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WIPP UPDATE: June 17, 2014

Filter replacement activities progressing as planned

Crews are making progress replacing the filters for WIPP's Underground Ventilation System. The system has two filtration units. Each unit has 84 filters in four layers— moderate efficiency filters, high efficiency filters, and two layers of High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters

After successfully replacing the moderate and high efficiency filters in the first filtration unit, crews restored air flow Monday in preparation for aerosol testing to confirm the filter unit is functioning properly. Next, workers will begin replacing the moderate and high efficiency filters in the second filter bank. If the filter units do not pass the aerosol test, the teams will replace the HEPA filters on the first filter bank before moving to the second unit.

Underground drum evaluation

DOE and Nuclear Waste Partnership are evaluating various options to examine the waste containers located farther back in Room 7 of Panel 7. The team is working to develop a reach pole that allows video camera access to areas that have not yet been accessible. A mockup room has been developed for physical testing and evaluation of various alternatives to be reviewed. The underground activities will not begin until filter replacement activities are complete.

Community Meetings Scheduled

June 19 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host this meeting, which features updates on WIPP recovery activities. These meetings are scheduled for the first and third Thursdays of the month 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/>.