

July 16, 2020

To: Ricardo Maestas, WIPP Project Manager
Ricardo.maestas@state.nm.us

Dear Mr. Maestas: I'm writing in support of the proposed permit modification for the construction of a new shaft and associated connecting drifts.

Carlsbad is a mining community, and we well understand the need for additional ventilation. The employees of the WIPP underground- who are our friends and neighbors- tell us they strongly support this project. WIPP's primary justification for this modification is increased control of the ventilation airflow in the underground and the ability to perform multiple operations at once.

Many of the issues being raised by opponents to this permit modification are not relevant to the modification process. The temporary authorization process is a regulatory provision allowing some activities to begin early for purposes related to protecting human health, which this is. Comments related to closure date and expansion are also outside of the scope of this process.

I appreciate the New Mexico Environment Department's rigorous adherence to the Class 3 permitting process, as well as the opportunity to make comment. I encourage the NMED to move forward with this permitting process.

Sincerely,

Jack Volpato