WIPP UPDATE: April 7, 2014

EPA to install additional air monitors

This week, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employees will arrive at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to install additional air monitors. The monitors will be temporarily placed near existing on-site WIPP air monitors to provide independent monitoring results and verification of WIPP’s environmental monitoring network. EPA is also evaluating the number and location of WIPP’s current environmental monitors to identify any needed improvements and ensure adequate monitoring.

Phase 3 re-entry preparation

We previously reported that workers would be able to re-enter the mine this week to identify the cause of the February 14 radiological event. Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) is currently reviewing the schedule as they take the time to complete the necessary re-evaluation of personal protection equipment and other procedures associated with entering the waste disposal area.

Last week’s re-entries evaluated the non-waste disposal area. NWP is taking all appropriate steps to ensure employees are properly equipped and prepared for any contingencies that could occur once they enter the waste disposal area in the underground facility.