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WIPP UPDATE: May 12, 2014

Latest underground entry reveals more information about event

Workers entered the WIPP underground facility again on Saturday to further investigate Room 7 of Panel 7, the suspected scene for the February 14 radiological event.

Using a portable camera on an extender, workers were able to take pictures over the top of stacked waste containers. The photographs showed evidence of melted plastic and rubber on 55-gallon drums and standard waste boxes, indicating the production of heat likely occurred in the room. Photos are available at http://www.wipp.energy.gov/wipprecovery/photo_video.html.

Experts from the Department of Energy Accident Investigation Board, several national laboratories, URS Professional Services and Tetra Tech are reviewing the visuals collected on Saturday to continue to get a better understanding of the cause of the event.

During the next entry, workers will use another new technique to maneuver the camera in among the various waste containers for additional visual angles.

Community Meetings Scheduled

May 15 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its weekly meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled 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/.