



We will Not Rush the Process

Recovering from the February 5, 2014, vehicle fire and the February 14, 2014, radiological release at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) will be a formidable challenge, but we will not rush the process.

Keeping our employees safe, the public safe, and protecting our environment are our top priorities.

We will implement a Department of Energy (DOE) approved recovery plan. We will identify the underground source of the radiological event, isolate it, and remediate any contamination.

Once we have completed our corrective actions and determine everything is safe, we will resume operations. But please note, this will not occur until Nuclear Waste Partnership and the DOE are absolutely convinced that conditions are safe and our employees will not be put in harm's way.

I want to assure our employees and their families that we are doing everything conceivable to provide training and temporary jobs for those currently displaced. Many employees are also busy supporting recovery activities from our town location.

I firmly believe WIPP employees are the best in the world at what they do, and retaining this highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce is a top priority. I recognize that their unique skills and knowledge are needed for re-entry, recovery, and resumption of waste disposal operations.

In the meantime, I encourage residents from Eddy and Lea counties to visit our web site at www.wipp.energy.gov for updates or call the WIPP information line at 1-800-336-9477.

I am grateful for your patience and understanding. We will get past this, we will become an even stronger organization, and we will continue being the nation's repository for nuclear transuranic waste.