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## **WIPP UPDATES: Fire Investigators to Issue Report**

### **Accident Investigation Board to Issue WIPP Fire Report Friday**

The Accident Investigation Board, charged with investigating the salt haul truck fire that occurred underground at WIPP on Feb. 5, will issue its report on Friday morning, March 14. The report will be available on the U.S. Department of Energy web site. A web link will be made available once the report is posted.

### **WIPP Laboratories Completes Soil and Water Analyses**

The WIPP Laboratories completed analyses of soil and water samples taken from WIPP site perimeter areas, as well as a composite sample of water runoff from several WIPP site building roofs. The soil lab results were at the minimum detectable concentration with one sample just barely above minimal detection. The water runoff sample indicated results just slightly above minimal detection.

In addition to these environmental samples, air samples continue to be collected from the network of air samplers around the WIPP site. Air sample analyses continue to show levels below detection limits.

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### **Re-entry Preparations Underway**

After extensive re-entry planning, the next step will be to inspect the access shafts used by workers as required by the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Riding and inspecting the Air Intake and Salt Shaft conveyances to the bottom of the 2,150-foot-deep shafts, workers will assure the shafts are fully operational and safe.

Previous un-manned entries with sampling equipment indicated no airborne radioactivity or hazardous materials. The shaft inspection is scheduled this week. Three independent safety inspectors, two from Red Path Mining and one from DMC Mining Services, are on-site to review re-entry activities.