

September 15, 2021

Dear Mr. Maestas;

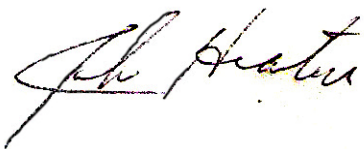
As you know, WIPP's authorized limit for transuranic waste is 6.2 million cubic feet. At this point, panel 7 is almost filled and by the early part of next year, they will begin filling panel 8. Depending on the number of shipments per week, the expectation is that panel 8 will be filled in a little more than 2 years' time. The previous plan of using the main drifts of the present footprint for panels 9 and 10 are no longer viable due to lack of maintenance and collapse of the formation (as predicted) in panel 9, and for panel 10 to be viable it will require a significant amount of mining. Presently the volume of the proposed panel 10 is now only equal to 1 room in a panel. Therefore, the significant amount of mining that will be required, and the risks associated do not make economic or safety sense. They must mine at least 2 panels to complete the transuranic waste disposal in the complex.

As you know, and as I understand it, there are no limits to the number of mined panels so long as they do not exceed the 16 sq. miles of the withdrawn land for WIPP. This additional disposal space for hazardous waste disposal units is consistent with the approval of the other units approved at WIPP.

WIPP is a national treasure that allows the clean-up of the weapons complex for all the people and states that participated in winning the cold war - a war we all hope will never occur again.

Regards,

John Heaton, Co-chair Mayor's WIPP Task Force

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Heaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

1008 W. Riverside  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
[jaheaton1@gmail.com](mailto:jaheaton1@gmail.com)  
575-302-6358

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