

# WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

March 03, 2015

## Panel 6 Initial Closure

### Access to Panel 6

#### a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment—100% of the underground has been characterized for radiological contamination. Based upon this characterization, the north end of the underground starting at S-1950 with the exception of the E-300 is a controlled area. The E-300 drift north of S-1950, the S-2180 drift, and Panel 7 are high contaminated areas and airborne radioactive areas. In addition, all areas south of S-1950 are posted as a contamination area and airborne radioactivity area.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Decontamination activities, using a water sprayer, have been completed in the E-140/S-3080 intersection and the W-30 drift between S-2050 and S-2620. Only a water wash has been applied in these areas resulting in radiological levels below minimum detectable activity. These decontaminated areas and equipment are only for restricted use and will be controlled for radiological contamination purposes. Decontamination of an additional forklift and an underground transporter has been completed.

#### b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—Weekly inspections are being performed for the Air Intake Shaft, Salt, and Waste Hoists.
- Bolting— Bolting is ongoing in Panel 8 and other areas with ground control concerns. Priorities continue to include resumption of bolting and the initial closure of Panel 6. Bolting is now progressing west in the S-2750 drift between the W-30 and W-170 drifts toward the Panel 6 closure location. Bolting is expected to reach the W-170 drift by the end of the week. Bolting to the entrance side of Panel 6 is anticipated to be completed in March.

#### c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine

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phones and public address system locations in limited areas of the underground. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phone and public address system locations. Mine pager phones will be checked and, if necessary, will be repaired and have batteries replaced.

- Self-Contained Self-Rescuers— Caches have been restocked in the drifts to Panel 6. Habitability activities have been completed in the underground via drifts E-140, W-30, and W-170 to provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Eye Wash/First Aid Stations— Inspections in the accessible areas have been completed.

## **d. Drills, Training, Mockups**

- The Underground Response Drill was performed on February 25, 2015.

## **Equipment/Ventilation/Materials**

### **a. Electrical**

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment. The equipment will be cleaned, if necessary.

### **b. Ventilation**

- Air Flow—The underground ventilation system is currently operating in filtration mode using one 860 fan that supplies a nominal flow rate of 60,000 standard cubic feet per minute to the underground. Due to build-up of salt dust, plans to replace the moderate filters are scheduled to be performed this week. Because the ventilation system is being operated solely in filtration mode, periodic replacements are expected.

### **c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground**

- Fans that will be used to support ventilation for Panel 6 initial closure activities have been downloaded to the underground. Work package to

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operate portable fans for Panel 6 initial closure activities has been finalized.

## **Document Preparation**

### **a. Work Planning**

- Work package development for Panel 7 bulkhead fabrication has been completed and routed for final approval.

### **b. Safety Basis Documents**

- The safety basis document that supports safety basis authorization for Panel 6 initial closure and Panel 7, Room 7 interim closure has been approved.

## **Summary - Information Requests/Status**

NMED requested a finalized copy of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Decontamination Plan.

NMED requested a copy of the next revision to the WIPP Mine Ventilation Plan.