MEMORANDUM

TO: File WIPP '19
FROM: Ricardo Maestas, Staff Manager, HWB WIPP Group
SUBJECT: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) UPDATES on December 13th and 19th, 2019
Waste Hoist - Maintenance Outage – Shipping Schedule
DATE: December 19, 2019

WIPP UPDATE: December 19, 2019

WIPP folks provided an update on the subject. On the phone call were the following folks:
- Mike Brown-DOE
- Andy Walker-DOE
- Rick Chavez-NWP

Waste Hoist:
The new waste hoist tail rope has been installed and tested and was declared operational yesterday, 12-18-2019. Waste emplacement activities resumed on the back shift (last night.)

Shipping schedule:
Due to the holidays and to allow for containers currently above-ground at WIPP to be downloaded first, shipments will not resume until the week of Jan 5. Shipments will continue through the week of Feb 9. Shipments will be halted at this point in anticipation of the annual maintenance outage, this year planned for Feb 15 – Mar 15. This will allow all containers to be downloaded prior to the outage.

LANL Shipments:
-The WIPP project is aiming to give a higher priority to LANL shipments (as long as LANL can support the pace) before the maintenance outage. No word yet on LANL as a priority after the outage.
-The plan is to accept two shipments from LANL during the first week of shipping resumption (Jan 5), followed by three shipments a week from LANL over the ensuing four weeks.
-Two shipments from LANL will then be accepted during the final week of shipping before the halt for the maintenance outage. This shipment schedule is also listed in the attached the 8-Week Rolling Schedule.
WIPP UPDATE: December 13, 2019

Waste Hoist:
-The Waste Hoist was taken out of service on December 2.
-This action also halted waste emplacement activities.
-WIPP notified the generator sites of suspension of shipments on December 3.
-Waste Hoist tail rope #3 will be replaced from December 16-20.
-WIPP has reviewed to ensure that no waste currently in the surface Waste Handling Building will exceed storage timelines.

-The Waste Hoist should be back in service on December 21.
-Waste emplacement activities will resume.
-Limited shipments will resume (limited because of the holidays).

Waste Hoist tail rope #3 was scheduled to be replaced during the winter outage but MSHA asked that it be done sooner. WIPP explained that under the MSHA regulations, hoist ropes need to have 7x the strength of their intended purpose. The WIPP Waste Hoist has a 15x strength, double the required strength. The #2 tail rope was replaced in September 2018. The Waste Hoist has 3 tail ropes and 6 lead ropes.

Maintenance Outage:
-The “winter maintenance outage” will take place from February 14-March 14.
-In the past this outage has been taken during January, but it was decided that the new time frame is historically the time when winter weather usually causes delays in the shipment schedule.

-The goal is to emplace all of the waste in the surface Waste Handling Building into the underground before the winter outage.

NMED has asked to be kept updated on the maintenance outage schedule and planned activities as NMED usually conducts the annual inspection of WIPP during the winter/spring timeframe.

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