



**Allen, Pam, NMENV**

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**From:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 8:56 AM  
**To:** Allen, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** FW: Summary of the October 14, 2014 conference call  
**Attachments:** WIPP\_Nitrate\_Salt\_Bearing\_Waste\_Container\_Isolation\_Plan\_Implementation\_Summary\_f  
or\_10\_14\_14\_Rev\_2.pdf

Email and att.

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**From:** Chavez, Rick - RES [<mailto:Rick.Chavez@wipp.ws>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 12:16 PM  
**To:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV; Flynn, Ryan, NMENV; Kendall, Jeff, NMENV; Blaine, Tom, NMENV; Kieling, John, NMENV; Pullen, Steve, NMENV; Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV; Hall, Timothy, NMENV; Briley, Siona, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV; Smith, Coleman, NMENV; Hower, Jennifer, NMENV; Lauer, Gregory, NMENV; Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV; LucasKamat, Susan, NMENV; Franco, Jose - FedNet; Bryson, Dana - CBFO External Contact; Hellstrom, George - FedNet; McQuinn, Bob - NWP; Blankenhorn, Jim - NWP; Reynolds, Tammy - NWP; Cook, Dennis - NWP; Stone, Anthony - FedNet; Basabilvazo, George - DOE; McCauslin, Susan - DOE  
**Subject:** Summary of the October 14, 2014 conference call

Attached is the summary of the October 14, 2014 conference call on the implementation status of the WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan. The following WIPP personnel participated on the call:

- George, Basabilvazo, CBFO
- Anthony Stone, CBFO
- Rick Chavez, NWP
- Charlotte Sisk, NWP
- Dave Sjomeling, NWP
- Bob Kehrman, NWP

Please contact George Basabilvazo if you have questions at 575-234-7488.



# **WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update**

**October 14, 2014**

## **Panel 6 Initial Closure**

### **Access to Panel 6**

#### **a. Rollback**

- Contamination Assessment—Ongoing radiological rollback activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via (E-140, W-30 and W-170). Radiological rollback efforts will continue to be focused towards drifts S-2750 and S-3080, which provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities. More than 50 percent of the mine has been characterized and declared a Radiological Buffer Area or a Controlled Area, requiring no radiological personal protective equipment for entry. The S-1000 lunchroom and the underground maintenance shops are now accessible, allowing for improved personnel habitability and availability of tools for underground equipment.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—Not started.
- Underground Entries—Consistent with the WIPP Recovery Plan, the focus of underground entries is on radiological rollback, geotechnical evaluation, habitability surveys, clean up, electrical and mechanical evaluation of systems, and equipment and repair (if needed) to support bolting and installation of the initial closures in Panel 6. Some equipment maintenance was performed during recent underground entries. Underground entries were delayed early last week due to a malfunction in a local processing unit in the underground that sends ventilation configuration information to the central monitoring room. An uninterrupted power supply (UPS) battery failure was determined to be the cause of the loss of indication. The UPS was replaced and the indication restored. Entries this week are underway.

#### **b. Ground Control Status**

- Shaft/Hoist—Salt and Air Intake shafts and hoists are available to support access to the underground. Preventative maintenance and preoperational checks continue in support of placing the Waste Hoist back in service. The Waste Hoist Shaft inspection has been initiated. The inspection is progressing slowly because some scaling has been required as part of the inspection process. An independent inspection of the Waste Hoist head ropes was performed and determined to be successful.

- Bolting—Efforts are continuing on performing preventative maintenance and cleaning equipment (e.g., forklift and a lube truck) needed to support bolting activities. Maintenance work on the forklift has been completed and the forklift returned to service. This is the first liquid fueled vehicle to be recovered since the February events. Preventive maintenance on the lube truck is in progress. This equipment is required for bolting operations.

#### **c. Habitability**

- Mine Phones—Initial inspections have been performed for the area between the Air Intake Shaft and Salt Shaft Station. Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine phones and public address system locations in this limited area. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phones and public address system locations. As radiological rollback continues towards Panel 6, mine phones in the Panel 6 area will be checked and, if necessary, will be repaired and have batteries replaced. Self-contained self rescuer caches will be restocked, if needed, in the drifts (e.g., W-30, S-2750) to Panel 6. Habitability activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via drifts (E-140, W-30 and W-170) and will continue towards drifts (S-2750 and S-3080) that provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Other Activities—None to report for this reporting period.

#### **d. Drills, Training, Mockups**

- An underground evacuation drill was performed in September. The results met Mine Safety and Health Administration requirements for timely evacuation using the Salt Hoist.

### **Equipment/Ventilation/Materials**

#### **a. Electrical**

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment and clean, if necessary. Electrical equipment operability checks have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via drifts E-140, W-30 and W-170. As radiological rollback progresses, the electrical operability checks will continue to drifts S-2750 and S-3080, which provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities. Some of the electrical evaluations will support installation of radiological monitoring equipment.

## **b. Ventilation**

- Air Flow—The underground ventilation system is currently operating in filtration mode using one 860 fan that supplies a nominal flow rate of 60,000 standard cubic feet per minute to the underground.
- Roof Bolting—The number of pieces of diesel equipment that can be operated for roof bolting will be limited by the available ventilation in the work area and the minimum ventilation flow rate assigned to each piece of equipment based on Mine Safety and Health Administration air quality requirements. Roof bolting will be initiated in the E-140 drift and then will progress (south) towards the entrance areas of Panel 6.

## **c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground**

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and are located in the underground.

## **Document Preparation**

### **a. Work Planning**

- Work planning documents are being re-evaluated for new or changed hazards. The mitigations to these hazards and applicable compensatory measures will be included in revisions to the work planning documents for Panel 6 initial closure activities.

### **b. Safety Basis Documents**

- Safety basis documents that support safety basis authorizations for Panel 6 initial closure activities are undergoing review.

## **Summary - Information Requests/Status**

None to date.