



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF EDDY

RESOLUTION R-26-50

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT (WIPP) IN THE CLEANUP OF THE NATION'S NATIONAL DEFENSE SITES; AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S PROPOSED RESTRICTION OF SHIPMENTS TO WIPP WILL SLOW THE CLEANUP OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP MISSION**

WHEREAS, Eddy County (County) supports the success and safety of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes WIPP is the only facility of its kind in the nation and plays a critical role in the cleanup of the national environmental cleanup mission and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has accepted the WIPP mission and has played a critical role in the Nation's environmental cleanup and our Nation's Defense; and

WHEREAS, since operations have begun, the WIPP facility has assisted in the remediation of 22 DOE sites of legacy TRU waste since operations began; and

WHEREAS, during the 2024 Permit Modification, prioritization was given to legacy waste while ensuring that WIPP could operate efficiently, and

WHEREAS, during the 2024 Permit Modification, "a Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan" was introduced into the permit to define the term "legacy waste" and to work with generators, storage sites, and stakeholders to accurately inventory this waste once defined, and

WHEREAS, the County views the Permit Modification proposed by the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) may directly impact the cleanup of our national defense facilities

WHEREAS, in the last permit modification at WIPP two (2) years ago Panel 12 at WIPP will be reserved for legacy TRU-waste from around the country to the extent practicable; and

WHEREAS, NMED's proposed delay in mining operations in order to maintain Panel 12 for TRU waste from one site and not all DOE sites is likely cost-prohibitive and a possible safety concern during delays; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 proposed Permit Modification will be cost-prohibitive to the WIPP operations and create National safety concerns due to shipping delays, and

WHEREAS, communities surrounding DOE sites including Eddy County are concerned about the impacts of the proposed Permit Modification on community, workforce and environmental safety and protection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY OF EDDY:**

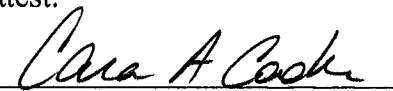
1. Public health and environmental protection are paramount to the success of DOE's cleanup program and trust between local, state, and federal governments. The safe operation of all DOE facilities is a top priority for local governments.
2. There is currently enough space at WIPP for allowing all of the waste in the DOE and it would ultimately be detrimental to the entire EM complex to prioritize waste at Los Alamos which may not be ready to ship, thereby delaying cleanup at nations DOE sites.
3. Eddy County encourages NMED to reconsider the necessity and effectiveness of the proposed Permit Modification.
4. Eddy County encourages NMED to explore alternative, more effective options to accelerate waste cleanup at Los Alamos, such as increasing characterization in safe, responsible, and reliable manner and working with DOE to prioritize preparing Los Alamos TRU shipments.
5. Eddy County encourages NMED to open discussions with DOE to not slow or stop waste from being shipped to WIPP.

**PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

By:   
James "Bo" Bowen, Chairperson

Attest:

  
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Cara Cooke, Eddy County Clerk

