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WIPP Event Investigation
LANL Summary Providing Input for WIPP Meeting on 6/26

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 6/24. 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 (6/25) the CO₂ measured at 22,667 ppm, and H₂ measured at 142 ppm. Solid phase micro-extraction (SPME) technique results were unremarkable as reported by the chemist. Data is being trended.
- Daily headspace gas sampling is now being taken on seven additional SWBs to better be able to compare and evaluate results against the SWB containing drum 68685. Filter changes on these SWBs are scheduled for tomorrow.
- Four empty nitrate salt waste parent containers will be sampled tomorrow (6/26). These four do not include the parent container S855793, the parent of the breached drum at WIPP – 68660. Sampling had been delayed due to system issues with the waste tracking system. On Tuesday the TAT was able to observe the sampling area, parent containers, and tools to be used. They also discussed the sampling process with the LANL sampling team.
- LANL hosted five members from the TAT on 6/23 and 6/24. Two members from the AIB also joined. The visit included technical discussions and touring of the Area G 412 sampling area, and nitrate salt container storage areas as well as the WCRRF processing facility where the nitrate salts were remediated. The meetings and tours were productive.
- Planning and preparing of recommendations for waste remediation and treatment is continuing.
- Chemistry investigations and lab tests are continuing.

Coordination and Communications

- Provided data to NWP on lab testing for flammability of the Swheat kitty litter.

