



U.S. Department of Energy
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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: March 28, 2014

Aerosol Test for HEPA Filters Complete

An in-service test of WIPP's high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters was performed by Los Alamos National Laboratory, with the filters passing efficiency standards. Testing consists of injecting an aerosol in front of the filters and measuring aerosol mist concentrations in the front and back of the filters.

New filters should start arriving on site next week, after they go through efficiency testing to nuclear facility specifications. Filter replacement will be managed as a radiological process due to contamination captured by the filters following the February radiological release. Replacement of the filters will depend on work being performed underground. Work will not be performed on filters when personnel are underground. All of the filters will be replaced, and activities could take up to 12 days.

NRC Venting Requirements Completed

WIPP waste handling crews have vented all 13 transportation packages that had been stored in the parking area unit at WIPP. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires the transportation packages to be vented within 60 days of the date they were sealed. Venting involves removing the waste containers from the transportation packages to allow the dissipation of any hydrogen buildup, a process that poses no risk to the public or environment. The waste containers are safely stored in the Waste Handling Building.

Station B Continuous Air Monitor Undergoes Testing

DOE recently installed a continuous air monitor (CAM) on Station B, which is downstream from the HEPA filter units, and to add an additional level of detection. The CAM is expected to be connected to the Central Monitoring System today, and will operate in test mode for 10 days. Following satisfactory testing, personnel working at alternate locations will return to work at the WIPP facility in a phased approach.

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Community Meetings Scheduled

April 3 - Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE will co-host a meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meetings will be held every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the weekly meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.

April 14 – WIPP update to the Jal City Council at 5:30 p.m. Location: 309 S. Main St.