

DOENews

WIPP Emergency Operations Center Deactivated

CARLSBAD, N.M., 3/23/2015 4:03 PM (MST) – The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been deactivated after it was determined that an event located within the 16-square mile WIPP Land Withdrawal Area (LWA) had no impact on WIPP operations.

At about 1:45 p.m. (MST) today, the WIPP EOC was activated as a precautionary measure after a natural gas pipeline over-pressurized and vented about 420 gallons of mixed liquid natural gas.

The event occurred approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the WIPP site, within the LWA boundary. The product misted over approximately six acres. The owner of the pipeline and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) responded to the area immediately and began evaluating the situation for safety and environmental impacts.

BLM and the pipeline owner will oversee the clean-up of the mixed liquid natural gas release, which will be completed by a contracted service company.

There were no life safety implications and no protective actions for the WIPP site.