

Jay Jenkins

June 22, 2026

To the New Mexico Environment Department,

I am submitting public comment in support of the continued safe and efficient operation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

I have concerns regarding the proposed permit modification and the potential impacts it could have on WIPP operations, shipment efficiency, workforce stability, and the long-term economic health of Southeast New Mexico.

WIPP is a critical national asset and the only operating repository of its kind in the United States. It plays an essential role in the nation's environmental cleanup mission while supporting approximately 1,400 jobs and significant economic activity in our region.

I am concerned that the proposed changes could:

- Slow national cleanup efforts
- Create unnecessary operational uncertainty
- Reduce efficiency and throughput at WIPP
- Negatively impact jobs, contractors, and investment in Southeast New Mexico

There is no evidence of delayed shipments from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) due to WIPP capacity or prioritization issues:

- o Shipments are scheduled based on generator site readiness, not WIPP restrictions.
- o When waste is ready, WIPP accepts and emplaces it promptly.

I respectfully encourage NMED to carefully consider the broader operational, economic, and national implications of this proposed permit modification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jay Jenkins

Carlsbad and Eddy County New Mexico Resident