



U.S. Department of Energy
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WIPP UPDATE: May 21, 2014

WIPP Reviewing NMED Administrative Order

Yesterday, the New Mexico Environment Department issued an Administrative Order requiring the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to develop a nitrate salt bearing waste container isolation plan for the expedited closure of Panel 6 and Room 7 of Panel 7. The Department is committed to protecting the health and safety of our workers at WIPP, the public and the environment as we work to understand the cause of the Feb. 14 radiation incident. We are reviewing the order and are committed to working with our regulators as we continue monitoring conditions in both Panels 6 and 7 to ensure the waste containers do not pose any immediate risk to our workers, the public or the environment.

Last week, workers took pictures in Room 7 of Panel 7 that showed a damaged waste container. The container, which originated from Los Alamos National Laboratory, is believed to hold nitrate salts and an organic absorbent (in this case, kitty litter) that may have caused a chemical reaction.

Community Meetings Scheduled

May 21 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its weekly meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled 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/rvy/>.