

From: [Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV](#)
To: [Masse, Beau, NMENV](#); [Gellis, Amber, NMENV](#)
Cc: [Biswell, David, NMENV](#); [McLean, Megan, NMENV](#); [Barka, Natalie, NMENV](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: WIPP 700-C Fan Balancing and Operations
Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:09:53 PM

FYI.

From: Reinhard Knerr <Reinhard.Knerr@cbfo.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Kenney, James, NMENV <James.Kenney@state.nm.us>
Cc: Phillip Guerrero <Phillip.Guerrero@cbfo.doe.gov>; Roose, Rebecca, NMENV <Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us>; Catechis, Chris, NMENV <Chris.Catechis@state.nm.us>; Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: WIPP 700-C Fan Balancing and Operations

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Secretary Kenney,

The final balancing of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) 700-C ventilation fan system has concluded. Based upon preliminary data, the test went according to plan. WIPP and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP) will now analyze the collected data and will post the results to the [700-C webpage](#) once the analysis is complete. WIPP operations personnel will determine if there are any final pre-start activities necessary prior to returning the fan system to full operations.

Reinhard Knerr
Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
US Department of Energy
575-689-7937

From: Reinhard Knerr
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Kenney, James, NMENV <James.Kenney@state.nm.us>
Cc: Phillip Guerrero <Phillip.Guerrero@cbfo.doe.gov>; 'Roose, Rebecca, NMENV' <Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us>; Catechis, Chris, NMENV <Chris.Catechis@state.nm.us>; Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV <Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us>
Subject: WIPP 700-C Fan Balancing and Operations

Secretary Kenney,

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is targeting the week of October 25, 2021 for the balancing of the 700-C ventilation fan system. This final step consists of a series of pre-operational activities to ensure the underground ventilation system is properly balanced before returning the 700-C fan back to full

operations.

The restart of the 700-C fan will provide additional airflow to the WIPP underground resulting in improved work conditions and added comfort for the underground workforce while better supporting DOE's operational capabilities. The 700-C fan has been thoroughly inspected and tested to ensure its operational safety.

Earlier this year, WIPP contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership conducted a short-duration test of the 700-C fan. The test demonstrated that the 700-C fan operated as expected and resulted in the anticipated release of trace levels of detectable radioactive materials (~5,000 times lower than the established Environmental Protection Agency radiological dose limit of 10 millirem/year). The subsequent dose from the 700-C fan test was orders of magnitude less than the dose one would receive from natural background radiation standing at Sandia Peak in Albuquerque, New Mexico for one hour (.008 mrem).

Should higher than expected radiation levels be detected during balancing or normal fan operations, operators have been thoroughly trained on how to shut down the fan within seconds of the detection; thereby preventing any unanticipated radiological releases from reaching the surface.

Routine air monitoring activities will be conducted by WIPP and the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, an independent organization managed by New Mexico State-Carlsbad. After the balancing activity is completed, data results will be posted to the [700-C web page](#).

For more information about the 700-C fan, please see the [factsheet linked here](#).

Reinhard Knerr
Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
US Department of Energy
575-689-7937