



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: October 28, 2014

WIPP continues to restore activities underground

WIPP employees recently completed the 100th entry into the WIPP underground facility since the February events that temporarily shut down access. Radiological control technicians continue to conduct “rollback” surveys and sampling necessary to re-establish additional areas of the mine as radiological buffer areas. Preventive maintenance activities are underway on various pieces of heavy equipment so they can be safely returned to service. Ongoing geophysical inspections are also being conducted to identify potential ground control issues and ensure a safe and secure working environment. Finally, maintenance crews are cleaning and inspecting electrical panels in the radiological buffer areas to ensure no soot from the fire is present.

The underground maintenance shop and lunchroom have also now been surveyed and released for use by employees working in the underground facility. Reopening these areas is an important milestone toward resuming normal activities. The number of employees allowed in the underground facility at one time remains limited until the waste hoist is returned to operation, which is expected in the coming weeks.

Beginning the week of November 3, 2014, the WIPP UPDATE will be moving to a once a week schedule, with Thursday as the targeted day for release. Additional updates will be provided as necessary for timely reporting on special issues or events.

November 6 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its Town Hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled Thursday 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/rvv/>.