



U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Media Contact:

Bill Taylor
WIPP Recovery Communications
(575) 234-7591
www.wipp.energy.gov

 Follow @WIPPNEWS

WIPP UPDATE: November 24, 2015

Addition of Safe Havens Increases WIPP Underground Safety

The WIPP site has made significant safety improvements. Recently, eight underground safe havens (or refuge chambers) were delivered to the site and will be downloaded into the WIPP underground prior to the restart of waste disposal operations.

The safe havens are about 28 feet long, 8 feet wide and 7.25 feet high and weigh approximately 19,000 pounds. Each unit is equipped to house 20 people for at least 36 hours in the event of an emergency where workers may not be able to safely evacuate the mine.

The safe havens contain life-saving and habitability elements, such as a heating, ventilation and cooling system; an on-board oxygen delivery system; food; water; a chemical toilet; gas monitoring capabilities; lighting; seating; and other features.

These units are being installed at WIPP as part of the overarching safety and emergency program enhancements associated with WIPP recovery efforts.



Safe havens provide life-saving shelter for underground workers in the event of an emergency.

Interim Ventilation System Ductwork Installation Begins

Work continues to progress on the [Interim Ventilation System \(IVS\)](#), as crews began installing the ductwork that will tie the new system into the exhaust air ventilation circuit. More than half of the ductwork supports have already been installed around the IVS, with the remaining supports in process. Electrical transformers supporting the IVS have also been placed as part of the overall IVS.

-More-



Once completed, the system will significantly increase the overall amount of airflow in the underground. This increase will allow more of WIPP's diesel-fueled equipment to operate underground, thereby helping crews to complete restoration activities.

Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled January 7

The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host a Town Hall meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 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/>.