According to Randy Taylor at the BLM Carlsbad Field Office, the release of approximately 420 gallons of mixed liquid natural gas happened sometime between February 24, 2015 and March 4, 2015 - the release was discovered by WIPP contractor Nuclear Waste Partners on March 4th. Taylor handles "right of way" matters for the Carlsbad Field Office of the BLM.

Taylor said he had some difficulty reaching Houston based Enterprise Field Services, LLC - the registered owner of the right of way for the pipeline. If I understood Taylor correctly, it was not until Friday, March 20th that Taylor and an inspector from "Enterprise Products" inspected the area where the mixed liquid natural gas was released.

According to Carlsbad Field Office, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist Terry Gregston, BLM plans to correct the record regarding the liquid gas release.

Please let me know if you have additional information - or if you find any errors in this update.

Thanks,
Myla Reson

----- Forwarded Message ----- 
From: WIPP Emergency Communications <WIPP.Emergency.Communications@wipp.ws> 
To: 
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 5:45 PM 
Subject: WIPP Emergency Operations Center Deactivated
WIPP Emergency Operations Center Deactivated

CARLSBAD, N.M., 3/20/2015 5:40 PM (MST) – The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been deactivated after it was determined that an event located within the 16-square mile WIPP Land Withdrawal Area (LWA) had no impact on WIPP operations.

At about 1:45 p.m. (MST) today, the WIPP EOC was activated as a precautionary measure after a natural gas pipeline over-pressurized and vented about 420 gallons of mixed liquid natural gas.

The event occurred approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the WIPP site, within the LWA boundary. The product misted over approximately six acres. The owner of the pipeline and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) responded to the area immediately and began evaluating the situation for safety and environmental impacts.

BLM and the pipeline owner will oversee the clean-up of the mixed liquid natural gas release, which will be completed by a contracted service company.

There were no life safety implications and no protective actions for the WIPP site.

-30-

EOC Deactivation News Release

Myla Reson

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
"A common denominator, in every single nuclear accident -- a nuclear plant or on a nuclear submarine -- is that before the specialists even know what has happened, they rush to the media saying, "There's no danger to the public." They do this before they themselves know what has happened because they are terrified that the public might react violently, either by panic or by revolt." ~ Jacques Cousteau, 1989