WIPP Status Update

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for

Tribal Caucus, Charlotte, NC
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Restart Status

- MSHA Technical Support Evaluation
- DOE Operational Readiness Review
- NMED Inspection and Authorization
- Return to waste emplacement operations
- WIPP reopening
- Plans for resumption of shipping
- Status of NTP recertification of LANL
- Status of Permit Modification Request for above ground storage
Rock falls in the far south end of the mine raised concerns over ground control.

CBFO, NWP and the MSHA Southeast Region requested a technical review by MSHA experts – site visit conducted week of October 24.

MSHA Technical Support Evaluation Report issued December 1 –

- Acknowledged WIPP’s exemplary safety record for ground control.
- Recognized challenges associated with limited ventilation and contaminated U/G.
- Identified no imminent safety issues.
- Encouraged prioritization of ground control and a return to pre-event ground control posture.
- Provided recommendations that WIPP is implementing.
Ground Control
DOE Operational Readiness Review (DORR)

- Requirement for verifying readiness for startup or restart of existing Hazard Category 1, 2, and 3 nuclear facilities
- Provides an independent verification of readiness to start or restart operations – includes evaluation of people, procedures and equipment

**DORR Team reviewed** -

- Significant changes to waste handling – working in contaminated areas
- Two AIB Reports – multiple findings
- New Documented Safety Analysis (DSA)
  - Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs)
  - Safety Management Programs (SMPs)
  - Waste Acceptance enhancements
- DOE CBFO and HQ oversight
The DORR team identified

- Twenty-one (21) pre-start findings
- Fifteen (15) post-start findings
- Thirty (30) opportunities for improvement and two (2) best practices

DORR team leads reported

- Findings were not programmatic in nature, were not indicative of a trend or larger problem and would be anticipated for a facility of this size and complexity

Pre-start findings were identified in functional areas including:

- Fire Protection
- Emergency Preparedness
- Radiation Protection
- Engineering/Nuclear Safety
- Waste Acceptance
DORR Conclusions

DORR team concluded - the WIPP facility can safely restart waste emplacement operations when CBFO and the DORR team have:

• Completed validation and closure of all pre-start items from previous readiness assessments;
• Completed validation and closure of all pre-start items from the DORR and;
• Reviewed and approved corrective action plans for all post-start items from the DORR.

Prior to authorizing the return to waste emplacement operations for contact handled (CH) waste;

• Validation and closure was completed on all 21 pre-start items from the contractor operational readiness review (CORR) and the DORR.
• Corrective action plans have been validated for all post-start findings from both the CORR and DORR – 10 items remain open with validation and closure expected by June 2017.
Annual Inspection

• New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on-site during the week of December 5 –
  • Conducted annual inspection
  • Evaluated WIPP compliance with Hazardous Waste Facility Permit and Administrative Compliance Orders
  • Performed a thorough inspection of surface and underground facilities

Authorization to return to operations

• Authorization letter received on December 18 stating “NMED is approving the resumption of normal operating status at WIPP”
CBFO/DOE authorized WIPP to return to waste emplacement operations on December 23, 2016

- Additional ground control, including floor milling and leveling of the S2520 access drift, was necessary before waste emplacement could take place.
- WIPP crews completed the first emplacement of 28 containers on January 4, 2017.
- Emplacement will resume slowly and will be balanced with other priorities including ground control and radiological rollback.
Panel 7 Status

• Location of the February 2014 radiological event (Room 7) – remains closed
• Rock fall in Room 4 on November 3 - room was already prohibited
• Room 6 is also prohibited, but no rock fall is currently anticipated
• Exceptional progress in bolting to make rooms 1, 2, 3 and 5 safe and usable for waste emplacement
• Waste emplacement has started in S2520 moving west to east
• Currently available disposal capacity in Panel 7 should last approximately 30 months, depending on shipping rates
Reopening Event

January 9, 2017 – WIPP Officially Reopened
Shipping Status

Shipments will resume soon –

- Emplacement of waste currently stored in the waste handling building is expected to take two to three months.
- Shipments will then resume at a rate of up to 5 per week.
- It is anticipated that it will take roughly 3 years to fill the available disposal space in Panel 7.
- Mining and ground control in Panel 8 are expected to resume within the next 12-14 months in order for disposal space to be available when Panel 7 is full.
New Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC)

• WAC Revision 8 issued June 27, 2016 – Effective July 5, 2016
• Includes changes resulting from findings from the Accident Investigation Board
• Incorporates requirements from the recently approved Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and chemical compatibility studies
• Temporary suspension of waste certification activities at generator sites
New Requirements

• Enhanced Acceptable Knowledge - detailed verification of source documentation for potentially incompatible materials and to ensure the adequate information basis

• Chemical Compatibility Evaluations – identifying the range of possible chemical combinations that could occur in each waste stream using EPA approved methodology
The shipping schedule and queue are under development and will consider –

- what waste available for shipping
- generator site regulatory commitments and agreements
- WIPP transportation/waste acceptance capabilities
- programmatic, logistical, and TRU waste storage capacity issues
- operational needs at WIPP and TRU waste generator sites
- WIPP Corporate Board meeting scheduled for February 2017 to further discuss schedule with generator sites
Preparing Shipping Corridors

WIPP is conducting planning meetings with State Regional Groups and Tribal Representatives to ensure preparedness prior to resumption of shipments. Activities will include –

• Pre-shipment communications, road shows and public outreach for active transportation corridors
• Pre-shipment “dry runs” for each corridor to test notification, monitoring, inspections and other enroute procedures
• Resumption of 8-week rolling schedule for shipments
Above ground storage

- Engineered concrete overpacks system similar to system used at SRS
- Capacity for 408 containers/136 shipments of CH-waste – 8 weeks of storage
- Increases available weeks for TRU waste shipments, allowing continued waste receipt during mining and maintenance outages
- Storage limited to a period of 1 year
- Permit modification submitted to NMED at end of September
- Public meetings held in Santa Fe, 10/25 and Carlsbad, 10/27
- NMED extended public comment period 60 days – now ending in early February 2017
Questions & Answers