



February 13, 2023

Breath of My Heart Birthplace	Partnership for Earth Spirituality
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping	Southwest Research and Information Center
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety	The 285 ALLIANCE
Conservation Voters of New Mexico	Veterans for Peace, Chapter 63
Honor Our Pueblo Existence, Santa Clara Pueblo	Veterans For Peace, Chapter 55
Nuclear Watch New Mexico	(Joan Duffy Chapter)

**Re: Approval of the Request for a 60-Day Extension of the
WIPP Renewal Draft Permit Comment Period
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088**

Dear Requestors,

On January 24, 2023, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received a request [AR 230112] for a 60-day extension of the WIPP Renewal Draft Permit comment period signed by fourteen individuals representing eleven organizations. Three reasons were given for supporting the extension request, including the conflicting timeframe of the 2023 New Mexico Legislative Session.

Pursuant to 20.4.1.901.A.3 NMAC, fifteen days above the requisite 45-day public comment period has been provided for in this matter. However, given the reasons listed in the request and the important and infrequent nature of the Renewal process, NMED hereby grants the request for a 60-day extension of time to be added to the comment period for the WIPP Renewal Draft Permit. The comment period will now end on **April 19, 2023 at 5:00PM MT**.

This change will be reflected on NMED's Public Comment Portal. The January 24, 2023 extension request as well as this approval may be found on the NMED WIPP News webpage at <https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/wipp/>. When a public hearing is ultimately granted in this matter, the comment period will automatically be extended to the close of the public hearing, in accordance with 20.4.1.901.A.6 NMAC.

Approval of the Request for a 60-Day Extension of the
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If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Ricardo Maestas of my staff at
(505) 690-6148.

Sincerely,

Rick Shean
Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
Acting Director, Resource Protection Division

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File: WIPP '23