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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATES: March 20, 2014

Texas Facility to Temporarily Store Los Alamos Waste

With a June deadline approaching to remove transuranic wastes from Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) is working with Waste Control Specialists on a plan to ship LANL wastes to the Andrews, Texas facility for temporary storage until WIPP disposal operations resume.

News Release posted to the WIPP Website.

New Air Sampling Data Results

Environmental sampling data posted today include new results from laboratory analysis of air samples showing levels of transuranic radioactivity below minimum detection limits. Laboratory analyses are more sensitive and accurate than the screening analyses previously reported.

WIPP Re-Entry Team Preps at Local Potash Mine

Members of the team who will soon re-enter the WIPP underground performed the second of two trial runs yesterday. The underground training at the Potash Mine allowed the team to test equipment and their ability to walk long distances in protective wear. More than 20 personnel tested air quality devices and radiological equipment, and familiarized themselves with ground conditions similar to WIPP's layered salt formation.

As the team continues to train, a plan has been submitted to DOE for review that evaluates and addresses overall safety conditions for re-entry. Once the plan is approved, personnel will ride the salt hoist and air intake shaft hoist conveyances to the bottom and back while performing the Mine Safety and Health Administration-required shaft inspections. A second entry will follow with the re-entry team



establishing conditions from the salt hoist underground to the air intake shaft to ensure a safe secondary exit path.

Community Meetings Scheduled

March 20 (tonight) – Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE will co-host a Town Hall meeting at 5:30 p.m. featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities and recent environmental monitoring results. Fran Williams, Director of Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality for Oak Ridge National Laboratory's contractor UCOR, will be present to answer questions. She has 35 years of experience in ESH&Q, health physics and occupational medicine.

The town hall meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street.

March 25 – WIPP officials will update the Artesia City Council on WIPP recovery activities at 7:00 p.m. Location: 511 W. Texas Ave., Artesia.