




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: August 26, 2014

Workers establish access to north experimental area

Entry teams established access to the north experimental area of the WIPP underground facility this week. Geotechnical engineers, accompanied by radiological control technicians (RCT), first conducted visual inspections of the north area of the mine to ensure stability and safety. As expected, no radiological contamination was detected during the entry; however, soot from the February 5 underground truck fire was visibly present. Additional entries will be needed to further evaluate the condition of the equipment and experimental apparatus used for basic scientific research in the underground facility at WIPP.

The north area of the WIPP underground facility has been used for decades by researchers across the country to conduct various experiments that can only be performed under conditions of extremely low background radiation. Scientists working with the largest of the experiments from Stanford University accompanied the entry team to get a first-hand view of the condition of their detector system, which was remotely placed in cold standby in March.

Replay of August 21 Town Hall available

A replay of the August 21 WIPP Town Hall meeting, sponsored by the City of Carlsbad and DOE, is available at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>. The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for September 4 at the Carlsbad City Hall.