

## Judi Waters

As a citizen and longtime city councilor of Carlsbad, I wanted my full support for WIPP.

This facility is very important for the environment of the nation and the economy of New Mexico. It is a vital contributor to our local economy and provides great employment opportunities for people within Carlsbad, including members of my family. I believe that it is safe and would not support it if it was not.

I think that many of the people that oppose this operation simply fail to understand the critical role WIPP plays in our national and state cleanup efforts (i.e. Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories). In addition to my family, I know many of my friends and neighbors who work at the facility and they do a fantastic and professional job for our nation by disposing of the county's defense-generated transuranic waste.

I feel strongly that the proposed permit changes from the NMED would not have any positive benefit to the environment, but instead would have a negative impact on the life of WIPP as well as on the surrounding communities by causing the early closure of this facility and the loss of well over a thousand good-paying jobs.

NMED needs to understand that WIPP is a unique and critical national resource for our nation and the environment. I believe that this operation is safe and fine with the current NMED Permit. Please reject the unnecessary and costly permit changes proposed by the NMED staff and approve the permit as it is now.

Thank you,  
Judi Waters