Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
Recovery Status

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Key Steps toward Resumption of Operations

• Mine Stability and Underground Habitability
• Radiological
• Ventilation Systems
• Path to Reopening
Mine Stability and Underground Habitability

• Resumption of bolting – one of the highest priorities
  • Preventative maintenance activities on equipment completed
  • Roof bolting/ground control resumed in November 2014

• Waste hoist
  • Hoist operational for transport of equipment and personnel as of January 2015
Panel Closure

- Initial Panel Closure Panel 6 and Panel 7 Room 7 Completed in May 2015
- All Suspect nitrate salt containers Isolated
Ventilation

Current Status

• Ventilation in Filtration Mode

• WIPP’s standard (unfiltered) operational airflow is 425,000 cfm

Recovery Actions

• Interim Ventilation System (IVS) required for resumption of operations

• Supplemental Ventilation System not required for resumption of operations

• Permanent Ventilation – Design and construct a new ventilation system capable of providing 500,000+ cfm
Interim Ventilation System (IVS)

• Required for resumption of operations.
• Scheduled to be operational in the April timeframe.
• Empirical measurements will be used to validate modeling and ensure IVS will provide adequate airflow for initial operations.
• Construction status
Supplemental Ventilation System

- Required for mining after waste operations resume.
- Scheduled to be operational in the early 2017.
Permanent Ventilation System

- Supports operations in both “clean” and contaminated areas of the underground, targeting 500,000+ cubic feet per minute (CFM) airflow

- Provides sufficient ventilation for concurrent mining, maintenance and waste emplacement operations

- Provide sufficient ventilation to meet industrial hygiene standards with mining equipment in operation

- Provide capability for continuous operations while allowing maintenance and filter medium replacement

- Provide an unfiltered exhaust path for the underground

- Provides operational flexibility

- Now move forward with the formal design phase of the project and is expected to take about eighteen months.
TRU Waste Generator Impacts

• CBFO National TRU Program is developing an enhanced chemical compatibility determination process.
  • New requirements may have impacts on existing and future TRU processing/packaging.
  • This process will be discussed with Field Managers with TRU waste at next TRU Corporate Board, including general shipping priorities.

• Initial focus of WIPP will be on emplacement of wastes in Waste Handling Building.

• Technical and programmatic factors
  – What waste meets new chemical compatibility requirements
  – WIPP transportation/waste acceptance capabilities
  – Generator site compliance commitments
  – Storage capacities

• Above-ground storage capability is being evaluated.
The U.S. Department of Energy is committed to the reopening of WIPP.

WIPP is the U.S. only permanent repository for waste.

Resuming operations will resume only when it is safe to do so.