



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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Department of Energy Approves WIPP Workforce Plan

All Current Employees Will Be Needed During Recovery Efforts

CARLSBAD, N.M., March 10, 2014 – On March 10 Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) submitted a plan to the Energy Department to fully utilize the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) workforce to lead recovery activities from two recent incidents. The Department has agreed with the approach outlined by NWP for the utilization of their workforce at WIPP. Under this plan, all workers currently assigned to WIPP will be needed during recovery efforts.

“The Department understands the value of utilizing the experience and expertise of the NWP workforce in all aspects for recovering from the recent fire and radiation release incidents,” said Joe Franco, manager of DOE’s Carlsbad Field Office.

NWP employees will be involved in investigating what caused the radiation release. They will also be involved in implementing any corrective actions once the investigations into each incident are complete. Considerable retraining will be needed, both in response to the changed conditions within the repository and to changes in processes and procedures that may be implemented as part of corrective action plans.

NWP was asked to establish a system to ensure that the WIPP workers are fully utilized during the recovery process. The Department will be performing periodic reviews to ensure workforce utilization is consistent with the plan.

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006DR0314