

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

February 19, 2015

Panel 6 Initial Closure

Access to Panel 6

a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment—Radiological contamination assessments of the underground are ongoing with all areas north of the S-1950 drift rolled back and posted as controlled areas with the exception of the exhaust drift.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Decontamination activities, using a water sprayer, have commenced on the ribs in the E-140/S-3080 intersection and the W-30 drift between S-2050 and S-2620. These decontaminated areas and equipment are only for restricted use and will be controlled for radiological contamination purposes.

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 E-140 and W-30 drifts toward the Panel 6 closure location.

c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine 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. All mine phones, except those located south of the E-140/S-2520 drift, have been returned to service.
- 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.

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- 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 11, 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. The underground electrical cleaning and restoration 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. A field verification assessment was completed on January 24, 2015, for supporting Panel 6 closure activities.
- Radiological surveys of moderate filters were performed over the past weekend. Results indicated an alpha activity of approximately 425 dpm compared to last year's radiological survey results of approximately 10,000 dpm alpha activity. Based on the radiological characterization results, plans for the replacement of moderate filters are scheduled in the March timeframe.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and located in the underground with preventative maintenance being performed.
- The fans to be used for ventilation to support Panel 6 initial closure activities have been downloaded to the underground.

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Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Revisions to work planning documents to address Panel 6 initial closure activities are in progress.

b. Safety Basis Documents

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