BUTTE COUNTY, ID
RESOLUTION 2026-03

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT (WIPP) IN THE CLEANUP OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY; AND THAT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S PROPOSED RESTRICTION OF SHIPMENTS TO WIPP WILL SLOW THE CLEANUP OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY's IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Butte County, ID supports the success and safety of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); and

WHEREAS, Butte County, ID recognizes WIPP is the only facility of its kind in the nation and plays a critical role in the cleanup of the Idaho National Laboratory and

WHEREAS, Butte County, ID has always valued and supported the acceleration of waste shipments from the Idaho National Laboratory, as across the complex; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has accepted the WIPP mission and has played a critical role in the Nation's environmental cleanup and our Nation's Defense; and

WHEREAS, the WIPP facility has assisted in the remediation of 22 DOE sites of legacy TRU waste since operations began; and

WHEREAS, Butte County, ID views the Permit Modification proposed by the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) may directly impact the cleanup of the Idaho National Laboratory

WHERAS, in the last permit modification at WIPP two (2) years ago Panel 12 at WIPP will be reserved for legacy TRU-waste from around the country to the extent practicable; and

WHEREAS, NEMD's proposed delay in mining operations in order to maintain Panel 12 for TRU waste from one site and not all DOE sites is likely cost-prohibitive and a possible safety concern during delays; and

WHEREAS, communities surrounding DOE sites including Butte County, ID are concerned about the impacts of the proposed Permit Modification on community, workforce and environmental safety and protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY BUTTE COUNTY, ID, AS FOLLOWS:

Public health and environmental protection are paramount to the success of DOE's cleanup program and trust between local, state, and federal governments. The safe operation of all DOE facilities is a top priority for local governments.

Instrument # 63659 **# Pages: 2**
BUTTE COUNTY, Idaho
May 11, 2026 3:17:49 pm Fee: $
For: M H "HOOTIE" LANGSETH
SHELLY BLACKNER, Recorder
BILLEE, Deputy

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The last permit by NMED modified less than two (2) years ago addressed the key issues and prioritized legacy waste while ensuring that WIPP could operate efficiently. The 2024 permit was touted by NMED as "successful negotiations" and "a Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan" was introduced into the permit to define the term "legacy waste" and to work with generator/storage sites and stakeholders to accurately inventory this waste once defined.

There is currently enough space at WIPP for allowing all of the waste in the DOE and it would ultimately be detrimental to the entire EM complex to prioritize waste at Los Alamos which may not be ready to ship, thereby delaying cleanup at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Butte County, ID encourages NMED to reconsider the necessity and effectiveness of the proposed Permit Modification.

Butte County, ID encourages NMED to explore alternative, more effective options to accelerate waste cleanup at Los Alamos, such as increasing characterization in safe, responsible, and reliable manner and working with DOE to prioritize preparing Los Alamos TRU shipments.

Butte County, ID encourages NMED to open discussions with DOE and the State of Idaho to not slow or stop waste from being shipped to WIPP.

Butte County, ID encourages NMED to continue to work with local communities, including Los Alamos County and the City of Carlsbad, under the current permit for WIPP.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2026.

BUTTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:
Shelly Blackner
Shelly Blackner, Clerk

Brian Harrell
Brian Harrell, Chairman

M.H. "Hootie" Langseth
M.H. "Hootie" Langseth, Commissioner

Blake VanEtten
Blake VanEtten, Commissioner

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