



U.S. Department of Energy
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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: March 14, 2014

March 13 Carlsbad Town Hall Meeting Summary

Approximately 40 community members attended a Town Hall meeting March 13 co-hosted by Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE. DOE Carlsbad Field Office Manager Joe Franco provided an update on WIPP recovery efforts, detailing next steps for a safe personnel re-entry into the underground.

Ted Wyka, Chair of the Accident Investigation Board, who investigated the Feb. 5 salt haul truck fire underground at WIPP, presented a summary of the Board's findings. Wyka said the immediate cause of the fire was a build-up of combustibles on the haul truck. He further discussed contributing factors. The meeting was then opened to questions from the public.

Wyka's PowerPoint presentation, the AIB's report and the Town Hall webcast are available on the WIPP Recovery home page.

WIPP Laboratories Completes Air, Soil, Vegetation and Water Analyses

The WIPP Laboratories completed analyses of air, soil, and water samples. The soil lab results were at the minimum detectable concentration with one sample just barely above the minimum detectable concentration and in the range of historical results for this location. The water runoff sample collected from a WIPP building rooftop and roadway drainage on 3/2/2014 indicated results just slightly above the minimum detectable concentration. The highest concentration is about 3 percent of the EPA drinking water standard for alpha radioactivity.

In addition to these environmental samples, air samples continue to be collected from the network of air samplers around and off the WIPP site. Air sample analyses continue to show levels below detection limits.



Re-entry Preparations Continue

The re-entry team and support personnel continue to perform simulated re-entry scenarios. Air Intake and Salt Shaft hoists and back-up generator inspection procedures are undergoing thorough review by WIPP personnel and independent safety inspectors. The personnel re-entry is planned for later this month.

Where can I get information about WIPP?

General questions

- Toll-free number at 1-800-336-9477
- infocntr@wipp.ws to email questions

WIPP Emergency Communications and Information: In the event of a WIPP emergency that requires activation of the Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center, these numbers are available for information updates:

- Public line 575-234-7380
- Media line 575-234-7305
- WIPP Home Page www.wipp.energy.gov