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WIPP Event Investigation
LANL Summary Providing Input for WIPP Meeting on 6/19

NMED
Hazardous Waste Bureau

LANL Scientific and Operational Activities

- Completed hourly visual inspections and daily thermography inspections of nitrate salt bearing waste containers since previously reported on 6/17. No issues or anomalies were identified in any of the inspections.
- Daily headspace gas sampling through the filter on the SWB containing drum 68685 was taken. On Wednesday (6/17) the CO₂ measured at 12,715 ppm, and H₂ measured at 64 ppm. These are in the range of readings observed over the last week. Solid phase micro-extraction (SPME) technique results are being evaluated by the Chemistry Division personnel. Data is being trended.
- Daily headspace gas sampling started on the additional SWBs to better be able to compare and evaluate results against the SWB containing drum 68685. The total number of SWBs to be sampled per day is eight.
- The empty nitrate salt waste parent container sampling procedure has been approved internally by LANL, and LANL is planning to sample the containers early next week. Four drums have been selected for initial sampling. These four do not include the parent container S855793, parent of the breached drum at WIPP – 68660.
- Planning and preparing of recommendations for waste remediation and treatment is continuing.
- Reviewing and validating operator records for waste containers disposed in WIPP Panel 6 to determine additional low pH liquids that resided in parent containers.
- Chemistry investigations and lab tests are continuing.
- The causal analysis of the LANL TRU waste processing has started.
- All containers remaining at LANL, that were in the 3706 cubic meter campaign inventory with exception of the nitrate salt waste containers in the Permacons, have been moved into Dome 230. This dome provides a fire protection system that would provide additional protection to this waste in event of wildfire.
- Completed the field emergency drill at TA-54 Area G for a nitrate salt container event.

Coordination and Communications

- Working with WIPP on waste hazards assessments
- NMED data call to LANL of LANL and CCP waste procedures needs briefed with CCP

