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WIPP UPDATE: August 6, 2015

WIPP Hosts Fire Protection and Emergency Response Workshop

Fire protection experts from the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), and Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) met this week in Carlsbad to identify and discuss applicable fire safety and emergency response requirements that must be addressed in order to resolve a number of the judgments of need (JONs) associated with the Accident Investigation Board (AIB) report on the underground salt haul truck fire. The workshop was designed to bring all parties together as one team to review, confirm, and align expectations regarding the appropriate requirements, needed exemptions, potential equivalencies, and emergency response capabilities required to successfully achieve safe and compliant fire protection operations.

"We've had success using the workshop format to bring subject matter experts together from across the complex to help resolve safety issues and to develop corrective action plans for other AIB findings," said James Hutton, DOE-EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security and Quality Programs. "By the end of the week, we expect to have developed a consensus among the attendees on a response policy and preferred approach to fighting fires in the underground. These recommendations will help define the path forward to finalizing corrective actions necessary to ensure the safety of workers in the underground."



Representatives from DOE Headquarters, CBFO, NWP, MSHA and DNFSB meet in Carlsbad for a fire protection and emergency response workshop.

Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled August 6

The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its Town Hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meeting can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rvv/>.

