

# WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

December 11, 2014

## Panel 6 Initial Closure

### Access to Panel 6

#### a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment— Radiological contamination assessments of the underground are ongoing with drifts E-140, W-30, and W-170 south to S-1950 being rolled back to a Controlled Area. Radiological surveys at the entrance of Panel 6 show up to 500 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> total alpha on the floor area. Salt samples have been collected but the analytical data have not yet been validated. Radiological control personnel continue to perform surveys at the entrance of Panel 6 in preparation for Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Decontamination mock activities were performed in clean areas at the north end of the underground in preparation for fixing/decontamination activities in contaminated areas of the underground. The effectiveness of equipment and methods for decontamination activities was evaluated by employing a water wash and fixative application. Fixing/decontamination activities are scheduled to begin in Panel 7 this weekend.
- Underground Entries—Preventive maintenance activities are underway on various pieces of heavy equipment in the underground. Entries this week are underway.

#### b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—Preventive maintenance and preoperational checks continue in support of placing the Waste Hoist back into full service. The Waste Hoist has been placed in service for conveyance of equipment and emergency egress. The waste hoist's availability for emergency egress is allowing for additional personnel to be underground at one time, which allows us to increase our pace of safety-related activities such as bolting and panel closure. Accumulated water in the Waste Shaft sump continues to be removed and is nearing the halfway mark in order to uncover the headrope/tailrope guide weights. Once this activity is complete then final hoisting rope inspections can be performed.

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- Bolting—Priorities continue to include resumption of bolting and the initial closure of Panel 6. Bolting will need to be initiated in the Panel 6 entries in preparation to support Panel 6 initial closure activities. Underground bolting in the uncontaminated areas resumed on November 15, 2014. Bolting is being prioritized based on geotechnical inspections and surveys. Bolting activities have transitioned to the E-140 drift. Bolting commenced at the S-700 drift and has currently progressed to the S-1140 drift and will continue southward to the S-1950 drift. Preparations have begun for cleaning and maintenance of bolting equipment to be used in contaminated areas.

## **c. Habitability**

- Communication Systems—Initial inspections have been performed for the area between the Air Intake Shaft and Salt Shaft Station. Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine phones, radio, and public address system locations in this limited area. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phones, radio, and public address system locations. As radiological rollback continues towards Panel 6, mine phones in the Panel 6 area will be checked and, if necessary, will be repaired and have batteries replaced.
- Self-contained self-rescuer— Caches will be restocked, if needed, in the drifts (e.g., W-30, S-2750) to Panel 6. Habitability activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via drifts (E-140, W-30 and W-170) and will continue towards drifts (S-2750 and S-3080) that provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Eye wash/first aid stations— Inspections in accessible areas have been completed.
- Other Activities—Underground fuel storage tank fire protection inspections have been completed. Preventive maintenance has been completed for the underground ambulance and the underground forklift to be used for bolting in contaminated areas. Preventative maintenance is in progress for the underground rescue truck.

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

- An underground evacuation drill was performed on December 3, 2014.
- The Annual Horizon-14 drill was performed on December 10, 2014.

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## **Equipment/Ventilation/Materials**

### **a. Electrical**

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment and to clean, if necessary. The underground electrical cleaning is about 40% complete. Cleaning of some underground switch stations is ongoing.

### **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 monthly 860 fan rotation was postponed this past weekend pending maintenance repairs on the 860C Fan. Maintenance repairs are currently in progress for the 860C Fan.
- Roof Bolting—The number of pieces of diesel equipment that can be operated for roof bolting will be limited by the available ventilation in the work area and the minimum ventilation flow rate assigned to each piece of equipment based on Mine Safety and Health Administration air quality requirements. Due to limited ventilation airflow, ventilation adjustments will have to be made as a prerequisite in each location where bolting equipment will operate to ensure adequate airflow.

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

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and are located in the underground. No additional staging of materials is currently underway.

## **Document Preparation**

### **a. Work Planning**

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

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## **b. Safety Basis Documents**

- Safety basis documents that support safety basis authorizations for Panel 6 initial closure activities are undergoing review.

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

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