



U.S. Department of Energy
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Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: March 31, 2014

Underground Re-Entry Scheduled for Tomorrow

Tomorrow, personnel are scheduled to enter the WIPP underground to survey conditions for the first time since the February 14 radiological release. A team of eight radiological control, mine operations, and mine rescue experts will descend into the mine through the Salt Shaft to establish a safe base of operations and conduct radiation surveys to check for airborne contamination. If no contamination is detected, a second team of eight members will enter the underground to check conditions between the Salt Hoist and the Air Intake Shaft.

Multiple mine entries are necessary before the team accesses the waste disposal area where a continuous air monitor detected airborne contamination. Once they reach that point, the team will locate and isolate the source of the contamination.

Plans Underway for Cleanup of Waste Handling Hoist

A small group of underground mining personnel will return to the WIPP site this week to assist with cleanup of the waste hoist tower and hoist control area. The area is coated in a layer of soot from smoke that traveled up the shaft during the February 5 underground salt haul truck fire. The crew will use vacuums equipped with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters to clear the soot before washing the area with detergent.

Two Additional Negative Bioassay Results

Two additional WIPP employees were notified that the results from their fecal examinations showed no intake of radioactive material. To date, 148 personnel have entered the bioassay program, including workers who were potentially exposed, and any employees who requested testing. Tests for 21

personnel have shown very low levels of contamination that are well below the level that would cause health concerns.

Community Meetings Scheduled

April 3 - Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE will co-host a meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meetings will be held every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the weekly meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.

April 14 – WIPP update to the Jal City Council at 5:30 p.m. Location: 309 S. Main St.