

Good evening: Thank you for hosting this event. Tonight's meeting is about the Department of Energy's plans to conduct a restarting of the 700-C ventilation fan at WIPP. WIPP states that use of the 700-C fan will improve the work environment for the workforce by increasing airflow to the underground. I support WIPP's plan for the 700-C restart.

The concerns some have expressed over restarting have been that this fan could result in the release of trace levels of radioactive materials into the immediate environment. However, the estimated maximum possible release would be 2,000 times below EPA enforced limits. These are our friends and family members working at WIPP and we would be the first to express concern if we felt like there was any risk at all. This restart will be beneficial to the workforce and does not create risk.

WIPP has kept us well-informed about its plan for the proposed restart. There will be several levels of tests and radiological monitoring will be ongoing, with all testing data reviewed in detail. Additionally the fan will not be used during underground waste emplacement operations.

Carlsbad is the host community to WIPP, and we certainly believe that the viewpoints of the host community should be assigned the highest value. Most especially, the views of the men and women working at WIPP who will be most directly impacted should be given top consideration.

In a letter published on the WIPP web page, union president Rick Fuentes stated that he fully supports restarting the fan because of the overall benefit to the health and safety of the workforce. Fuentes writes that the additional airflow will improve air quality for employees, which will support ground control, waste emplacement and mining activities. MSHA has said it is in favor of providing more airflow to the WIPP underground. A review by the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation reviewed WIPP's approach and felt that it would adequately protect the workforce, the public and the environment. Both a thorough scientific review and a review by the potentially-impacted workforce have concluded that the 700-C fan at WIPP can be restarted safely. Thank you.

Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway