



U.S. Department of Energy
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WIPP UPDATE: May 14, 2015

Initial closure of Panel 6 complete with work in Panel 7, Room 7 in process



A steel bulkhead seals the entrance to Panel 7, Room 7

Workers at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) completed the initial closure of Panel 6, safely and successfully isolating about 85 percent of the nitrate salt bearing waste containers associated with the breached drum from the Los Alamos National Laboratory that are in the WIPP underground facility.

Workers completed installation of the substantial barrier (chain link, brattice cloth and mined salt) and steel bulkheads on both the intake and exhaust sides of Panel 6. As an added precaution, continuous air monitors were added in front of the newly installed bulkheads.

Initial closure of Panel 7, Room 7 is ongoing and expected to be completed in June. On May 13, workers installed a steel bulkhead on the air intake side of Panel 7, Room 7 – thereby completing the first of two steps required for initial closure activities in that area. To complete isolation of that area, workers will next install a steel bulkhead to close the air exhaust side of Room 7.

Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled June 4

The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host a Town Hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meeting can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>.

