



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

WIPP Status Update

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Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs
Briefing to Hanford Advisory Board

Dec. 8, 2016

- **EM Organization**
- **Readying WIPP for Operations**
 - Readiness Reviews
 - Ground control
 - Waste handling challenges
 - Schedule challenges
- **Preparing Waste for Shipment**
- **Future Projects**
 - Additional surface storage
 - Permanent ventilation system

Readying WIPP for Operations

- Completing physical changes for WIPP to resume operations
 - Stabilizing portions of the repository (ground control)
 - Increasing ventilation – interim ventilation system in operation
- Ensuring procedures are updated and workers are trained and prepared for waste emplacement work
- Conducting readiness assessments

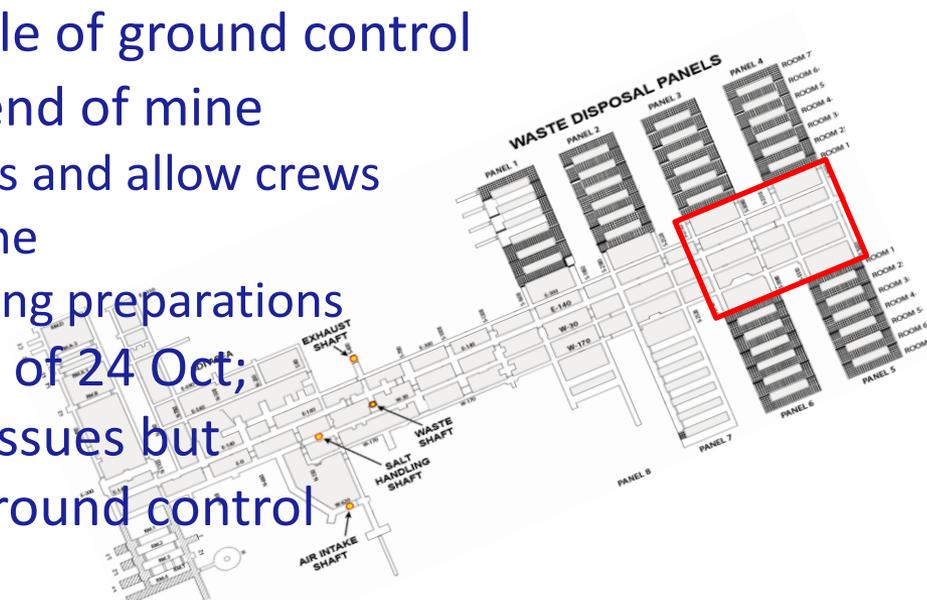


Operational Readiness Reviews

- Performance-based examination of facilities, equipment, personnel and procedures
 - Ensures safe operation of WIPP within approved safety envelope
- Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR) conducted from October 3-14; final report complete
 - Independent reviewers assessed NWP readiness to commence receipt and emplacement operations
 - Corrective actions developed, implemented and validated for all pre-start findings by early November
- DOE Operational Readiness Review (DORR) completed December 1
 - Out-brief provided for CBFO and NWP senior leadership on December 2
 - Final report expected by December 9
- NMED review/authorization also required prior to waste emplacement

Ground Control

- Consists of installing roof bolts and removing unstable ground through scaling and mining
- Catch-up bolting complete in clean areas; continues in restricted areas
 - Progresses at reduced rate due to personnel protective equipment required for crews in these areas
- Recent rock falls underscore role of ground control
- Decision made to close south end of mine
 - Addresses worker safety issues and allow crews to focus on active areas of mine
 - Closure will not affect reopening preparations
- MSHA team visited WIPP week of 24 Oct; identified no imminent safety issues but encouraged more aggressive ground control

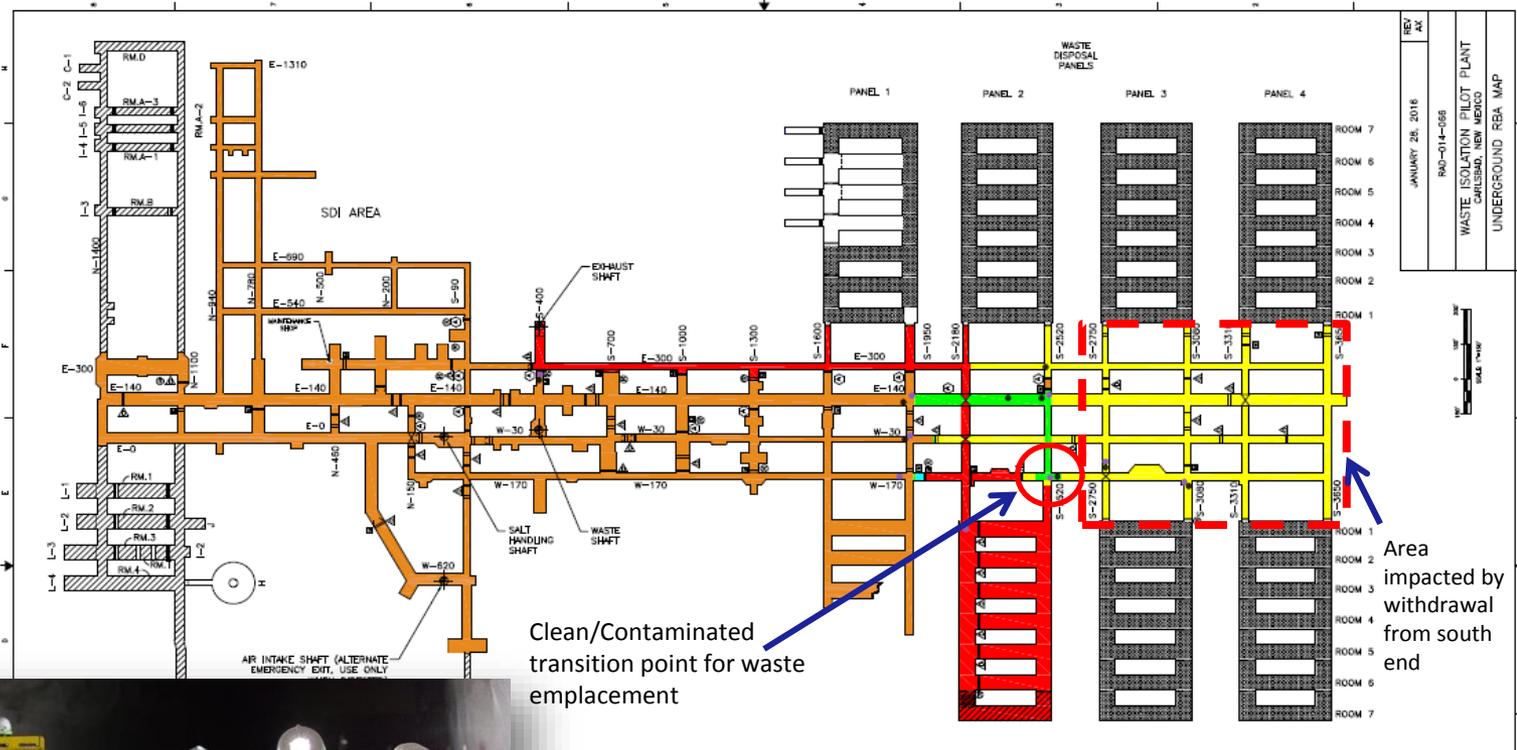


Waste Handling Challenges

- Waste emplacement in contaminated environment will take place in Panel 7
- Requires transition from clean to contaminated zones near opening of Panel 7
- Waste handling operators working in contaminated zone will utilize personal protective clothing and powered air purifying respirators
- “Cold Operations” with empty waste containers used to ensure procedures are effective and workers are trained



Radiological Control Areas

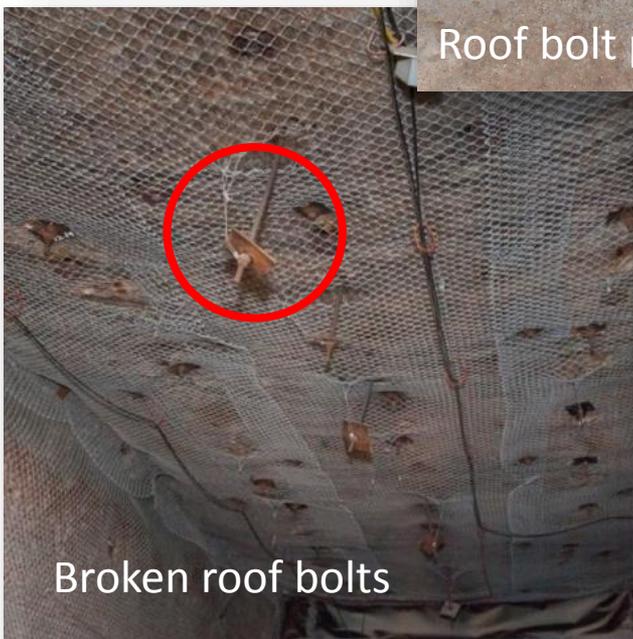


DATE: 01/28/15
R. GROVES

DEFINITIONS	LEGEND
RBA - < 20 dpm/100cm ² ALPHA REMOVABLE < 200 dpm/100cm ² BETA REMOVABLE	ORANGE LINE: CONTROLLED AREA
CA - > 20 dpm/100cm ² ALPHA REMOVABLE > 200 dpm/100cm ² BETA REMOVABLE	GREEN LINE: RBA
HCA - > 2,000 dpm/100cm ² ALPHA REMOVABLE > 20,000 dpm/100cm ² BETA REMOVABLE	YELLOW LINE: CONTAMINATION AREA
ARA - > 0.3 DAC	CYAN LINE: CONTAMINATION AREA/AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY AREA
PANEL 7 - 2,000-17,000 dpm/100cm ²	RED LINE: HIGH CONTAMINATION AREA/AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY AREA
PANEL 7, ROOM 7 - > 1 million dpm/cm ² ALPHA ON THE EXPOSED WASTE	PURPLE DOT: CAM
	BLACK DOT: PAS
	HATCHED BOX: INACCESSIBLE
	NOTES
	1. DRIFT WIDTHS NOT TO SCALE, ENLARGED 2X FOR CLARITY.
	2. EXISTING EXCAVATION REFLECTS STATUS AS OF 08/19/14.

Schedule Challenges

- CBFO and NWP working hard to resume waste emplacement
- Safety issues take precedence
- Ground control remains a priority



Preparing Waste for Shipment

- Clean-up activities and waste certification continued during shutdown
- TRU waste certification programs currently suspended at generator sites
 - Programs at each site must be updated to meet new requirements
 - CBFO conducting on-site technical reviews to confirm (one review conducted; three additional planned over next four months)
- All previously certified TRU waste will be evaluated to determine if additional documentation, characterization or treatment is required
 - Some waste already assessed; evaluations ongoing
 - Evaluation of previously certified waste in WIPP Waste Handling Building substantially complete
 - Hundreds of containers at Idaho and SRS verified and ready to ship



Future projects

- Surface storage
 - Engineered concrete overpacks provide storage capacity for 408 containers/136 shipments of CH-waste
 - Increases available weeks for TRU waste shipments
 - Allows continued waste receipt during mining and maintenance outages
 - Permit modification submitted to NMED at end of September
- Permanent ventilation system
 - New ventilation shaft to underground and 55,000 square foot ventilation building at surface
 - Geotechnical analysis underway
 - Provides airflow for underground mining and waste emplacement activities to occur concurrently
 - Design and cost estimates expected in 2018



Questions





Organization Chart
8/26/2016

