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WIPP Event Investigation
LANL Summary Providing Input for WIPP Daily Meeting on 6/5

NMED
Hazardous Waste Bureau

LANL Scientific and Operational Activities

- The hourly visual inspections and daily thermography inspections of nitrate salt waste containers in the Dome 231 and Dome 375 Permacons were completed. No issues or anomalies were identified.
- Daily headspace gas sampling through the filter on the SWB containing drum 68685 is continuing. On Wednesday (6/4) the CO₂ measured at 11,863 ppm, and H₂ measured at 115 ppm. Data is being logged and evaluated by the chemist.
- Held a peer discussion between LANL and WIPP teams to discuss 68685 the vapor sampling trend. To better evaluate the trend, LANL Chemistry performed a baseline Swheat analysis where 2 grams of Swheat was milled in a 34 ml vial inerted in a nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting CO₂ and H₂ gas analysis yielded 18,000 ppm and 3,000 ppm respectively. LANL Chemistry is planning to perform additional tests with Swheat and surrogate waste. Also a solid phase micro-extraction on vapor samples to identify semi-volatile compounds that may be markers for chemical reactions within the container will also be tested.
- Continued field demonstration of equipment, methods, and results for stabilization of surrogate waste by adding water to simulated waste drums.
- Chemistry investigations and lab tests are continuing.
- Started relocation of the remaining inventory of 3706 cubic meter project waste containers (excluding nitrate bearing salt waste) into Dome 230 that provides a fire protection system.
- Participated in the DOE Laboratory Technical Assistance Team meeting at Sandia on 6/2.

Coordination and Communications

- Daily WIPP calls were reduced to a call on Tuesday and a call on Thursday. The LANL daily report will be scaled back to support those days only.
- Held the first call with NMED on the Revised LANL Nitrate Bearing Salt Waste Container Isolation Plan.

