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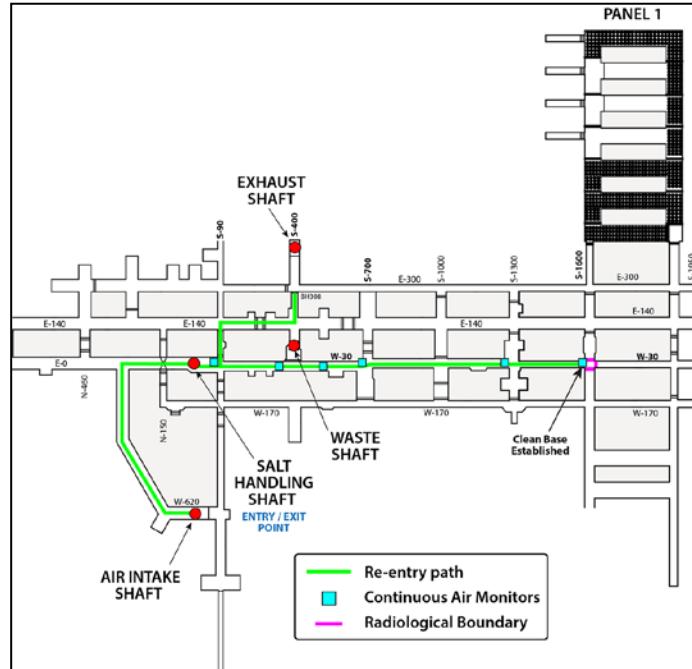


WIPP UPDATE: April 4, 2014

Base of operations established closer to expected event source

Today, workers made another entry into the WIPP underground facility and successfully established a second base farther into the mine after workers surveyed the area and found no radiological contamination, confirming that the system's airflow process is performing as designed.

The second base is critical for the third phase of the re-entry process at WIPP. It provides a clean area where employees can safely remove any contaminated clothing and equipment before returning to the surface. While underground, workers also set up another two Continuous Air Monitors, which provides additional detection and monitoring of the mine's airborne conditions, and tested communication equipment. The third phase entry to identify the contamination source is expected next week.



Salt samples going to Idaho National Laboratory

DOE has begun taking salt samples from the WIPP underground facility and is sending them to the Idaho National Laboratory to begin testing various decontamination techniques. Once workers identify the

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source and location of the release, and determine the extent of contamination in the area, test results from these samples will establish the best practices for any necessary decontamination.

Mockup for HEPA filter replacement to begin

Crews are creating a mockup of WIPP's High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter banks so that employees can plan and practice the removal process as Nuclear Waste Partnership finalizes procedures for replacing them. Several employees recently traveled to the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, for expert training on the tools, personal protective equipment, and processes used when replacing the filters.

Archived webcast of town hall meeting available

Stakeholders who are interested in learning more about the WIPP recovery process, but cannot attend the weekly town hall meetings hosted on Thursdays by Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE, can access archived copies of webcasts by visiting: <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.