

## Barbara Hodgson

I am submitting this comment in opposition to the proposed draft permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

As a resident of Carlsbad, my primary concern is the potential impact that the proposed permit conditions could have on employment stability in our community. A significant number of Carlsbad residents are employed at WIPP or in industries that directly support its operations. For many families in this area, WIPP is not just a federal facility—it is a primary source of economic stability.

WIPP's operations have historically relied on a steady and predictable flow of waste from multiple sites. Shifting to a system that is heavily dependent on a single waste stream, combined with the possibility of shipment shutdowns, could create operational uncertainty. If shipments are reduced or halted, even temporarily, that could have real consequences for workers whose jobs depend on consistent activity at the facility.

I understand NMED's concerns, but the proposed permit conditions are overly harsh, oppressive, and unnecessary to achieve NMED's objectives. Maintaining consistent operations at WIPP is critical not only for meeting environmental and safety objectives, but also for supporting the workforce and families in Carlsbad who depend on this facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.