

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Biswell, David, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: Re: PUBLIC NOTICE No. 20-03 - New Shaft at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 8:41:33 AM

From: Patricia A. Marida <patmarida@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:42 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:

NO to the proposed permit modification that would authorize construction of a new WIPP shaft and drifts (tunnels) for WIPP.

I also object to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) allowing construction to begin seven weeks before the draft permit was issued, and long before the public hearing will be held.

NMED's actions make it clear that the public process is neither supported nor respected when it comes to WIPP. The fact sheet for this permit modification provides little vital information in Spanish, doesn't say that the shaft is already being built, and continues to claim that the shaft is needed for air flow in the current underground repository. Yet it is clear there is no emergency requiring NMED to sidestep the public process. In fact, the New Filter Building will provide over 100% of the air required for workers in the partially contaminated repository and will be providing that air nearly two years before the new shaft and drifts are finished.

The new shaft actually is needed only for an expanded WIPP that could more than double the current disposal area. DOE needs this space because existing, waste rooms will soon be filled and DOE wants to expand WIPP for more waste and more kinds of waste.

NO to proposed Permit Modifications.

Patricia A. Marida
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