



Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

OCT 08 2014

Mr. John E. Kieling, Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87508-6303

Mr. Tom Blaine, Division Director
Environmental Health Division
Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive, Room 4050
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Subject: WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update,
October 7, 2014

Dear Mr. Kieling and Mr. Blaine:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the New Mexico Environment Department WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update, October 7, 2014. This update will be posted to the WIPP Information Repository within five working days.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under our direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on our inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. We are aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Please address any questions you may have regarding the WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update, Tuesday, October 7, 2014, to Mr. George T. Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,

Original Signatures on File

Jose R. Franco, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Robert L. McQuinn, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure
T. Kliphuis, NMED * ED
R. Maestas, NMED ED
C. Smith, NMED ED
S. Holmes, NMED ED

CBFO M&RC

*ED denotes electronic distribution

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

October 7, 2014

Panel 6 Initial Closure

Access to Panel 6

a. Rollback

- **Contamination Assessment**—Ongoing radiological rollback activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via the main drifts (i.e., E-140 and W-30) to the drifts (S-2750 and S-3080) that access Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- **Fixing/Decontamination Activities**—Not started.
- **Underground Entries**—Consistent with the WIPP Recovery Plan, the focus of underground entries is on radiological rollback, geotechnical evaluation, habitability surveys, clean up, and electrical and mechanical evaluation of systems and equipment and repair (if needed) to support bolting and installation of the initial closures in Panel 6.

b. Ground Control Status

- **Shaft/Hoist**—Salt and Air Intake shafts and hoists are available to support access to the underground. Preventative maintenance and preoperational checks are ongoing to support placing the Waste Hoist back in service.
- **Bolting**—Efforts are continuing on performing preventative maintenance and cleaning equipment (e.g., forklift and a lube truck) needed to support bolting activities.

c. Habitability

- **Mine Phones**—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 the main drifts (i.e., E-140 and W-30) and will continue towards the drifts (S-2750 and S-3080) that access Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.

Equipment/Ventilation/Materials

a. Electrical

- Some of the underground electrical infrastructure in the drifts to Panel 6 will be checked and verified as operational to support installation of radiological monitoring equipment.

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 (scfm) to the underground.
- Roof Bolting—The number of pieces of diesel equipment that can be operated for roof bolting will be limited based on 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. Roof bolting will be initiated in the E-140 drift and then will progress (south) towards the entrance areas of Panel 6.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and are located in the underground.

Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Work planning documents are being re-evaluated for new and changed hazards. The mitigations to these hazards and applicable compensatory measures will be included in revisions to the work planning documents for Panel 6 initial closure activities.

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

None to date