

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Biswell, David, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT]
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:43:19 AM

From: R Townsend <mygardenstudio@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:53 PM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT]

To Mr. Ricardo Maestas,

Sir, 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; this should be made plain.
- 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; this seems to go against public involvement.
- The draft permit doesn't inform the public that the shaft is already being constructed; that's a major omission.
- 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; it needs to be made much more public and transparent.
- The transportation element is inherently high-risk, and contaminated shipments are expected from long distances. That invites trouble.

Thank you for reading and considering,

Rebecca Townsend