



## Allen, Pam, NMENV

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**From:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:16 PM  
**To:** Allen, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** FW: WIPP Information - For Call Today

**From:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:44 AM  
**To:** Flynn, Ryan, NMENV; Kendall, Jeff, NMENV  
**Cc:** Winchester, Jim, NMENV; Tongate, Butch, NMENV; Schwender, Erika, NMENV; Blaine, Tom, NMENV; Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV; Kieling, John, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV; LucasKamat, Susan, NMENV; Turner, Jill, NMENV; Nelson, Morgan, NMENV; Ines Triay (triayin@fiu.edu); Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV; Smith, Coleman, NMENV; Simon, Martin, NMENV; Cobrain, Dave, NMENV; Pullen, Steve, NMENV; Briley, Siona, NMENV; Hall, Timothy, NMENV; Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV  
**Subject:** FW: WIPP Information - For Call Today

From the 6/24-2014 Calls  
NMED Notes in Blue

8:30am call notes at the bottom.

**From:** Oba Vincent [<mailto:oba.vincent@cbfo.doe.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:07 AM  
**To:** Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV; 'peake.tom@epa.gov'; 'Edwards, Jonathan'; 'Walsh, Jonathan'; 'Perrin, Alan'; 'Kehrman, Bob - RES'; 'Chavez, Rick - RES';  
**Subject:** WIPP Information - For Call Today

Below is a summary of activities: (Please note, activities and dates are subject to change. Please verify the most current dates of any information provided).

- The filter change is complete. *Tonight finish cleaning up, tomorrow will go back to 60,000 cfm, Thursday or Friday may do salt and AIS inspections and go back UG soon.*
- SS and AIS Shaft/Rope Inspections: Inspections will take place prior to U/G re-entry.
- AIB released UG except Panel 7 Room 7. Can start getting back into more normal state.
- Suspect a steady leak of brine water from the formations above the repository that could be going toward shaft sump at a rate of 1 gal/min. These sumps are normally emptied frequently but have not been emptied since February. Could be up to 160,000 gallons.
- More information will be available as WIPP U/G entries resume.
- Brine water from the sump will be tested for radionuclides and RCRA metals.
- U/G entries: May continue late this week. The focus will be habitability surveys, mine recovery and evaluation of the waste hoist sump level.
- Area of Concern Video Evaluation: A cross-site team (REACH Team) comprised of WIPP, LANL, SRNL and the AIB, has been established for continued evaluation of Panel 7, Room 7. The team has taken a three phased approach for this evaluation: Phase 1 – video imaging; Phase 2 – thermography; and, Phase 3 – sampling. The team is testing a boom device and a gantry camera system in a mockup room at EPD. Equipment procurement activities



will continue this week. An engineering workshop will be held on 6/24 to narrow down the video approach. It will be several weeks before an option is available and ready to continue evaluation of the waste in Panel 7.

- Reach team is having workshop today to prepare for next entry. They need to get 90 feet back without entering exhaust drift. Expecting several weeks before new video is made.
- Cleaning of the waste hoist ductwork on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor continues. GE arrived on 6/16 to support cleaning of critical hoist components which will continue until 7/2. There is a concern that water may have accumulated in the sump below the hoist since February which will need to be addressed prior to operation of the hoist.
- A detailed recovery plan was submitted to the DOE for review on 5/31. The design package for the procurement of the skid mounted units and fans is under review. This is ongoing. They do not have a date for public review.
- Samples collected during the May 30 entry from the breached drum were sent to PNNL on 6/10 for analysis in accordance with established TAT protocols coordinated with AIB. A Mod filter was obtained from the U/G ventilation system filter replacement on 6/23 and will be shipped to SRNL on 6/24 or 6/25. No additional sample results have been obtained.
- Discussed EPA Station B questions. Will be sent soon.
- Item 81: Rad data for HEPA – still need to get to us.
- Revised consequence assessment with new isotopic data? Is on to do list for engineers...another month or so.
- NMED asked for three documents: 1) Remediation Records for Panel 6 waste, 2) Evaluation of Effect of Elevated Temp...document, 3) 8 options document by IPT (Integrated Project Team).
- IPT is reviewing shipping options and have a meeting scheduled for July 22/23. OBA will ask if NMED can attend.
- July 1 – done on surface, July 17 done with UG and waste hoist might operate, - UNLESS liquids (4<sup>th</sup> bullet) –then could be big delay.

#### 0830 Technical Call Notes

- SRNL report: MgO samples collected from last entry received from WIPP. SRNL is finalizing the analytical plan and will forward to the TAT for review. Additional CAM filter samples on hold – no plan for analysis at present. Two MgO samples taken from the breached drum and nearby SWB received at PNNL. An analytical plan has been submitted to the AIB.
- LANL report: HSG on 68685 shows 16,000 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> and rising; may be something more than equilibration.
- Sampling of 4 parent drums begins today. Looking at RTR for free liquids; will be tested for moisture, organics. These are MIN-02 parents but not related to breached drum 68660 or sister 68685. Sampling of 68660 parent is not yet planned.
- A concern has been raised about the nitrate-bearing waste containers emplaced in WIPP Panel 6. LANL has two chemistry teams looking at this; pulling operator data from WCRR repackaging. Will take about a week to assemble all records.
- Remediation concept: first, safe the drums (remove hazardous characteristic of reactivity); second, configure drums to be split into smaller volumes; and third, proceed with cementation.
- Report dated 6/18 related to heat/reactions: 18 drums in Panel 7 Room 7 have a higher potential for reactivity because the material is very dry. Author of report Christopher Chandler, CBFO; not reviewed for release yet.
- Dan Cox, LANL: compliance teams gave presentations to TAT (5 members).
- Next step for 68685: unknown, no recommendation yet.
- WCS report: Lee Bishop author of paper describing 8 options for final disposition of LANL waste. There are 3 sites to consider: WCS, LANL, and INL; each will have a site-specific final disposition path. Members of the public

may not understand this; DOE (CBFO?) will hold a meeting at Pojoaque offices July 22, 23. Oba will ask about an invitation for NMED to attend.

- All WCS buried MCCs will be covered by end of this week.
- WIPP report: Project REACH: the longer boom demonstrated at the Carlsbad mock-up showed that it cannot extend to the back of Room 7 (need about 90'). Still investigating the trolley camera idea, but there is no way to attach without entering the Panel 7 exhaust drift.
- Filter changeout finished; HEPAs on both the 856 bank and 857 bank are OK and were not changed out. As with 856, one Mod filter from 857 will be packaged and sent to SRNL for analysis. NMED asked about rad counts on the HEPAs that were not changed. WIPP will check if that information was recorded or not.
- Mock-up area will start using dunnage drums to make the setup more realistic.
- From 10 AM LANL call: NMED requested a discussion with LANL chemists concerning possible reactions with the neutralizers used in repackaging. The request has been forwarded to Pete Maggorie, who will coordinate with the TAT and the request will work its way up the DOE chain.
  - To NMEDs acknowledge, a technical meeting with LANL thus far has never needed that level of approval.
  - This may cause unacceptable delay on information that NMED believes important.

**NOTE CALL-IN NUMBER: 1 888 413 3490, Code 7175394**

Thank you

Oba