

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

January 15, 2015

Panel 6 Initial Closure

Access to Panel 6

a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment—Radiological contamination assessments of the underground are ongoing with Panel 8 being rolled back to a Controlled Area.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—A man lift and scissor lift, located in the E-140 and W-30 drifts, south of S-1950 were decontaminated for restoration of maintenance equipment to begin.
- Underground Entries—Preventive maintenance activities are underway on various pieces of heavy equipment in the underground. Maintenance on a bolter, scissor lift, haul truck, and underground rescue truck is in progress. Entries this week are underway.

b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—Waste Shaft salt buildup has been removed as needed in order to allow necessary clearance of the guide rope weights. The final hoisting rope inspections have been performed. The waste hoist has been placed in service for transport of personnel effective January 13, 2015.
- Bolting—Priorities continue to include resumption of bolting and the initial closure of Panel 6. Bolting will need to be initiated in the Panel 6 entries in preparation to support Panel 6 initial closure activities. Bolting is being prioritized based on geotechnical inspections and surveys. Bolting is now being performed in the Air Intake Shaft drift, N-1400 drift, and the maintenance shop.

c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Initial inspections have been performed for the area between the Air Intake Shaft and Salt Shaft Station. Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine phones, radios, and public address system locations in

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this limited area. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phones, radios, and public address system locations. As radiological rollback continues towards Panel 6, mine phones in the Panel 6 area will be checked and, if necessary, will be repaired and have batteries replaced.

- Self-Contained Self-Rescuer— Caches will be restocked, if needed, in the drifts (e.g., W-30, S-2750) to Panel 6. Habitability activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via drifts (E-140, W-30, and W-170) and will continue towards drifts (S-2750 and S-3080) that provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Eye Wash/First Aid Stations— Inspections in accessible areas have been completed.

d. Drills, Training, Mockups

- The Surface Fire Response drill was performed on January 9, 2015.

Equipment/Ventilation/Materials

a. Electrical

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment and to clean, if necessary. The underground electrical cleaning is about 60% complete. Cleaning of some underground switch stations is ongoing.

b. Ventilation

- Air Flow—The underground ventilation system is currently operating in filtration mode using one 860 fan that supplies a nominal flow rate of 60,000 standard cubic feet per minute to the underground.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and located in the underground.

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Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Revisions to work planning documents to address Panel 6 initial closure activities are in progress.

b. Safety Basis Documents

- The safety basis document that supports safety basis authorization for Panel 6 initial closure and Panel 7, Room 7 closure has been approved.

Summary - Information Requests/Status

NMED requested a finalized copy of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Decontamination Plan.

NMED requested a copy of the next revision to the WIPP Mine Ventilation Plan.