those who are conspiring to build a dangerous shaft within which to contain plutonium and other dangerous radioactive waste at WIPP when there are so many problems with the current shaft. There should be prosecution on this matter even if work on the dangerous project did not begin 7 weeks before issuance of a draft permit! Replace Barr and prosecute!

Also, the fact that little info was provided in Spanish on this proposed expansion of WIPP shows that this project apparently has a dual purpose, to unleash a deluge of radioactive waste transport to a site in indigenous/minority majority state near the country that we stole the southern U.S. from, and to make sure that we poison the Rio Grande watershed as a getting-quite-obvious SHAFT YOU policy TO PEOPLE OF COLOR AND THE TO THE GENETIC FUTURE OF HUMANITY!!!

I also understand that you are pretending that work had to begin before a permit was issued to help air flow to workers in the current underground repository. Well that not only is not true, but is a ploy to try to help one forget the worker deaths due to explosions at WIPP tunnels in the past. Spanish-speaking folks were lied to when the supposed fact sheet in Spanish did not mention that the project was begun before it was approved.

I call for the release of all NMED and contractor internal e-mails on the WIPP which would likely expose a pattern of conspiring to violate laws and regulations while caring a helluva lot more for nuclear industry profits than for workers, those dang Mexicans (who have the nerve to feed us), and indigenous people. The emergency is bypassing bureaucratic regulations to

mess over the near future (as far as dangerous transport to be unleashed soon) and the more distant future, not that there is an emergency to get busy finishing off our Mother Earth.

Admit it! The new shaft is to more than double radwaste capacity – not to provide better quality air to workers who industry promoters could hardly care less about!

But if project proponents continue to pretend that the new shaft is for better air flow, then there can be stipulations that the new shaft shall receive no more radioactive waste (which of course would cover also receiving no radwaste from sites such as Hanford, Washington, as well as from other far-flung sites.

Please do a more thorough Environmental Justice analysis which considers uranium mining in New Mexico, nuclear testing in New Mexico, WIPP and now expanding WIPP in NM, and the proposed Holtec so-called interim facility to receive thin canisters overstuffed with spent fuel rod assemblies. This is racism pure and simple, and must be halted!

Please halt all work on this proposal that begun before approval, admit it is a ploy, and halt the proposed damage to human genetic material.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Campbell

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