

Mayor Richard Lopez

City of Carlsbad Memorandum

CITY OF CARLSBAD

AGENDA BRIEFING

MEMORANDUM

Council Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

I BY: Wendy Austin I DATE: 05/05/2026

Consider Approval of Resolution 2026-33, a Resolution recognizing the critical role of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in the cleanup of National Defense Sites and acknowledging that the State of New Mexico's proposed restrictions on shipments to WIPP will slow the cleanup of the Nation's National Defense Sites

BACKGROUND, ANALYSIS AND IMPACT: (Safety and

Welfare/Financial/Personnel/Infrastructure/etc.)

A resolution supporting WIPP and WIPP's mission to accomplish the cleanup of all the Nation's national defense sites and opposing the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED)

request to update the current WIPP permit to unreasonably prioritize shipments from Los

Alamos.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION:

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Reviewed by:

I City Manager: Wendy D Austin I Date: May 7, 2026 I

Attachments:

1. WIPP Resolution-2026-33 (1)

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CITY OF CARLSBAD, NM

RESOLUTION NO. -202-6-3-3 -----

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE WASTE ISOLATION
PILOT PLANT

(WIPP) IN THE CLEANUP OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SITES AND ACKNOWLEDGING
THAT THE STATE

OF NEW MEXICO'S PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON SHIPMENTS TO WIPP WILL SLOW THE

CLEANUP OF THE NATION'S NATIONAL DEFENSE SITES

WHEREAS, the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico (City) proudly supports the mission, success, and safety of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes WIPP as the only facility of its kind in the nation and that it provides

a critical role in the cleanup of the national defense sites, and

WHEREAS, the City has always valued and supported the acceleration of shipments from all national defense sites, and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has accepted the WIPP mission and has participated in the critical role in the Nation's environmental cleanup of national defense sites, and

WHEREAS, since operations have begun, WIPP has assisted in the remediation of twenty-two (22) national defense sites, 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, during the 2024 Permit Modification, the permit established that Panel Twelve (12) be reserved for legacy TRU-waste from around the country, and

WHEREAS, the 2024 permit was touted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) as being "successful negotiations," and

WHEREAS, the 2026 proposed Permit Modification, from NMED, would delay mining operations in order to maintain Panel 12 for shipments from only Los Alamos and not all national defense sites, 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

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WHEREAS, there is currently enough space at WIPP to allow for shipments from all national

defense sites and it would ultimately be detrimental to the entire Office of Environmental

Management (EM) to prioritize waste at Los Alamos which may not be ready to ship; thereby,

delaying cleanup at other national defense sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, AS FOLLOWS:

The City encourages NMED to reconsider the necessity and effectiveness of the proposed 2026

Permit Modification, and

The City encourages NMED to explore alternative, more effective options to accelerate waste

cleanup at Los Alamos, such as increasing characterization in a safe, responsible, and reliable

manner and working with the Department of Energy to prioritize preparing Los Alamos

shipments, and

The City encourages NMED to have open discussions and to collaborate with the Department of

Energy, Los Alamos County, and the City of Carlsbad, under the 2024 WIPP permit.

APPROVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CARLSBAD

THIS TWELFTH (12TH) DAY OF MAY, 2026

CITY OF CARLSBAD