From: Marcus Pryor-Lurier
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to new WIPP expansion panels
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 1:52:00 PM

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Dear Mr. Maestas:

I oppose the two new proposed panels 11 and 12, which are part of the "Forever WIPP" expansion, which I also strongly oppose.

Instead of considering the Class 3 Permit Modification Request for the new two panels, NMED should proceed with the WIPP permit renewal process. I support a date certain to end WIPP waste shipment and disposal operations in 2024, as the Permit provides. WIPP is supposed to be the first, but not only, deep geologic disposal site. But unless New Mexico requires the federal government to have other locations, WIPP will always be the only site.

If the two new panels were added to the permit, Table 4.1.1 of the modification request shows that the total capacity would be more than 6.7 million cubic feet of waste, even though the legal limit is 6.2 million cubic feet. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) cannot legally approve such a request. The two panel expansion also breaks the promises and legal agreements with New Mexico.

I request that NMED proceed with the WIPP Permit Renewal process and maintain a date certain to end WIPP waste shipments and disposal operations. NMED should deny the Panels 11 and 12 Permit Modification Request.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

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