



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

# **WIPP Town Hall Meeting**

***Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy  
and the  
City of Carlsbad, NM***

***April 7, 2016***

# Agenda

- Opening Comments – Mayor Dale Janway
- Introductory Statements – John Heaton (Moderator)
- DOE-EM Remarks – Mark Whitney
- Update on CBFO and WIPP – Todd Shrader
- Preparations for Restart – Tammy Reynolds
- EM-LA Established Corrective Actions – Doug Hintze
- Questions and Answers – John Heaton
  - In house
  - Internet

# DOE – Environmental Management

Mark Whitney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Environmental Management



# Update on CBFO and WIPP Activities

Todd Shrader, CBFO Manager



# Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Visit

- What does the Board do?
- Purpose of visit to WIPP
- Outcome of the visit



# EOC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Governor Susana Martinez cuts the ribbon for the new WIPP Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

CBFO's Mike McCoy discusses features of the new EOC



# New Mexico Settlement Agreement



# Preparations for Restart

Tammy Reynolds, NWP Deputy Recovery Manager



*An AECOM-led partnership with BWXT and AREVA*

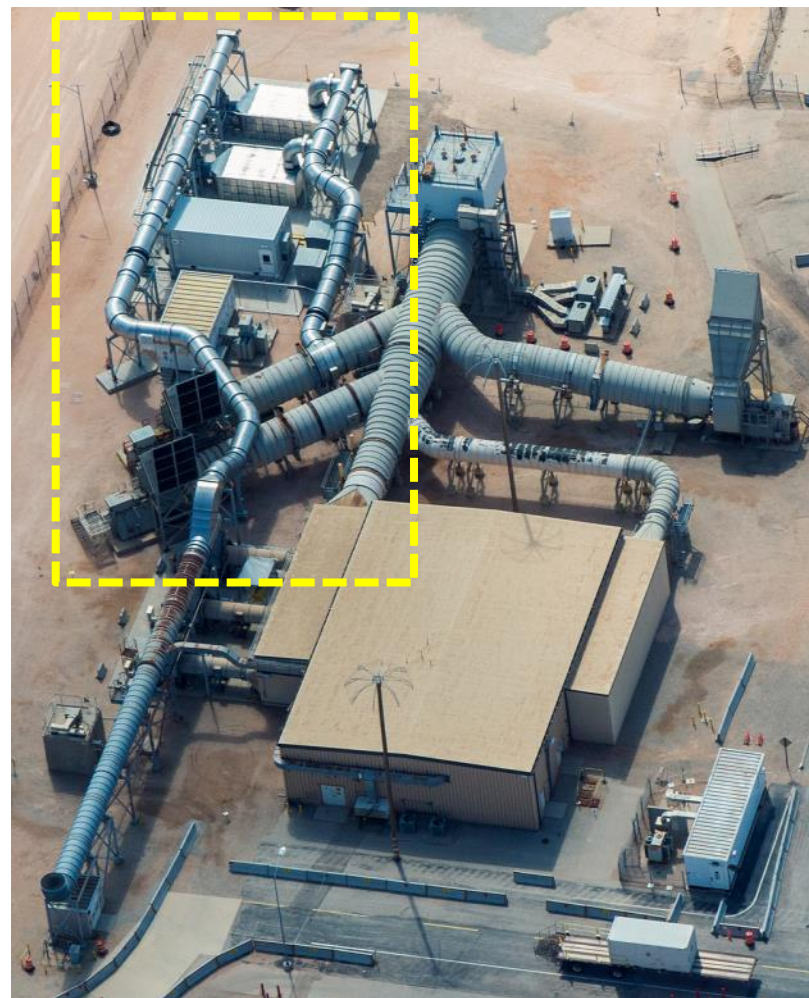
# Safety Pause – Air Quality in the Underground

- NWP initiated a “Safety Pause” on 2/22 for work in the outer north and south ends of the underground
- WIPP air quality monitoring alarms are more conservative than industry standards
- An air monitoring workshop was held in Carlsbad on 3/17
- Safety pause was lifted on 3/25 based on corrective actions that were developed to enhance the air quality monitoring program



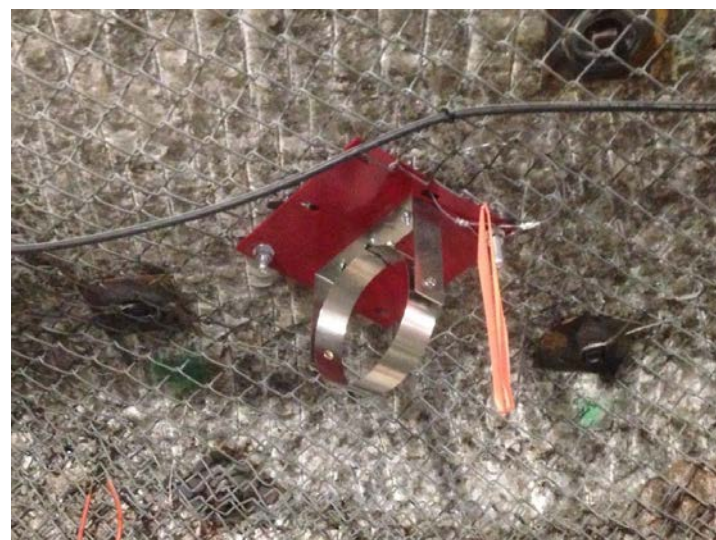
# Interim Ventilation System Status

- Instrument calibrations and component testing underway
- Early May, perform Contractor Readiness Assessment
- Interim Ventilation System will:
  - Provide adequate air flow at the waste face – for resumption of waste placement
  - Increase airflow for ground control and maintenance operations



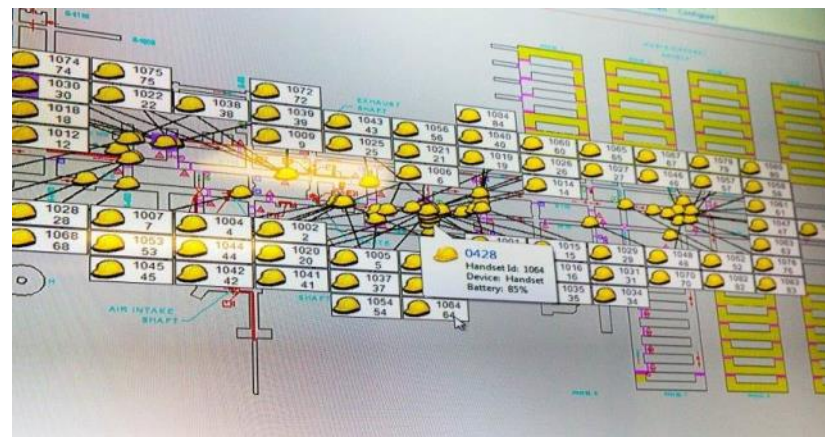
# Vehicle and Area Fire Suppression System

- Vehicle Fire Suppression Systems
  - Installed on 2 of 5 vehicles needed for Cold Operations
  - Remaining 3 vehicles being upgraded
- Area Fire Suppression Systems in U/G
  - Equipment mounting brackets installed
  - Installation of suppression equipment in progress



# Accomplishments

- Underground accountability and notification system
- Instrument loops
- DSA training
- Obstruction testing
- Program improvements



## Recent Reports

- DNFSB
  - Documented Safety Analysis
- DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments
  - Air flow modeling related to Interim Ventilation System

# Cold Operations Readiness

- Following approval of the DSA, WIPP will begin cold operations
- WIPP crews will process and download empty waste containers utilizing the new DSA Rev. 5 controls



# Transition of Legacy Cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory

## WIPP Town Hall Meeting

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**Douglas Hintze**  
Manager

Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

## ☐ Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)

**Established March 22, 2015**

- Oversees the cleanup of legacy waste at LANL
- Doug Hintze became EM-LA's permanent Manager September 20, 2015

## ☐ Existing Los Alamos EM Employees Were Reassigned to EM-LA

- Nineteen new EM-LA positions have been/are being recruited
- Workforce planning and EM-LA organization approved, implementation is underway

## ☐ Two Field Offices at Los Alamos National Laboratory

- EM-LA as a Tenant – NNSA (NA-LA) is Landlord
- Partnership in executing assigned missions through an MOU with defined R2A2

# WIPP Event: How We Are Moving Forward?

- ❑ **Processing of Legacy TRU Waste**
  - Suspended Since May 2014
- ❑ **Accident Investigation Board Report**
- ❑ **Five Corrective Action Plans Developed – One for EM-LA/NA-LA**
  - Two (of five) Corrective Action Plans developed for Los Alamos
    - One for contractor (LANS)
    - One for two federal field offices – joint plan
- ❑ **New Mexico Environment Department-Approved Isolation Plan**
- ❑ **Improved Safety Basis Evaluations**
- ❑ **Evaluating a Treatment Path For Nitrate Salt Waste Containers**



Area G



The remediated nitrate salt drums are stored in standard waste boxes

# EM-LA Corrective Actions Plan Implementation

## ❑ What the EM-LA CAP Will Achieve

- Documented roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and authorities between EM-LA, NA-LA and CBFO
- Formalized process for conducting contractor oversight
- Qualified staff with experience commensurate with responsibilities
- Training/qualification completed for oversight positions
- Safety culture emphasized by managers and employees
- Improved compliance envelope (i.e. nuclear safety, RCRA and waste management programs)

## ❑ Status of the EM-LA CAP

- Of the 33 Corrective Actions detailed in the EM-LA CAP, 21 have been completed

# Summary of Nitrate Salt Wastes

## ☐ Safe Storage

- Temperature and Pressure Control
  - Have implemented supplemental cooling to cool waste and during storage evaluating use of refrigeration/freezers for treatment
  - Plans to install pressure relief devices to the RNS drums in the weeks ahead which will provide an additional layer of defense

## ☐ Treatment of Waste

- Treating waste protects workers and the public and eliminates the potential for release to the environment
- DOE is working to determine a safe, effective path forward to treat this waste

# Contract Vehicles

❑ **Work Scope Was with the M&O Contractor – LANS through FY2015**

❑ **EM Bridge Contract with LANS in Place Beginning FY2016 with up to Two Successive Six-Month Options in FY2017**

- This contract is a Cost-Plus-Award-Fee Federal Acquisition Regulation based contract



Los Alamos National Laboratory

❑ **Award of New Contract Expected in Summer 2017**

## ❑ New Paradigm Approach in Managing Cleanup at LANL

## ❑ EM-LA Fundamental Principles

- Safety
- Transparency
- Efficiency

## ❑ Priorities

- Protection of Workers and the Public
- Protection of the Environment



# Questions & Answers

