Steve H had a question about the Permanent Ventilation System. The short answer is that Approval of Critical Decision-1 has not occurred and no formal decision has been provided on the alternatives.

BACKGROUND

The need for the Permanent Underground Ventilation System was included in the WIPP Recovery Plan, Revision 0, dated September 30, 2014 in Section 3.2.4 Ventilation, page 20 second paragraph. The decision approach is following the DOE Critical Decision (CD) process (see illustration below from DOE Order 413.3). Approval of CD-0 established a project for defining the concepts and alternatives for achieving the mission need of a new Permanent Ventilation System. The Permanent Ventilation System project is in between CD-0 and CD-1. At the CD-1 point an alternative is selected and authorization is given to begin the Project Execution Phase. Approval of CD-1 has not occurred and no formal decision has been provided on the alternatives. CD-2 is Approve Performance Baseline, CD-3 is Approve Start of Construction and CD-4 is Approve Start of Operations and these phases are not annual and can vary in length of acquiring authorization for each phase (i.e., CD-2, CD-3, CD-4).