



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

WIPP Recovery Status Update

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for
INL CAB Meeting
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Recap of the Incidents at WIPP

February 5, 2014 Truck Fire:

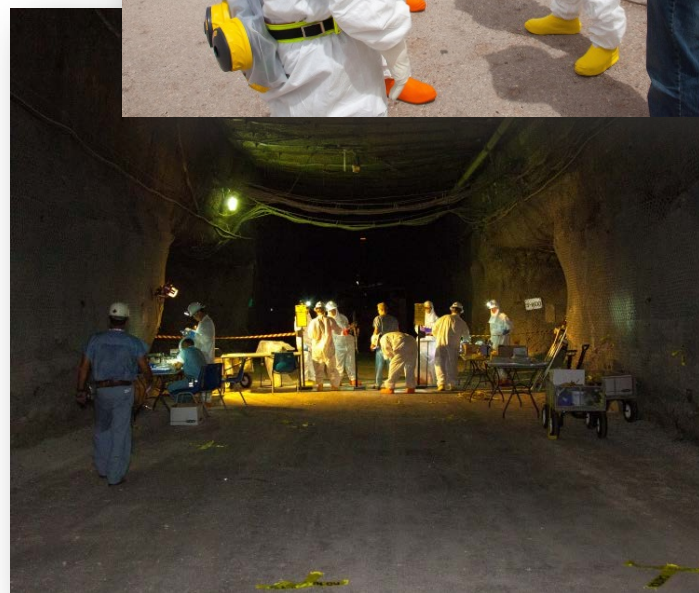
- All operations at the repository ceased following salt haul truck fire in the WIPP underground
- An investigation team deployed to determine the cause of the fire

February 14, 2014 Radiological Incident:

- A continuous air monitor detected airborne radiation in the underground
- WIPP's ventilation system automatically switched to high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration mode when airborne radiation was detected
- Underground and the WIPP mine remains in filtration mode at this time.
- Extensive sampling and monitoring conducted by DOE, New Mexico, and Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring Research Center Monitoring.
 - EPA and the NMED also performed sampling
- Efforts by the DOE and Nuclear Waste Partnership are ensuring workers are fully protected during recovery and restart

Key Recovery Steps

- Documented Safety Analysis Revisions
- Safety Management Program Revitalization
- Underground Restoration
 - Re-Establish Degraded Equipment
 - Fire Protection
 - Maintenance and Ground Control
 - Radiological Risk Mitigation
 - Soot cleaning of electrical panels
- Expedited mine stability
- Initial Panel 6 and Panel 7, Room 7 Closure
- Interim Ventilation
- Supplemental Ventilation Modifications



Area of Significant Progress

- Ground control – 85% of catch-up bolting completed
- Radiological risk reduction – water wash/floor cover – over 65% of U/G released as controlled area
- Electrical restoration – soot cleaning - 98% complete
- Zone recovery – 98% complete
- Initial panel closure for Panel 6 and Panel 7 Room – isolation of nitrate salt bearing waste - complete
- New DSA – supports enhanced Safety Management Programs – in progress



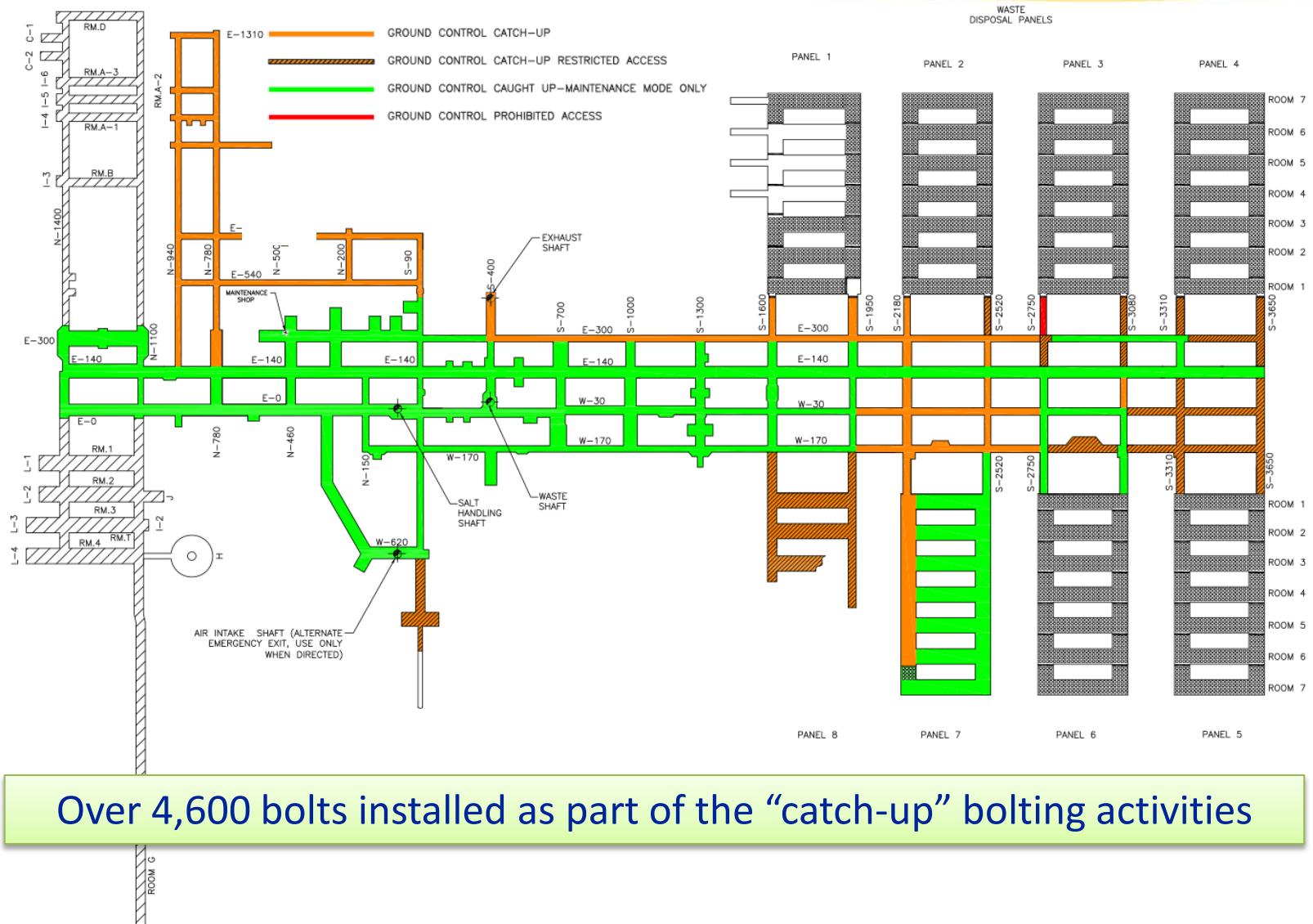


Area of Significant Progress

- Repairs on Interim Ventilation System (IVS) – complete
- Procurement and installation of Supplemental Ventilation System (SVS) – near completion
- Procurement of new equipment – including hybrid bolter
- New Integrated Performance Measurement Baseline – in progress



Ground Control



AIB Reports and Corrective Action Plans

- CBFO/NWP Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for judgments of need (JON) from Accident Investigation Board (AIB) reports on the haul truck fire and Phase I radiological event were approved in February of 2015 – now in implementation
- AIB Report for the Radiological Release Event, Phase II, issued April 2015. Phase II focused on determining the direct cause of the radiological release. CBFO and NWP Phase II CAPs were approved in early September – now in implementation

TRU Waste Generator Impacts

Prioritization of Shipments:

- It is premature at this stage of the recovery to predict and allocate the rate of TRU waste shipments to WIPP.
- Initial focus will be on emplacement of wastes generated during recovery activities and emplacement of wastes currently stored in the WIPP surface facilities (these wastes were received but not emplaced prior to the events).
- The timing for resumption of shipments from offsite currently is uncertain and will be based on a variety of factors.

TRU Waste Generator Impacts

- In determining the rate of shipments among sites, DOE will consider numerous technical and programmatic factors
 - WIPP transportation and waste acceptance capabilities
 - Generator site compliance commitments
 - Storage capacities
 - Other site specific technical or safety issues
- Construction of additional surface storage at WIPP is one option being considered.



Looking Ahead

- Develop new PMB based on current schedule/cost impacts – fall 2015
- Complete interim and supplemental ventilation – early 2016
- Complete Operational Readiness Reviews
- Resume waste emplacement



Questions & Answers

