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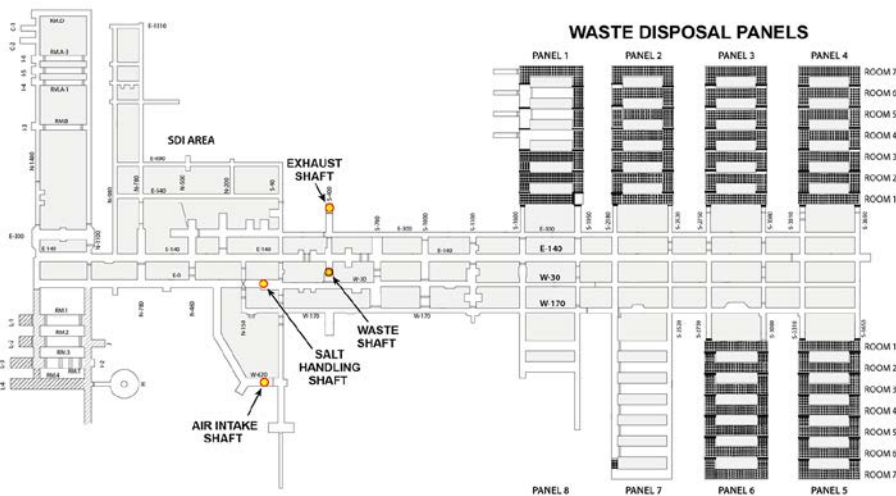
WIPP Concludes Zone Recovery Activities for Panel 7 Disposal Pathway

After months of catch-up rock bolting and contamination mitigation, zone recovery activities along the pathway to Panel 7 have been completed. Panel 7, which consists of seven disposal rooms (see map below), will be the active disposal area when waste emplacement activities resume. Initial closure of Panel 7 Room 7 was completed in May 2015.

Although the pathway has been established, a significant number of activities, including installation and testing of interim and supplemental ventilation; completion of safety documentation and safety management program development; management assessments, and operational readiness reviews, will be necessary before waste emplacement can resume.



Brattice cloth placed on the floor of the repository and covered with run of mine salt



Ground control or bolting activities necessary to make the WIPP underground inhabitable were restarted in [November 2014](#). In [March 2015](#), employees began applying a water spray to the walls and floor of the mine. The water dissolves the salt and washes contamination to the floor of the mine. When the salt recrystallizes, it

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encapsulates the contamination and prevents any resuspension of radioactive particles. In addition to the water spray, in some areas of the underground, WIPP personnel have covered the floor of the mine with [brattice cloth](#) and placed a layer of previously mined uncontaminated salt on top of the cloth to further trap any contamination on the floor and to provide a durable surface for vehicle traffic. Most recently, employees completed the placement of the salt and brattice cloth at the intersection in front of Panel 7.

Although a pathway from the waste hoist to the opening of Panel 7 has been rolled back to a controlled area, which requires no additional personal protection equipment for radiological safety, Panel 7 is and will remain posted as a contamination area. Periodic application of the water spray is necessary to minimize potential airborne contamination. Procedures for the handoff of waste from the uncontaminated controlled area to the contaminated area within Panel 7 will be developed and tested prior to commencing waste emplacement.

Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled October 29

The City of Carlsbad and the Department of Energy will co-host the next WIPP Town Hall meeting featuring updates on recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 29th, at the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meeting can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.