



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

WIPP Update

Frank Marcinowski

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management
Office of Environmental Management

EMSSAB Chairs Meeting, April 23, 2014 – Pasco, WA

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



www.wipp.doe.gov

Two Incidents

February 5th Fire:

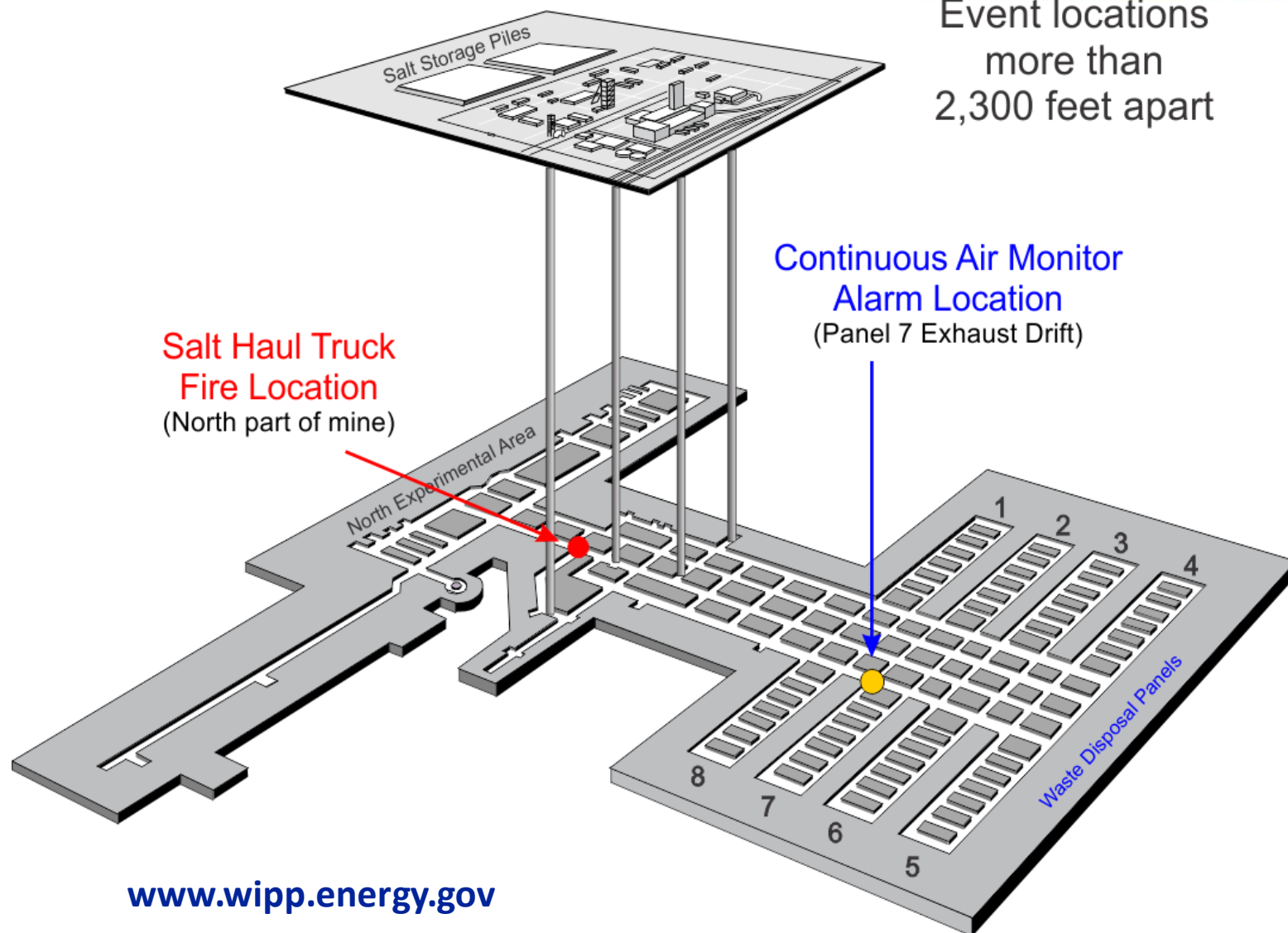
- All operations at the repository ceased following salt haul truck fire in the WIPP underground
- An investigation team was deployed to determine the cause of the fire
 - Report released March 13th

February 14th 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 air borne radiation was detected underground and the WIPP mine remains in filtration mode at this time
- Extensive sampling and monitoring continue by DOE, New Mexico, and Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring Research Center Monitoring
 - EPA and the NMED also sampling
- Efforts by the Department of Energy and Nuclear Waste Partnership are ensuring workers are fully protected during recovery and restart
- Weekly town hall meetings are planned to keep the community informed; to stay apprised go to: <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Layout

Event locations
more than
2,300 feet apart



www.wipp.energy.gov

Sampling Efforts

Extensive Sampling:

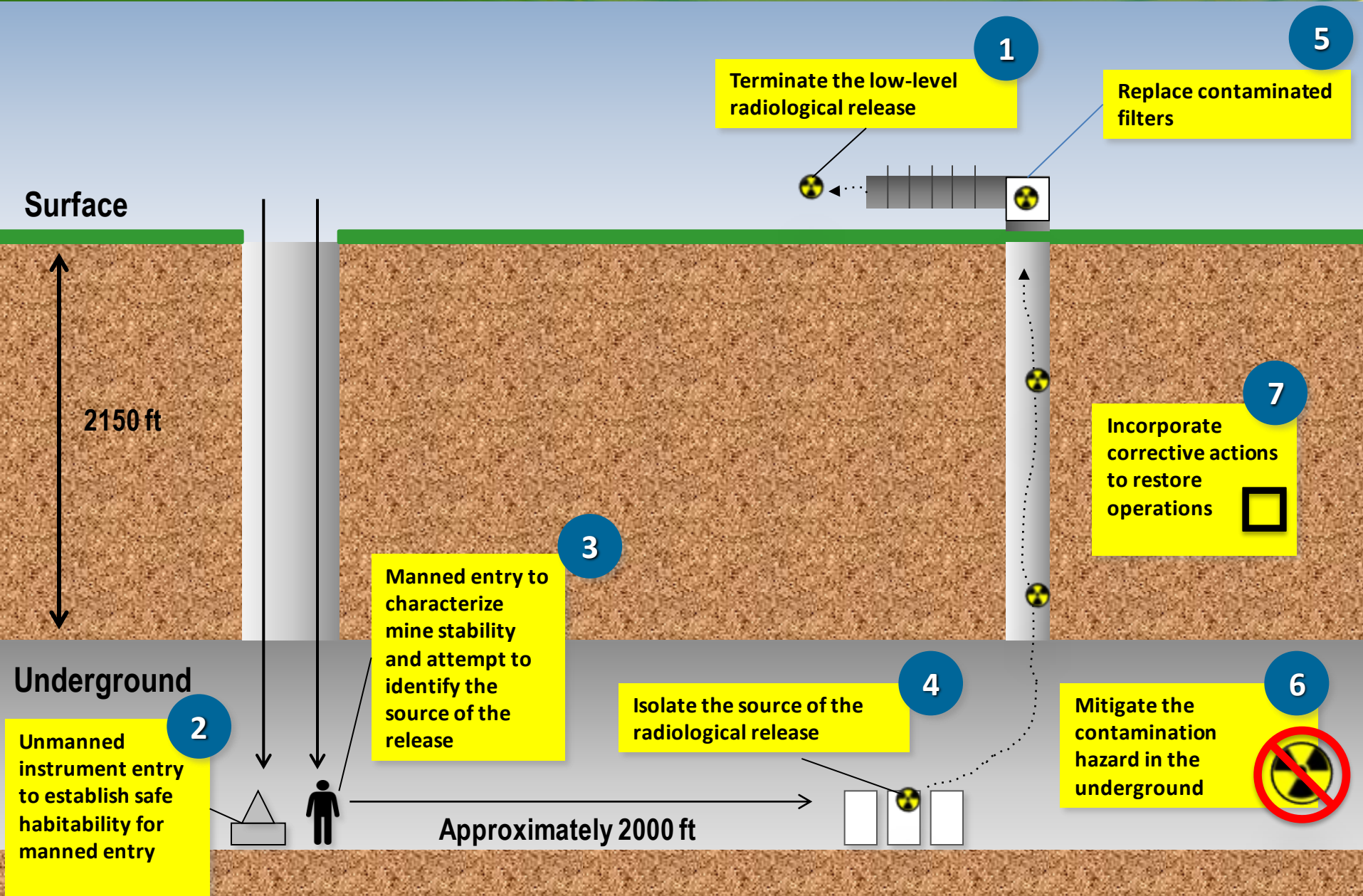
- Bioassay
- Air
- Soil
- Water
- Vegetation

Independent Surveying & Result Verification:

- Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center
- EPA
- NMED
- CDC



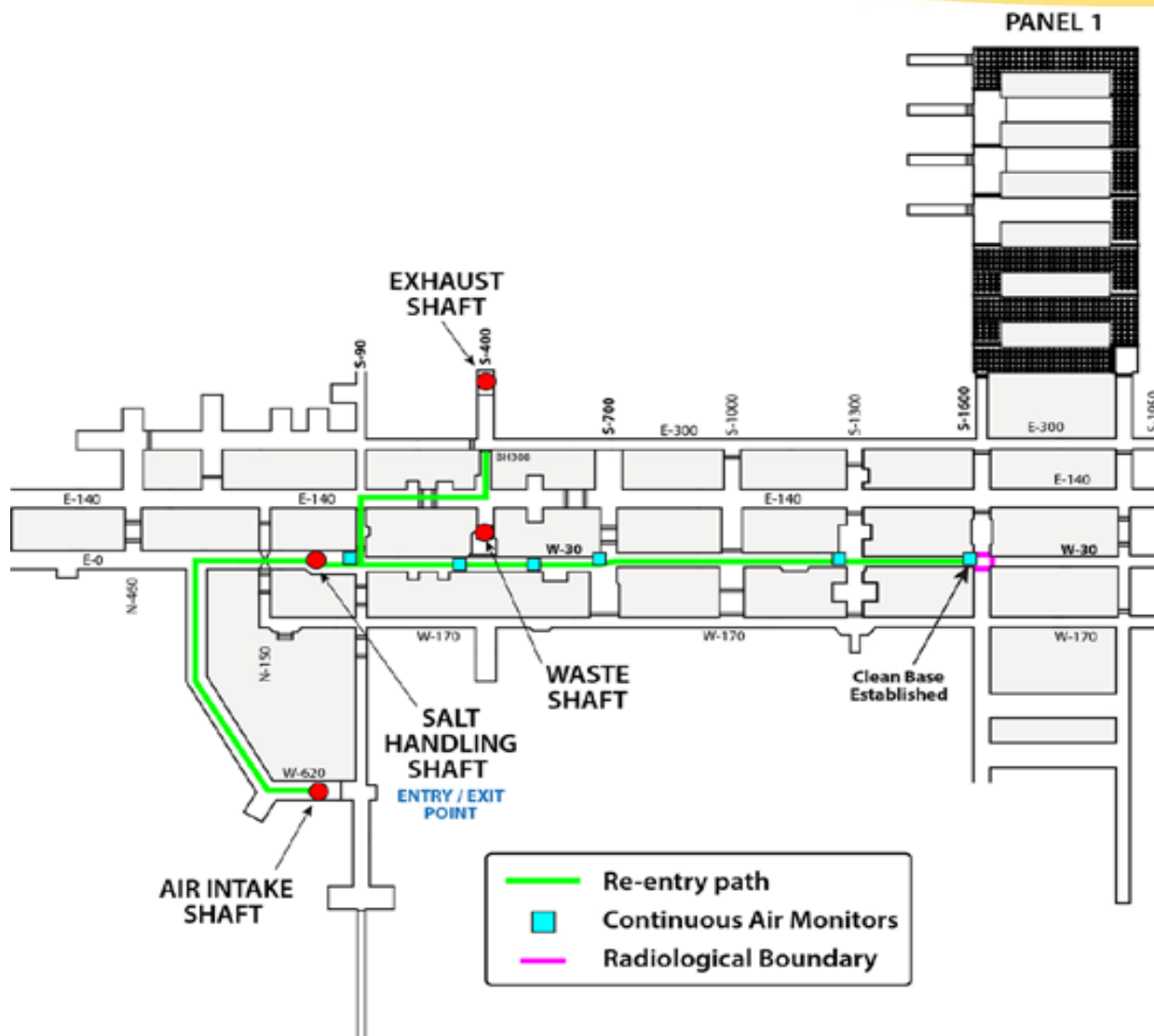
Key Recovery Plan Actions



Instrument Testing of Underground



Re-Entry Activities



WIPP Re-Entry

- Resources and expertise from across the complex are supporting the recovery efforts
- DOE will not know the source or what led to the radiological release until a re-entry team reaches the waste panels and determines the cause



Photo during April 2nd Re-Entry

LANL TRU Campaign Stays on Schedule

- WIPP M&O Contractor NWP in coordination with DOE signed a contract with WCS for the temporary staging of TRU waste at the permitted facility near Andrews, Texas
- Allows DOE the ability to meet the NM 3706 shipping campaign goal from LANL



- All waste will be shipped to and emplaced at WIPP once operations resume
- All shipments will be made in accordance with current WIPP shipping requirements

WCS Temporary Storage



Additional Background

Underground Repository

