

WIPP Recovery Update



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Today's Topics

- Event summary
- Safety
- The recovery process
- Current status of the WIPP recovery effort
- Looking ahead
- Questions & answers



Two events at WIPP

- **February 5, 2014**
Underground fire in a salt hauler vehicle
- **February 14, 2014**
Radiological release occurred at WIPP



Safety

- No risk to the public
- Release was below EPA reporting requirements
- WIPP ventilation system worked as designed
- Thousands of air and environmental surveys taken since February 15 and majority are non detectible for contamination

The Recovery Process

Approved
Recovery Plan
expected by
June 30

- **Phase 1** – Identifying the source of the contamination
- **Phase 2** – Decontaminating the mine, replacing equipment/improving infrastructure and upgrading procedures/processes to ensure safe, compliant operations

Underground Re-entry

Teams have
completed almost
a dozen entries

All have been
planned
extensively and
completed safely



Source

Event scene
was Panel 7,
Room 7

The cause is
still being
investigated



What we know

- The mine is stable
- Magnesium oxide sacks were disturbed by event
- Heat damage is evident
- At least one container is no longer intact



What the Accident Investigation Board is investigating

- What caused the damage to the waste container?
- Was it the original source of the entire event?
- Are there other damaged containers?



Current activities

- Developing ways to examine Room 7 from Row 1- 24, top to bottom
- Analyzing samples

Waste stream
suspected of
causing heat-
generating reaction

No definitive cause
has been
determined



Filter change out

Replacing the filters
affected by smoke
and contamination

Underground
entries on hold
until complete



Looking ahead

- All issues raised by the Accident Investigation Board are being addressed.
- We will resume operations in a safe, compliant manner
- WIPP's national cleanup mission will continue following immediate program and infrastructure improvements.



Questions & Answers