

# WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

March 12, 2015

## Panel 6 Initial Closure

### Access to Panel 6

#### a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment—100% of the underground has been characterized for radiological contamination. Based upon this characterization, the north end of the underground starting at S-1950 with the exception of the E-300 is posted as a controlled area. The E-300 drift north of S-1950, the S-2180 drift, and Panel 7 are posted as high contaminated areas and airborne radioactive areas. In addition, all areas south of S-1950 are posted as contamination areas and airborne radioactivity areas.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Decontamination activities, using a water sprayer, have been completed on the north rib of the S-2520 drift between E-140 and W-30. Only a water wash has been applied in these areas resulting in radiological levels below minimum detectable activity. These decontaminated areas and equipment are only for restricted use and will be controlled for radiological contamination purposes. Decontamination of four forklifts, two contact handling waste transporters, a bolter, scissorlift, manlift, load haul dump truck, and salt haul truck 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 has been completed to the intersection of the S-2750 drift to the W-170 drift. Bolting continues south of S-2750 in the W-30 drift.

#### c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Operability tests have been performed for the

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underground mine phones and the public address system located in the access drifts to Panel 6.

- Self-Contained Self-Rescuers— Caches have been restocked in the drifts to Panel 6. Habitability activities have been completed in the underground in 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 March 11, 2015.

## **Equipment/Ventilation/Materials**

### **a. Electrical**

- The underground electrical cleaning is about 70% 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.

### **c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground**

- A portable fan, that will be used to support localized ventilation for Panel 6 initial closure activities west of the W-170 drift in the S-2750 access drift, is in place. This fan will be put in service when it can be connected to power.

## **Document Preparation**

### **a. Work Planning**

- Status of work planning documents is being evaluated for work activities required for initial closure of Panel 6.

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## **b. Safety Basis Documents**

- The safety basis document that supports safety basis authorization for Panel 6 initial closure and Panel 7, Room 7 interim 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. (*WIPP Mine Ventilation Plan, Revision 38, provided to NMED on March 11, 2015*)