

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

March 05, 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 posted as a controlled area. The E-300 drift north of S-1950, the S-2180 drift, and Panel 7 are posted as high contaminated areas and airborne radioactive areas. In addition, all areas south of S-1950 are posted as 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— No bolting activities were performed during the moderate filter replacement activities. Bolting activities resumed on Wednesday afternoon, March 5, 2015.

c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Operability tests have been performed for the underground mine phones and public address system located in the access drifts to Panel 6.

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- 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

- The underground electrical cleaning is about 70% complete.

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. The moderate filters for the two HEPA filtration units were replaced.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- Fans that will be used to support localized ventilation in the access drifts for Panel 6 initial closure activities have been downloaded to the underground.

Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Status of work planning documents is being evaluated for work activities required for initial closure of Panel 6.

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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.