



## Allen, Pam, NMENV

---

**From:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:54 AM  
**To:** Allen, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** FW: Straight Talk - April 14, 2014

April

---

**From:** TRU TeamWorks Extra  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 1:11 PM  
**Subject:** Straight Talk - April 14, 2014

# Straight Talk

April 14, 2014

Dear Team Mates:

We had a good week and we're making good, steady progress.

Phase 3 activities, with the end goal of identifying the source of the event, got underway Saturday. Our colleagues re-entered the mine for a third time in two weeks, surveying further south and establishing a new operating base. As expected, they found no contamination. The entry went exactly as we planned and practiced – safely and deliberately.

So I'm sure you, like many others, are wondering why it is taking so long. We are being cautious and methodical. We will increase our speed, but not yet. We will reach Panel 7 in the next two steps. We defined four activities in Phase 3. After Saturday's success, we decided we can achieve both Activities 2 and 3 in the next step – this Wednesday. I expect that we will achieve Activity 4 (go to Panel 7 waste face) as early as Wednesday, April 23.

We made good progress last week installing and starting up the new continuous air monitor at Station B. We also made very good headway in preparing for filter replacements. The team from Savannah River Site that will help us conduct the filter changes arrived yesterday and is beginning their WIPP training and mockup rehearsals this week. We are bringing the internal dosimetry of the staff who were affected by the event to a close. So far, no one has received a dose that even requires that it be "assigned." This continues to be very good news for those who were potentially affected and for WIPP.

NWP is responsible to make shipments of TRU waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to Waste Control Specialists in Texas. That work is going very well and we are enabling LANL to remove the last of its above ground TRU waste before the serious fire season begins at the end of June.

We are making preparations to begin sending teams of our staff to various DOE sites that are operating with good Formality of Operations. These sites and these people are no more capable than we are, but they have much more experience. We will learn much from these trips.



Good procedures require much input from our front line workers. Good procedure execution requires that we all accept that we must work the procedures as written or else stop. Our current personnel entries are demonstrating how our work in the future must and will be done. Good procedures, good planning and a commitment to good formality will make us more productive, not less.

In closing, let me mention something that will likely generate media attention this week. The Accident Investigation Board report on the radiological event will be released this week. As I have said before, the report will criticize our performance leading up to the February 14 event and our response. Most of the criticism is warranted and we are working to ensure the proper processes and procedures are in place to prevent anything like this from happening in the future. Remember, let's all keep a good attitude, stay patient, support our teammates, and communicate what is on our mind – good or bad.

I am encouraged that we are doing the right things to return WIPP to operation and rebuild our bright future. Have a safe week and enjoy a special Easter celebration with your families!

Best regards,

Bob McQuinn  
NWP President and Project Manager