



U.S. Department of Energy
 Carlsbad Field Office
 Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
 P.O. Box 3090
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Media Contact:
 Ben Williams
 WIPP Recovery Communications
 (575) 234-7545

www.wipp.energy.gov

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WIPP UPDATE: April 16, 2014

Re-entry teams continue to advance closer to WIPP waste disposal area

Two teams entered the WIPP mine again today, the fourth time in two weeks. Workers continued checking for contamination, determining air quality and assessing the stability of the WIPP underground facility as they made their way farther into the mine than previous trips.

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP), the WIPP management and operating contractor, are still evaluating data from the entry and additional information is expected tomorrow.



Suiting Up

Personnel receive assistance suiting-up in anti-contamination gear before re-entering the WIPP underground.

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WIPP Recovery Planning

DOE and NWP leaders met yesterday to discuss details of the draft WIPP Recovery Plan—which is continuously updated as we learn more with each mine entry. The plan includes information on how NWP expects to identify and isolate the contamination source and eventually return WIPP to full waste disposal operations. Mine stability, ventilation, decontamination and remediation, and corrective action plans for the fire and radiological events were also discussed.

Once finalized and approved, the WIPP Recovery Plan will be posted on WIPP's recovery website.

Community Meetings Scheduled

April 17 – Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and DOE will co-host a weekly town hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meetings are 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/>.