

Allen, Pam, NMENV

From: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:30 AM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Subject: FW: Deputy Secretary of Energy Sherwood-Randall Visits DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to Survey Recovery Progress, Meets with Stakeholders and Employees

From: DOE EM [mailto:doeem@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:28 PM
To: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Subject: Deputy Secretary of Energy Sherwood-Randall Visits DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to Survey Recovery Progress, Meets with Stakeholders and Employees



Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall speaks to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant workforce and employees of the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP)

Breidenbach, second from right, and CBFO Manager Todd Shrader listen.

Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall Visits Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to Survey Recovery Progress, Support Stakeholders and Employees

CARLSBAD, N.M. – Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Deputy Secretary of Energy, visited DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) on Tuesday for a firsthand look at the progress in the recovery of operations at the site and meet with employees and community leaders.

The day began with an early breakfast with Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, other elected officials, and community leaders at the Mayor’s Nuclear Task Force. Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall expressed her appreciation for their support of the WIPP mission and underscored DOE’s enduring commitment to working with the community.

“The Carlsbad community has a long and valued partnership with the Department of Energy,” said Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall. “The support for the vital mission at WIPP has been unwavering and Secretary Moniz and I both value your continued dedication.”

Following a tour of the WIPP surface facilities and underground, Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall spoke with the WIPP workforce and employees of the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and of the Nuclear Waste Partnership (the management and operations contractor at WIPP).

Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall highlighted the progress achieved in the recovery efforts by the more than 1,000 dedicated federal and contractor employees. In the “all-hands” meeting with WIPP workers, Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall was introduced by CBFO Manager Todd Shrader, whom she described as a proven leader with extensive Department headquarters and field experience. She also emphasized worker safety as one of the highest priorities for the Department.

“We must sustain our focus on quality and safety, for now and forever,” explained the Deputy Secretary. “I ask you to continue to be vigilant and to know that we are committed to ensuring your concerns and recommendations for improvement reach the right people and that effective action is taken. Safety is a shared responsibility for all of us.”

WIPP has been closed since February 2014. Since then, DOE has made significant progress in the WIPP recovery, including initial closure of portions of the repository known as Panel 6 and Panel 7, Room 7; mine stability and underground habitability, including the restoration of electrical distribution; and highly successful radiological risk reduction. Radiological control personnel have performed thousands of surveys, and more than half of the underground has been released as a controlled area so that no personal protective equipment is required in that area.



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