



New Mexico Environment Department

WIPP Renewal Public Meeting

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Purpose of Public Meeting

To provide a forum for the public to ask questions and make comments on the Permit Renewal.



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Negotiations



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Improvements to the WIPP Permit

- The Permittees must conduct WIPP Community Forums three times per year in communities around New Mexico.
- The Permittees must report non-compliances with federal Department of Transportation requirements to NMED.
- The Permittees will obtain a list of oil and gas production wells and saltwater disposal wells surrounding the LWA boundary and provide the information in an annual report.
- Generator Site Technical Reviews (GSTRs) must be conducted to review generator/storage site waste characterization processes, and a GSTR schedule must be approved by NMED annually.



Improvements to the WIPP Permit

- NMED's ability to suspend waste shipments should there be evidence of a threat to human health and the environment has been strengthened.
- Should an incident occur involving the release of contamination within a shipping container, NMED, generator/storage sites with similar waste streams, and the audit team will be provided with a report evaluating the incident and follow-up actions taken.





Improvements to the WIPP Permit

- Should the Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) volumetric disposal limit be increased, or additional waste types be authorized in the LWA by federal statute, NMED will issue a notice of revocation and reissuance.
- The closure date of the facility is tied to the Permit term so that the permittees must make a case for another Permit term at each renewal and must provide an inventory of transuranic (TRU) waste from the DOE complex, including a basis for estimated quantities, to support the renewal application.
- Future waste panels shall be requested through a renewal application, as opposed to a permit modification, and must describe the final facility footprint.
- DOE must submit an annual report detailing progress toward the siting of another TRU waste repository in a state other than New Mexico.

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Improvements to the WIPP Permit

- The Permittees must certify annually that sufficient capacity exists in permitted panels for waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and LANL waste will be prioritized.
- A Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan is being introduced into the permit to define the term “legacy waste” and to work with generator/storage sites and stakeholders to accurately inventory this waste once defined. In addition, Panel 12 will be reserved for legacy waste.





Next Steps

Date	WIPP Permit Renewal Action
Early October 2023	Issuance of Final Renewal Permit and Response to Comments
Early November 2023	Effective Date of Final Renewal Permit

NMED Contact Information

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