



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Recovery Status

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- 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



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



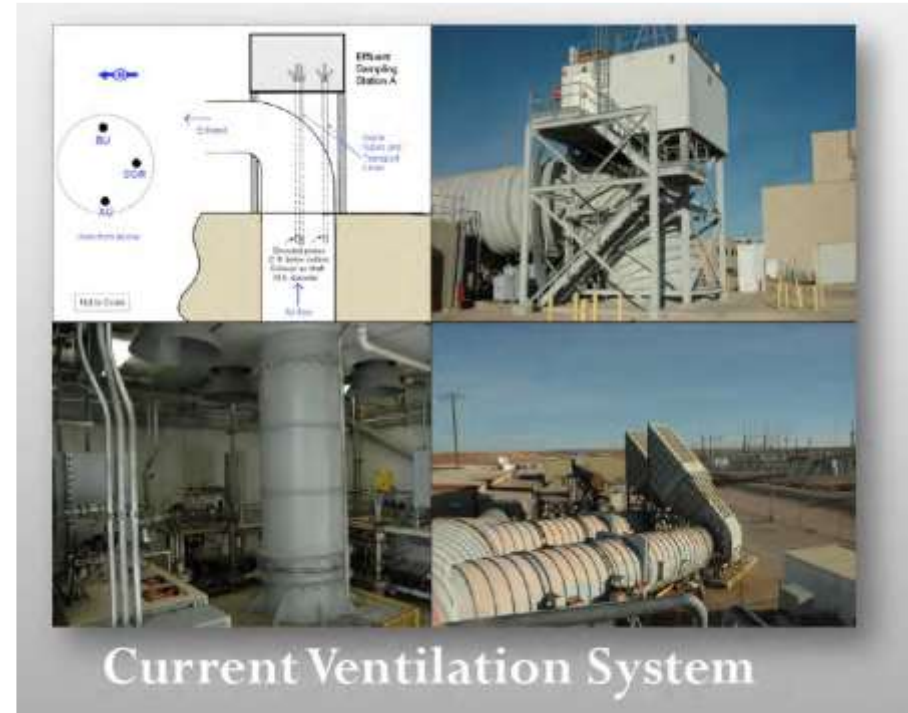
Supplemental Ventilation System

- 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.



Reopening of WIPP – Top Priority

- 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.