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PETER MAGGIORE
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State Announces WIPP Public Hearing

Today, the New Mexico Environment Department announced the dates and locations of public hearings on the hazardous waste permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Also, the department announced that the revised draft permit will be available for public review and comment at a number of locations throughout the state and on the Internet at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp beginning Friday, November 13.

In October the NMED released a timeline of WIPP permitting activity that showed that a public hearing would be held between February and the end of March. The February 22 hearing is well within this time period and the permit is on track to be issued between July and September, 1999.

Important Dates:

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|------------------------------|---|
| November 13, 1998 | Public Notice printed in New Mexico newspapers
Draft permit available on the Internet or at sites throughout New Mexico |
| January 18, 1999 | Last day for written public comment |
| February 1, 1999 | Last day to file to give notice to present oral public comment (technical) or to be a party for purposes of public participation |
| February 22, 1999, 9:00 a.m. | Public hearing for technical and non-technical testimony
Apodaca Hall, PERA Building, Santa Fe
Will continue, as necessary, through March 7 |
| March 8, 1999, 9:00 a.m. | Public hearing continues for non-technical testimony only
Pecos River Conference Center, Carlsbad
Will continue, as necessary, through March 14 |
| March 15 (If Necessary) | Hearing of technical and non-technical testimony continues in Santa Fe, if necessary |

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The draft permit and permit application may be reviewed at the following locations:

Internet: www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp

New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
201A Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-1557

New Mexico Environment Department
District I Office
4131 Montgomery Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 841-9450

New Mexico Environment Department
District III Office
1001 North Solano Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(505) 524-6300

New Mexico Environment Department
District IV Office
1914 West Second
Roswell, NM 88201
(505) 624-6046

New Mexico Environment Department
NMED Library
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2633

Santa Fe Community College Library
6401 Richards Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 438-1352

Carlsbad Public Library
101 S. Halaguero
Carlsbad, NM 88220
(505) 885-6776

Pannell Library, Government Documents
New Mexico Junior College
5317 Lovington Highway
Hobbs, NM 88240