

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Biswell, David, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:56:47 AM

From: Kat <backroads@fix.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

I object to the proposed permit modification for the construction of a new shaft and associated tunnels at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico for the following reasons:

- The DOE's stated justification for the new shaft is to provide airflow, yet a permanent ventilation system is currently being built. Clearly, the real purpose for the shaft is to expand capacity;
- The New Mexico Environment Department has authorized the construction of the shaft seven weeks before the draft permit was issued and long before the public hearings will be held;
- The draft permit doesn't inform the public that the shaft is already being constructed;
- This is an environmental justice issue against the majority minority Hispanic, Native American, and other people of color. Two high-level radioactive Consolidated Interim Storage facilities have targeted the same local area;
- The transportation element is inherently high-risk, and contaminated shipments are expected from long distances.

Stop construction of this shaft and reject the permit.

Kathryn Atkins
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401