



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

**Media Contact:**

Tim Runyon  
WIPP Recovery Communications  
(575) 234-7545

[www.wipp.energy.gov](http://www.wipp.energy.gov)

 @WIPPNews

## WIPP UPDATE: March 3, 2016

### Interim Ventilation System Tie-in Completed

Early this week sub-contractors at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) completed the “tie in” of the new interim ventilation system (IVS) to the ductwork for the existing underground ventilation system. Following a series of operational tests, the IVS is expected to increase airflow in the WIPP underground by approximately 54,000 cubic feet per minute.



The tie-in operation consisted of removal of sections of the existing ductwork from both the 860 and 700 series fans and replacing those sections to allow the IVS to draw air from the underground exhaust shaft through banks of high efficiency particulate air filters that are part of the IVS system. Although the work was performed under radiological controls, site health physicists reported that no fixed or removable contamination was detected on the sections of ductwork that were removed.



Leak testing of the system began on Wednesday, March 2nd and all remaining electrical and mechanical field work is expected to be completed by the end of the week. The next step in the process is to perform contractor readiness activities for the unit. The IVS is expected to be turned over to operations in April.



**Next WIPP Town Hall Meeting Scheduled April 7**

The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its quarterly Town Hall meeting, featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities, on 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 7 at the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the meeting can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rvy/>.