



U.S. Department of Energy
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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: April 2, 2014

First underground re-entry complete

Today, workers re-entered the WIPP underground facility for the first time since the February 14 radiological release. In total, two eight-person teams entered the mine. As a precautionary measure, all employees were suited in anti-contamination gear and equipped with powered air-breathing units.

The first team entered the mine using the Salt Handling Shaft elevator at about 1 p.m. on Wednesday, descending 2,150 feet underground. They did not detect any airborne contamination. The second team entered the mine at about 1:30 p.m.

While in the underground facility, the teams surveyed conditions from the Salt Shaft Station to the Air Intake Shaft Station to establish two useable exit locations— a requirement for future underground work. They also established communications with the Central Monitoring Room above ground using a mine pager and landline phone, installed an additional continuous air monitor near the Salt Shaft Station to provide additional monitoring capabilities and established an underground base of operations for future entries into the mine.

Today's efforts were a critical first step toward future entries that will expand the clean base of operations and allow workers to travel farther into the mine to identify the suspected source of the radiological release.

First shipment from Los Alamos National Laboratory to Waste Control Specialists complete

The first shipment of waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in northern New Mexico to the Waste Control Specialists facility in Andrews, Texas, arrived earlier today. The defense-related

transuranic waste will be temporarily staged at the commercial facility until the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant resumes disposal operations. The shipment reinforces the Department's commitment to removing 3,706 cubic meters of transuranic waste at the lab by June 30, 2014. See the news release for more information (<http://1.usa.gov/1hApEEQ>).

Community Meetings Scheduled

April 3 - Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE will co-host a meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meetings will be held every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the weekly meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.