

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

March 24, 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 areas and airborne radioactivity areas.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Maintenance restoration of equipment in Panel 7 that has been decontaminated is currently underway. Decontamination of equipment in Panel 7, Room 7 is ongoing. Both ribs and the floor have been sprayed with water in the E-140 drift from S-1950 to S-2520 and in the S-2520 drift from E-140 to W-170.

b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—Weekly inspections are being performed for the Air Intake Shaft, Salt, and Waste Hoists.
- Bolting—Bolting has been completed in the S-2750 drift between E-140 and Panel 6 and is continuing in the W-30 towards the S-3080 drift (Panel 6 access drift).

c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Operability tests have been performed for the underground mine phones and the public address system located in the access drifts to Panel 6.
- Self-Contained Self-Rescuers— Caches have been restocked in the drifts to Panel 6. Habitability activities have been completed in the underground in drifts E-140,

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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 March 11, 2015.

Equipment/Ventilation/Materials

a. Electrical

- Restoration of electrical switch stations in the underground north of S-1950 drift has been completed.

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.
- Preparations are underway to replace the pre-HEPA ventilation system filters. No underground activities will be conducted during this process.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- A 10 HP portable fan that will be used to provide localized ventilation for Panel 6 initial closure activities has been installed at W-170/S-2750. A fan is planned to be installed at the W-170/S-3080.
- Preparations are being made to install a bulkhead in the S-2750 side of Panel 6.

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Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Work planning documents have been finalized for work activities required for initial closure of Panel 6.

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.