

**U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) to consider the potential environmental consequences of the proposed action which is to construct and operate an Above Ground Storage Capability (AGSC) area at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The purpose of the AGSC project is to improve transuranic (TRU) waste shipping throughout the DOE complex and the WIPP disposal process efficiency by adding the capability to temporarily store TRU mixed waste above ground in concrete overpack containers at the WIPP site. .

As a result of the proposed AGSC project, the DOE plans to provide a 65,280 cubic foot contact-handled (CH) TRU mixed waste concrete container storage unit on the surface at the WIPP site. This additional surface storage capacity is for CH TRU waste in containers that are shipped to WIPP in TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT shipping packages.

The proposed storage time for the TRU waste in the concrete overpack containers on the surface at WIPP is up to 365 days. Up to 408 concrete overpacks containers of CH TRU waste are proposed to be stored on the concrete pad.

The DEA will be made available to the public at the following website: <https://energy.gov/nepa/listings/latest-documents-and-notices> . The 30-day public comment period commenced on 12/15/2017 and will be extended by two weeks till **January 29, 2018**. For comments to be considered in the NEPA document development process, they must be received by close of business on **January 29, 2018**. Written comments may be provided to the address presented below or they may be submitted electronically to the following e-mail link WIPP.EA@WIPP.ws

PLEASE NOTE: The Public Comment Period has been extended to January 29, 2018.

DOE Point-of-contact for written comments:

Anthony Stone
Carlsbad Field Office
Mail Stop GSA # 226
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico, 88221-3090

Or e-mail comments to WIPP.EA@WIPP.ws (not case sensitive)