

August 12, 1998

ENTERED

Dear Mr. Dinwiddie,

I am writing to you today to request that there be an extension of the comment period to allow public comment on the WIPP permit past the August 14th deadline.

I also would like to express my grave concern about DOE's attempt to open WIPP no matter what. For example, because DOE has not been able to prove that the designated waste is not mixed, DOE submitted a waste sampling and analysis plan which greatly differs from DOE's waste characterization proposal in its previous permit application. Neither the DOE or the NMED has released the sampling analysis plan for public comment. DOE must know exactly what the barrels contain before any shipping is allowed. DOE's 'acceptable knowledge' (which relies on historical records) is not acceptable. Physical analysis is absolutely necessary.

And finally, I would like to express my opinion that NMED should retain permit modification provisions in DOE's final permit.

Sincerely,

Sue Chavez
Sue Chavez

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