



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

March 18, 2024

United States Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management
Procurement Officer
Attn: Vanessa Lechon
P.O BOX 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221

Submitted electronically to: EMCleanEnergy@em.doe.gov

RE: Request for Information to identify industry partners interested in developing commercial clean energy projects at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Dear Procurement Officer Lechon,

On behalf of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), attached please find our comments on the Request for Information (RFI) to identify industry partners interested in developing commercial clean energy projects at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The Clean Up to Clean Energy aligns with New Mexico laws, regulations, and policies by supporting our bold and ambitious climate goals. In the RFI, we are particularly pleased to see the inclusion of renewably sourced hydrogen. The State of New Mexico encourages DOE to consider the carbon intensity of any hydrogen application rather than just the technology used to produce it, consistent with other federal programs including those within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and her administration have set a bold and ambitious climate change agenda. In her first month in office, Governor Lujan Grisham signed an Executive Order requiring the State of New Mexico to reduce climate emissions 45% below 2005 levels by 2030. Since then, the State passed the Energy Transition Act (ETA), setting a statewide renewable energy standard of 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2040. The ETA ambitiously moves New Mexico away from coal and toward clean energy sources while protecting consumers and displaced energy workers.

WIPP is located squarely within New Mexico's Permian Basin, one of the most prolific oil and gas resources in the country. This fact could provide WIPP the opportunity to become a clean energy campus focused on the use of clean energy derived from produced water associated with the oil and gas industry. New Mexico is working on its own initiative to explore how produced and brackish ground water can help the state support the clean energy transition using this water in clean energy and advanced manufacturing sectors.

We strongly support the goals of the Clean Up to Clean Energy initiatives. As you move forward, we look forward to working with you and private sector partners in building economic and sustainable opportunities in Eddy and Lea Counties in pursuit of our state-wide climate goals.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review the RFI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sydney Lienemann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sydney Lienemann
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Cc: James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, NMED
Courtney Kerster, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
Zachary Ogaz, General Counsel, NMED
Rick Shean, Director, Resource Protection Division, NMED
Michelle Miano, Director, Environmental Protection Division, NMED