

DOE Office of Environmental Management, ORNL (Joanna Hardin)

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Agency-Initiated Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Attached is a request for extension to the public comment period. Additionally, the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management and Transuranic Waste Processing Facility respectfully request a public hearing on the subject public notice.

Your consideration and approval of both requests is appreciated.



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 4067
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

June 5, 2026

Mr. John-David Nance, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Nance:

REQUEST FOR 60-DAY EXTENSION OF THE COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT AGENCY-INITIATED PERMIT MODIFICATION

The purpose of this letter is to request a 60-day extension, until August 7, 2026, of the public comment period associated with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) draft Agency-Initiated Modification (AIM) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number NM4890139088, which was issued on April 22, 2026. The current comment period is scheduled to conclude on June 8, 2026.

The U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management is requesting a 60-day extension based on the following:

- The NMED proposed AIM will impede Transuranic waste shipments from the Transuranic Waste Processing Facility (TWPC), Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Further in-depth analysis is necessary to evaluate cost and schedule impacts to TWPC, the Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management cleanup program, and the U.S. Department of Energy mission.
- TWPC regulatory and technical experts need to coordinate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and radiological safety experts regarding facility permits, Site Treatment Plan agreements and compliance schedules, Transuranic waste storage capabilities/limitations, and other applicable requirements and agreements.
- The complexity of the changes NMED proposed in the AIM requires significant time and effort to adequately perform an impact analysis, so that substantive comments can be provided.

**REQUEST FOR 60-DAY EXTENSION OF THE COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT AGENCY-INITIATED PERMIT
MODIFICATION**

We appreciate your expeditious consideration of this request.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at Joanna.Hardin@orem.doe.gov or by phone at (865) 204-2945.

Sincerely,

Joanna G. Hardin, Acting Director
Quality and Mission Support Division

cc:

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