

# Karla Niemeier

My name is Karla Niemeier, City Councilor for Carlsbad.

I'll be honest — when I first read through this proposed permit modification, I had to sit with it for a while. Because on the surface it sounds reasonable. Legacy waste cleanup, accountability, commitments. Those are all things I care about. But the more I looked at it, the more concerned I became.

This proposal would require that LANL waste make up the majority of everything disposed of at WIPP — over half starting in 2027, and nearly three quarters after that. That kind of restriction doesn't just affect one site. It slows down cleanup everywhere else. And it puts real pressure on operations at a facility that, by every measure, has been doing its job well.

I'm also troubled by how quickly this is moving. The scope of these changes warrants more time, more conversation, and a public hearing where people can actually come and speak. I'd ask NMED to extend the comment period and commit to that hearing.

Carlsbad supports WIPP. We always have. But supporting WIPP means protecting what makes it work — and right now, this modification threatens exactly that.

Thank you, Karla Niemeier