

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

February 05, 2015

Panel 6 Initial Closure

Access to Panel 6

a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment—Radiological contamination assessments of the underground are ongoing with all areas north of the S-1950 drift rolled back and posted as controlled areas with the exception of the exhaust drift.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Decontamination of all equipment needed for Panel 6 initial closure activities has been completed. Maintenance for this equipment has been completed.

b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—Weekly inspections are being performed for the Air Intake Shaft, Salt and Waste Hoists.
- Bolting— Bolting is ongoing in Panel 8 and other areas with ground control concerns. Priorities continue to include resumption of bolting and the initial closure of Panel 6. Bolting activities have transitioned to the contaminated areas of the E-140 drift. Bolting commenced at the S-1950 drift and has progressed southward toward the waste emplacement areas to approximately S-2300. A significant amount of bolting is necessary to ensure safe access to Panel 6. Original observations last fall indicated that approximately 380 bolts would need to be replaced. Observations conducted last week indicated more than 600 bolts would need to be replaced to access Panel 6. This additional work has extended the closure date of Panel 6 into April.

c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine phones and public address system locations in limited areas of the underground. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phone and public address system locations. All mine phones, except those located south of the E-140/S-2520 drift, have been returned to service.

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- Self-Contained Self-Rescuers— Caches have been restocked in the drifts to Panel 6. Habitability activities have been completed in the underground via drifts E-140, W-30, and W-170 to provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Eye Wash/First Aid Stations— Inspections in the accessible areas have been completed.

d. Drills, Training, Mockups

- The Underground Response Drill was performed on January 28, 2015.

Equipment/Ventilation/Materials

a. Electrical

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment. The equipment will be cleaned, if necessary. The underground electrical cleaning and restoration is about 65% complete.

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. A field verification assessment was completed on January 24, 2015, for supporting Panel 6 closure activities.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

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

Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

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

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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.