

## EPA Radiation Protection

<http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/news/wipp-news.html#pubmeetingspanelclosure>

### Informal Public Meetings -- Panel Closure Redesign

EPA will be holding two public meeting sessions in New Mexico related to DOE's [panel closure redesign](#) planned change request. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a forum to discuss the specifics of the panel closure redesign and EPA's upcoming proposed rulemaking, which is scheduled for publication in early 2013. The meetings will serve as an informal vehicle to get preliminary comments and input from members of the public in advance of the rulemaking and its associated formal public hearings. Staff from the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will also be on hand to answer any stakeholder questions/concerns. The logistics for both meetings in Carlsbad and Santa Fe are as follows:

#### Wednesday, December 5, 2012

##### Carlsbad, New Mexico

U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Skeen-Whitlock Building  
Main Auditorium  
4021 National Parks Highway  
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Thursday, December 6, 2012

##### Santa Fe, New Mexico

New Mexico Environment Department  
Harold L. Runnels Building  
Auditorium  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**UPDATED:** Meeting minutes/notes have been compiled and can be viewed/downloaded in Adobe PDF format below.

- [Meeting Minutes - Panel Closure Redesign Informal Public Meetings \(December 2012\) \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 311K)



## Panel Closure Redesign

On September 28, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided a planned change request for panel closure redesign, which would modify Condition 1 of the Final WIPP Certification Decision for 40 CFR Part 194.

After 12 years of operating experience, DOE has acquired considerable experience and knowledge regarding the behavior of the WIPP repository, along with the nature and behavior of disposed transuranic (TRU) waste. In EPA's 1998 WIPP Certification Decision, the Agency listed a number of conditions - one of which was that the panel closure system (PCS) to be used in WIPP be "Option D," as specified in DOE's Compliance Certification Application (CCA). This option specified that certain components be constructed using Salado Mass Concrete (SMC).

After numerous large scale tests, DOE states that SMC cannot meet the design and performance requirements for the panel closures as specified in the CCA. Since results from monitoring for explosive gases in the closed panels has established that the measured concentrations of methane and hydrogen will remain below the lower limits through the operational period, the Department has submitted a new panel closure design - the Run-of Mine Panel Closure (ROMPC).

The Department submitted a performance assessment (PA) for the proposed panel closure redesign as part of their documentation package. The results of the PA show that WIPP will remain in compliance with all disposal requirements 40 CFR Part 191, Subparts B and C, and essentially have the same performance as the original Option D design.

Complete details of the panel closure redesign planned change request (including an overview presentation provided at an August 2011 technical meeting) can be found below:

- [DOE -- Letter to EPA transmitting Panel Closure Redesign planned change request \(9/28/11\) \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 263K)
- [DOE -- Enclosure: Panel Closure System Design \(PDF\)](#) (108 pp, 3,210K)
- [DOE -- WIPP Panel Closure Redesign: Overview \(8/23/11\) \(PDF\)](#) (11 pp, 284K)

**UPDATED:** EPA has sent DOE a series of comments related to the initial proposal, and DOE has responded with supplemental information on the panel closure redesign and associated performance assessment (PCS-2012 PA). All of this information can be found below in Adobe .pdf format:

- [EPA -- Letter to DOE transmitting comments on Panel Closure Redesign planned change request \(12/22/11\) \(PDF\)](#) (5 pp, 208K)
  - [DOE -- Response to 12/22/11 EPA Comments \(4/17/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (1 p, 175K)
- [Enclosure 1 \(PDF\)](#) (38 pp, 2,984K)

- [DOE -- \(Memorandum\) Recommendations and Justifications of Parameter Values for the Run-of-Mine Salt Panel Closure System Design Modeled in the PCS-2012 PA \(5/4/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (28 pp, 740K)
- [DOE -- \(Memorandum\) An overview of the BRAGFLO two-phase flow parameters used to model the run-of-mine salt panel closures implemented in the PCS-2012 PA \(6/7/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 263K)
- [DOE -- Responses to EPA Comments \(6/14/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (4 pp, 237K)
- [DOE -- Summary of Capillary Pressure Models \(6/15/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (1 p, 38K)
- [EPA -- \(E-mail\) Concurrence with proposed data ranges and values for PCS-2012 PA \(6/19/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (1 p, 38K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) Analysis Plan for the 2012 WIPP Panel Closure System Performance Assessment \(7/2/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (18 pp, 186K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) Generation of the LHS Samples for the AP-161 \(PCS-2012\) Revision 0 PA Calculations \(9/6/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (172 pp, 2,111K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) Analysis Package for the Salado Flow Modeling Done in the AP-161 \(PCS-2012\) Performance Assessment \(9/17/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (71 pp, 5,789K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) Analysis Package for Direct Brine Releases: 2012 Panel Closure System Performance Assessment \(PCS-2012 PA\) \(10/1/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (32 pp, 1,311K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) CCDFGF Analysis Package for the AP-161 \(PCS-2012\) Performance Assessment \(10/15/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (30 p, 6,686K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) Sensitivity of the AP-161 \(PCS-2012\) PA Releases to Parameters \(10/15/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (34 pp, 858K)
- [DOE -- \(Report\) Summary Report and Run Control for the 2012 WIPP Panel Closure System Performance Assessment \(11/5/12\) \(PDF\)](#) (84 pp, 4,163K)

#### December 2012 Informal Public Meeting Materials (Carlsbad & Santa Fe, NM)

- [DOE -- Fact Sheet: Proposed Panel Closure Redesign Planned Change Request \(11/2012\) \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 213K)
  - [DOE -- Presentation: Panel Closure Redesign Planned Change Request \(12/2012\) \(PDF\)](#) (9 pp, 487K)
  - [DOE -- Presentation: Performance Assessment of the WIPP Run-of-Mine Salt Panel Closure System \(12/2012\) \(PDF\)](#) (22 pp, 1090K)
  - [EPA -- Presentation: WIPP Panel Closure Redesign Rulemaking \(12/2012\) \(PDF\)](#) (7 pp, 140K)
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