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REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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JUN 26 2014

TOPIC: **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Update**

DATE: **June 25, 2014**

CONTACT: Nick Stone (214) 665-7276 **NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau**

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: **Summary of Management Meeting between DOE and ORIA**

DEADLINE DATE: **N/A**

BACKGROUND:

The first Management Meeting since the radiation release on February 14, between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA), occurred June 25, 2014. Mike Flynn (ORIA) and Frank Marcinowski (DOE) led the meeting. The primary presentation was an overview and response summary of the radiation release by Joe Franco, Director of the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO).

CURRENT STATUS:

Mike Flynn outlined EPA's concerns at the beginning of the call:

1. Business as usual is not an option. EPA and DOE must change operations to improve control and avoid another release.
2. EPA needs to participate in the recovery process of operations at WIPP to assure compliance.
3. Senior management at DOE and EPA need to meet regularly to assure progress on the recovery of the WIPP.
4. EPA needs more resources from DOE to oversee compliance.
5. DOE Emergency Planning must improve.
6. EPA must understand how DOE will manage and accumulate WIPP waste in the DOE Complex while operations are suspended at WIPP.
7. The Recertification Application cannot be considered complete until DOE addresses changes required by the release.

Frank Marcinowski accepted the concerns. He offered that DOE has brought resources from across the Complex to Carlsbad. A Technical Assistance Team (TAT) is working through the DOE Accident Investigation Board to determine the cause of the release and define the actions needed to accomplish the recovery plan. The TAT is tasked to determine the cause of the release by the end of the fiscal year.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

DOE expects 100 to 120 million dollars in addition to its current budget to pay for the recovery process. Joe Franco reviewed the event and provided a clear representation to the challenge of gathering data in the underground.

Refer to the attached slide. There are 24 rows of waste in Room 7 of Panel 7. The waste face is Row 24. From the waste face to the bulkhead is 90 feet. The known breached drum is at Row 16 and the current camera boom can only reach to Row 15. CBFO is working on an improved camera system that can reach from the waste face to the bulkhead (Row 1).



The slide indicates the emplaced MIN02 suspect waste as yellow containers. The MgO sacks that were disturbed in the reaction are shown in red.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

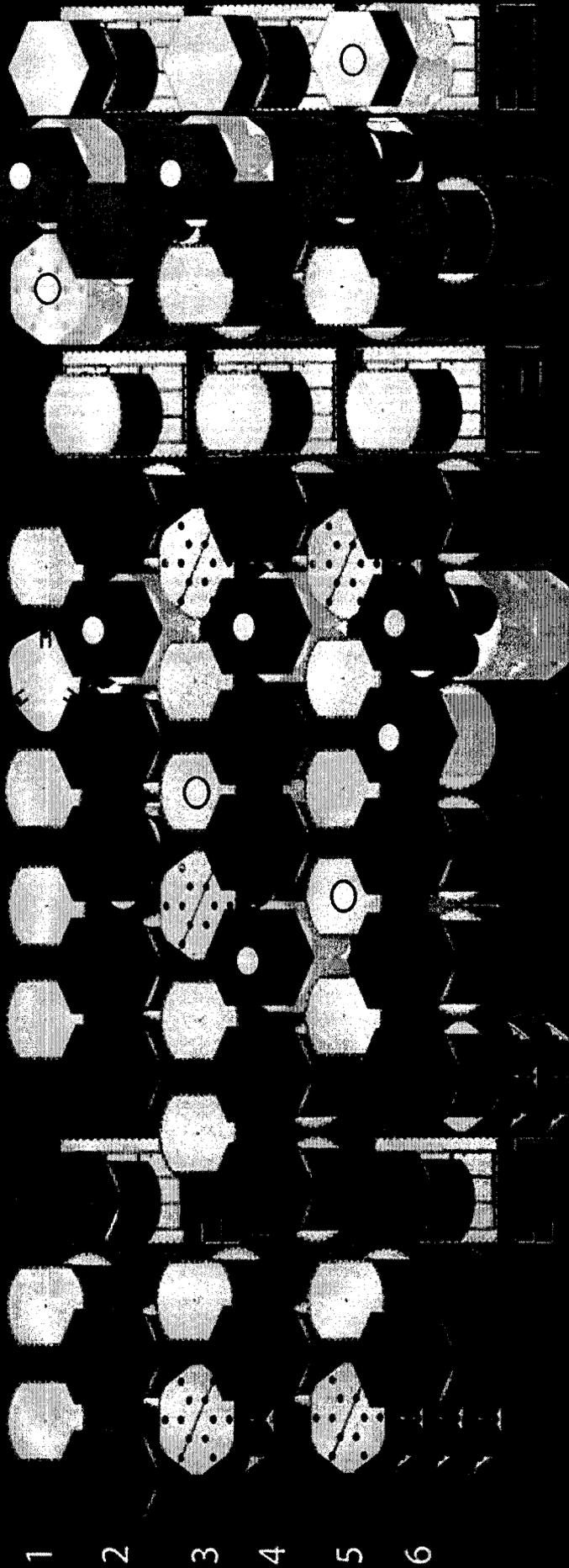
NMED has four Administrative Orders currently in effect. These orders require DOE to suspend operations until normal operating status is resumed. Provide weekly updates to NMED. Provide an Underground Compliance Plan to address underground requirements in the RCRA permit. Provide an isolation plan for nitrate salt bearing waste at WIPP, LANL, and WCS. Provide a plan to promptly close Panel 6 and Room 7 of Panel 7.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

DOE and the City of Carlsbad continue to hold a Town Hall meeting twice a month. Representatives from the Senators Offices and Congressman Pierce also receive updates and attend the Town Halls. DOE and NMED have done superlative work in keeping information and updates on their websites.

WIPP Panel 7, Room 7

LANL Review of May 10 Entry



Legend

-  MGO Bag appears undamaged
-  MGO Bag appears damaged
-  Location of LANL MINO2 Nitrate Salt Containers
-  Waste stack with LANL MINO2 Nitrate Salt Containers

5/14/2014