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WIPP UPDATE: October 22, 2015

WIPP Interim Ventilation System Continues to Progress



A filter unit is placed on a concrete pad awaiting installation of ducting.

Work on the Interim Ventilation System (IVS) being installed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) continues to move forward. Concrete pads were poured and both the power distribution center and the two-fan/filter units have now been installed in their final positions. The IVS units consist of fans that draw air out of the underground and High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter units that filter the air before it exhausts to the environment. All air exiting the WIPP underground facility currently passes through HEPA filters, prior to being released. In the event that work being performed in the underground would cause radioactive to become airborne, these filters are designed to capture the particles, preventing release to the environment. The ductwork necessary to connect the IVS to the existing ventilation system is on site, but has not

been installed. Once connected, the IVS will be used in conjunction with the existing HEPA filters and fans, significantly increasing the overall amount of airflow in the underground, increasing the number of diesel fueled pieces of equipment that can be used and increasing the amount of work that can be performed.



The IVS power unit sits on a concrete pad.

2015 Safety Fest Conference

The third annual Safety Fest conference was held in Carlsbad, NM on October 13-15. The three-day event, hosted by the Southeastern New Mexico Roadway Safety Integrated Project, focused on driver and workplace safety for Southeast New Mexico industries and businesses. On the first day of the conference, expert speakers discussed how accidents caused by safety shortcuts and complacency impact employers, employees and their families. On the final two days of the event, safety-related classes were offered to area businesses and the public at no cost. Classes included Occupational Safety and Health Administration training, defensive driving, recordkeeping,

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SkyWarn Spotter Training and CPR/first aid.

The Southeastern New Mexico Roadway Safety Project was initiated in 2013 by the DOE Carlsbad Field Office and Nuclear Waste Partnership to address rising vehicle accidents in Southeast New Mexico. The group includes representatives from the oil & gas, potash mining and nuclear industries, as well as area businesses, law enforcement and state, local and federal governments.

Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled October 29

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, October 29 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/rrv/>.