

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

January 27, 2015

Panel 6 Initial Closure

Access to Panel 6

a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment—Radiological contamination assessments of the underground are ongoing with Panel 8 being rolled back to a Controlled Area.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—A man lift, scissor lift, roof bolter, and haul truck were decontaminated.
- Underground Entries—Entries this week are ongoing.

b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—The final inspections for the hoisting ropes have been performed. Weekly inspections are being performed for the Air Intake Shaft, Salt and Waste Hoists.
- Bolting—Priorities continue to include resumption of bolting and the initial closure of Panel 6. Bolting has begun in contaminated areas of the E-140 drift moving towards the Panel 6 entrances to support Panel 6 initial closure activities. Bolting has been completed in the Air Intake Shaft drift, N-1400 drift, the maintenance shop, and is ongoing in Panel 8.

c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Initial inspections have been performed for the area between the Air Intake Shaft and Salt Shaft Station. Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine phones, radios, and public address system locations in this limited area. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phones, radios, and public address system locations. As radiological rollback continues towards Panel 6, mine phones in the Panel 6 area will be checked and, if necessary, will be repaired and have batteries replaced.

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- Self-Contained Self-Rescuer— Caches will be restocked, if needed, in the drifts (e.g., W-30, S-2750) to Panel 6. Habitability activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via drifts E-140, W-30, and W-170 and will continue towards drifts S-2750 and S-3080 that provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Eye Wash/First Aid Stations— Inspections in the accessible areas have been completed.

d. Drills, Training, Mockups

- The Underground Response Drill was performed on January 14, 2015.

Equipment/Ventilation/Materials

a. Electrical

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment. The equipment will be cleaned, if necessary. Cleaning of some underground switch stations is ongoing.

b. Ventilation

- Air Flow—The underground ventilation system is currently operating in filtration mode using one 860 fan that supplies a nominal flow rate of 60,000 standard cubic feet per minute to the underground. A field verification assessment was completed on January 24, 2015, for supporting Panel 6 closure.

c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and located in the underground.

Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Revisions to work planning documents to address Panel 6 initial closure activities are in progress.

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b. Safety Basis Documents

- The safety basis document that supports safety basis authorization for Panel 6 initial closure and Panel 7, Room 7 closure has been approved.

Summary - Information Requests/Status

NMED requested a finalized copy of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Decontamination Plan.

NMED requested a copy of the next revision to the WIPP Mine Ventilation Plan.