



U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Media Contact:

Tim Runyon
WIPP Recovery Communications
(575) 234-7545

www.wipp.energy.gov

 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: September 12, 2014

Waste hoist transformer replacement

Cleaning and soot removal activities on the waste hoist and associated components have been completed. One additional repair is necessary before the hoist can be powered, inspected and returned to service. Employees are currently working to replace the electrical transformer necessary to operate the hoist. Crews began removal operations for the old transformer this week and will continue to work through the weekend to complete installation of the new unit. Once the new transformer is installed and power has been restored to the hoist, the electrical system will be inspected and system checks will be performed. After all inspections are successfully completed, the hoist will be returned to service and workers can conduct a shaft inspection to ensure it is safe for transporting personnel and equipment into the underground facility. Assuming no other maintenance is required, the waste hoist could be returned to service by the end of this month.

Availability of the waste hoist will allow WIPP to significantly increase the overall number of employees that can be in the underground facility at one time. The additional staff permitted in the mine should result in a corresponding increase in the level of effort for underground facility recovery activities.

Community meeting scheduled

September 18 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its Town Hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meeting can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.