

U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
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## **WIPP UPDATE: May 3, 2016**

### **Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) Approved**

The Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) has approved the contractor's Documented Safety Analysis (DSA). The latest DSA was developed based on the new DOE standard DOE-STD-3009-2014, *Preparation of Non-Reactor Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analysis*, and defines the safety parameters under which the facility operates.

"Completion of this important safety analysis is key to ensuring that the resumption of operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) meets the highest safety standards and that all potential scenarios that could impact safe operations at the site have been fully anticipated and mitigated through careful preparation and response planning," said Todd Shrader, CBFO Manager. "Completion of this key milestone keeps us on track to resuming operations by the end of this year."

The DSA includes detailed examination of seven different types of potential events at the WIPP site, such as fires, explosions or energetic events, radiological releases and impacts of natural phenomenon such as high winds or tornadoes. The analysis includes evaluation of the likelihood and consequences of these events as well as the engineered and administrative controls or technical safety requirements necessary to mitigate or minimize impacts to the safety of the workers, the facility and the environment.



CBFO Assistant Manager of Operations Oversight Wes Mouser (seated), signs the Safety Evaluation Report approving the WIPP DSA. Looking on are members of the DOE-HQ, CBFO and NWP management teams (from left to right): Phil Breidenbach NWP President and Project Manager, Steve Additon, CBFO Manager Todd Shrader; CBFO Senior Technical Advisor Jeff Carswell; Wade Weyerman, James Harris, Tom Temple, Deputy Assistant Secretary EM-40 Jim Hutton; Dr. Robert Nelson, John Menna, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary EM-40 Greg Sosson and Terry Foppe.

The approval of the DSA will allow the WIPP management and operations contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership to complete the final phase of their Independent Verification Review (IVR) and finalize training the workforce on procedures necessary to implement the new safety basis. Successful completion of the IVR allows for implementation of the DSA which is the last step on the critical path before the start of cold operations, which is the phase of restart that involves conducting facility operations with simulated waste containers. Cold Operations is designed to demonstrate the adequacy of procedures and establish worker proficiency prior to the beginning of formal readiness reviews required before resumption of actual waste emplacement operations.

**Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled June 2**

The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host a Town Hall meeting to provide more detailed information on the DSA and updates on WIPP recovery and restart activities. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meeting can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.