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WIPP UPDATE: July 1, 2014

WIPP recovery moves into Phase Two activities

With the filter replacements complete, WIPP is transitioning into Phase Two of recovery activities. Once employees perform initial underground safety checks, they will begin conducting additional radiological surveys, restoring mine habitability, removing soot from the Feb. 5 truck fire, and performing ground control and monitoring.

The first entries involve evaluating underground equipment and verifying specific areas are contamination-free and that the passageways are safe following filter replacement activities. Then, workers will restore these areas to conditions that support employees working in the underground facility. Simultaneously, another team is exploring designs and options for ongoing investigations in Panel 7, Room 7. Controlled entries will continue into Room 7 to determine the cause of the radiological event and if any additional waste containers were affected.

Crews are also continuing work to clean the waste hoist and return it to service. Employees are removing soot resulting from the Feb. 5 underground truck fire from the hoist's surfaces and electrical components to ensure safe and reliable operation.

Community meetings scheduled

July 10 – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its regular Town Hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.

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Next WIPP Update scheduled for July 8

Due to the Independence Day holiday, there will not be a July 4, 2014 WIPP Update. The next WIPP Update is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2014.