



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

# Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Recovery Update

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# Recap of the Incidents at WIPP

## February 5th Truck 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 13<sup>th</sup>.



# Recap of the Incidents at WIPP

## 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 airborne radiation was detected
- 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.



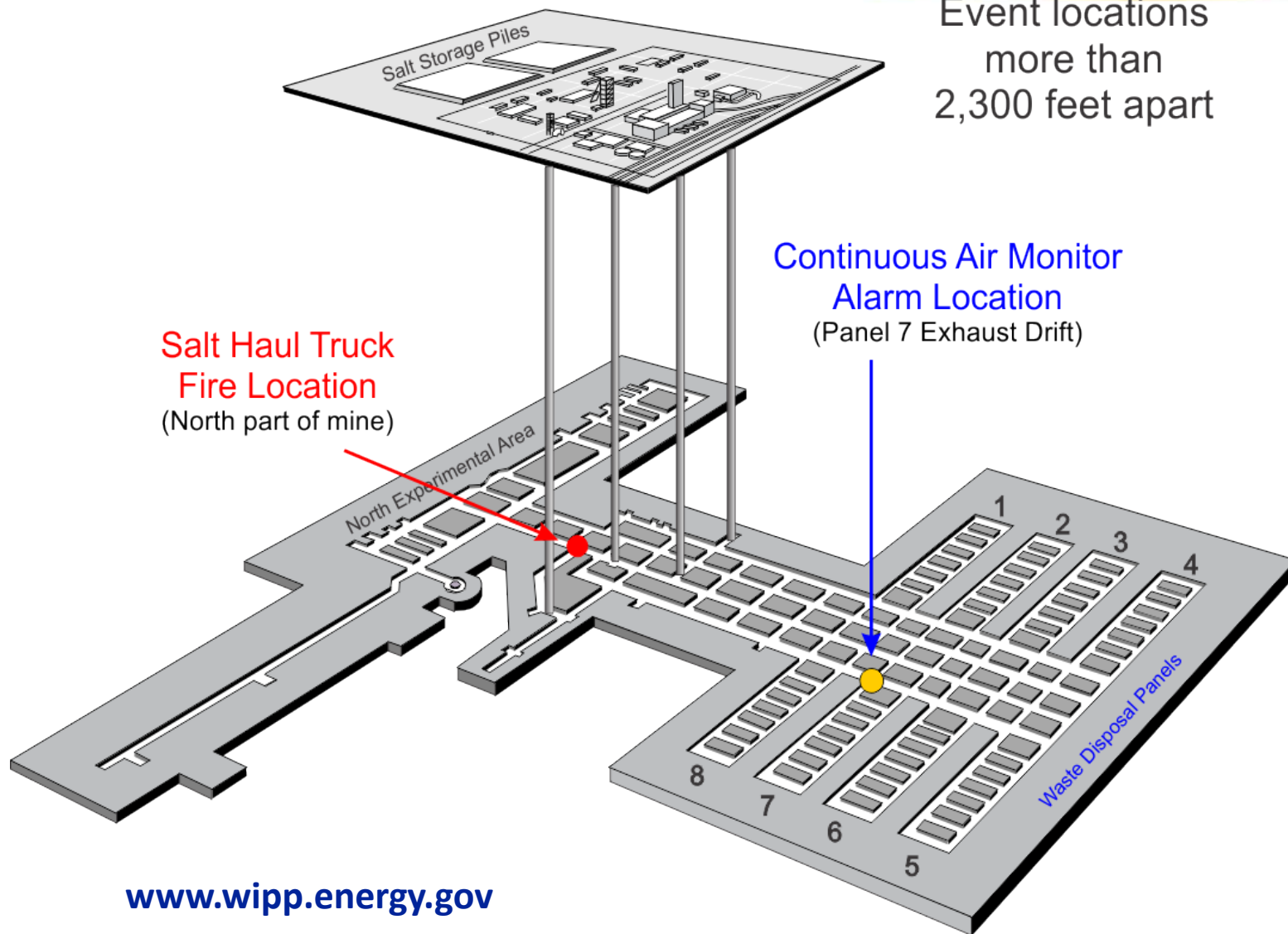
## Accident Investigation Board Report

- Phase I completed
- Phase II – in progress



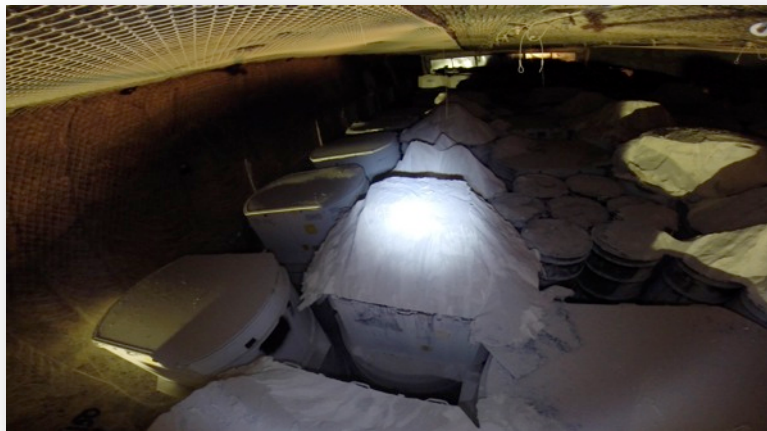
# Recap of the Incidents at WIPP

Event locations  
more than  
2,300 feet apart

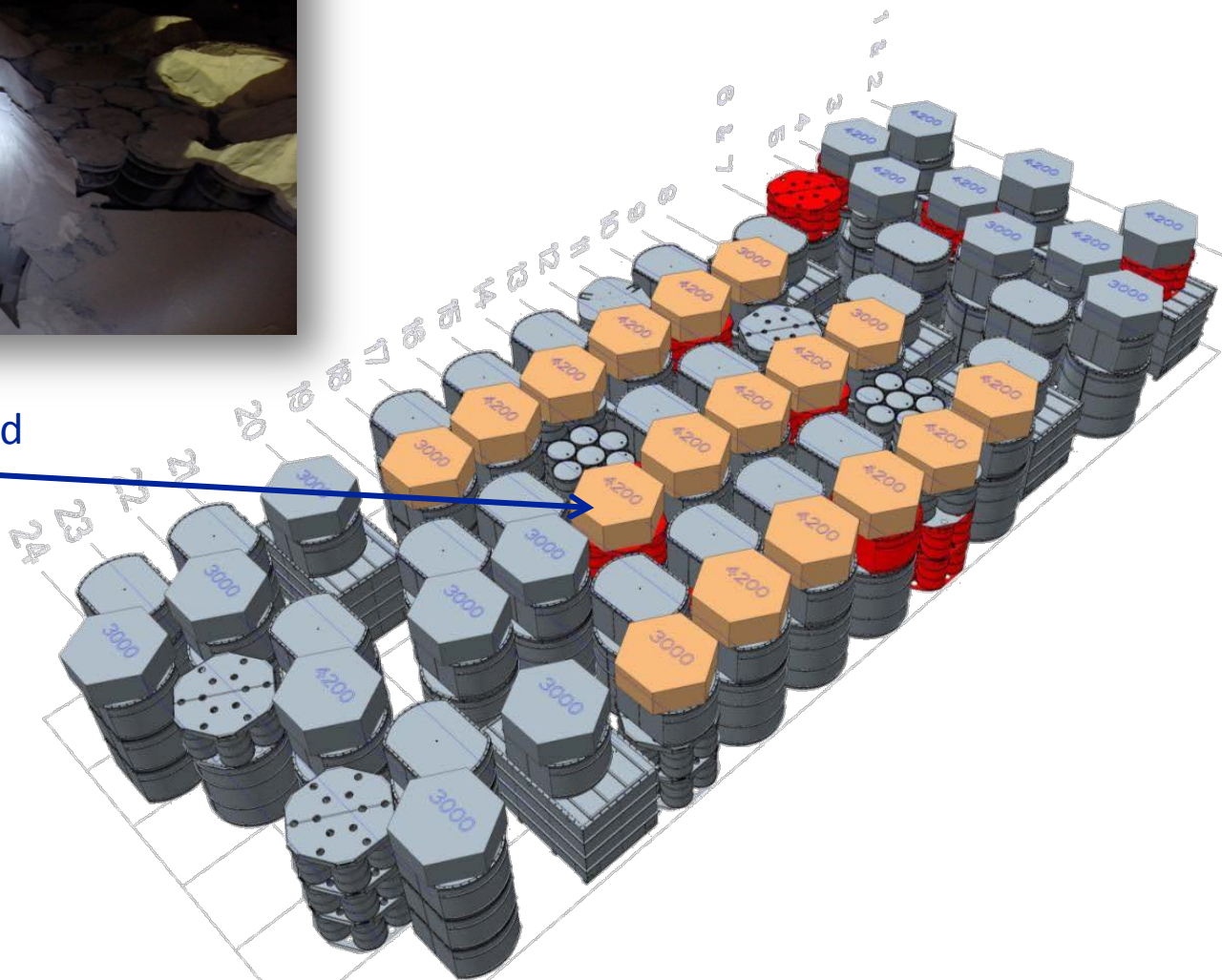


[www.wipp.energy.gov](http://www.wipp.energy.gov)

# Room 7 Panel 7 Suspect Drum



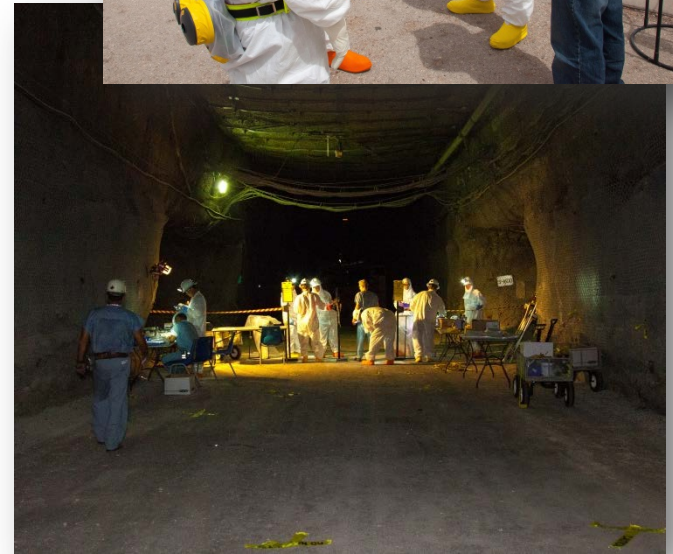
Waste Row 16 contained  
the breached drum



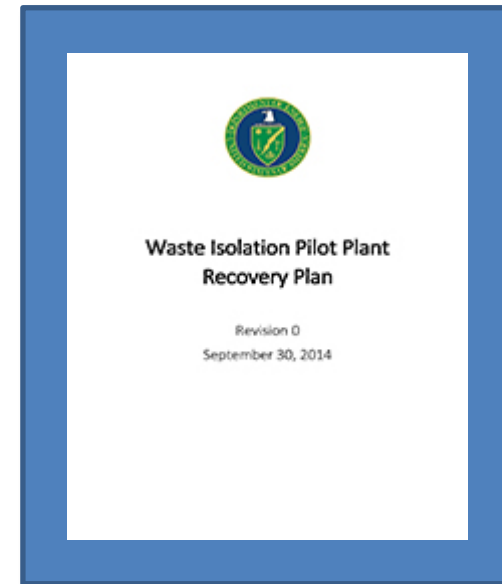


# Key Steps to Recovery and Resumption of Operations

- **Nuclear Safety Document Revisions**
- **Safety Management Program Revitalization**
- **Underground restoration**
  - Radiological Roll-back – 65%
  - Re-Establish Safety Systems – in progress
  - Soot cleaning of electrical panels- 70%
  - Cleanup, Habitability – 70%
  - Fire Protection – in progress
  - Maintenance and Ground Control – 70%
- **Expedite mine stability (resume bolting)**
- **Expedited Panel 6 and Room 7, Panel 7 Closure**
- **Interim Ventilation (procurement underway)**
- **Supplemental Ventilation Modifications (initiated)**
- **Readiness Activities**
- **Limited Operations**
  - On-site waste
  - Off-site waste generators



- WIPP Recovery Plan – released September 30, 2014 - that puts safety first
- WIPP is making progress on recovery
- The current workforce is being maintained and utilized
  - Cross-training personnel
  - Changing work schedules to support time-critical recovery activities.
  - Performing readiness activities
  - Fostering a nuclear safety culture change
- WIPP continues to communicate often and transparently throughout this process with
  - Frequent briefings for regulators and stakeholder groups
  - Regular town hall meetings. (Live streaming of the meetings can be viewed at: <http://new.livestream.com/rrv/>)
  - Weekly WIPP updates
  - To stay apprised go to: <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>



## Additional information is available

<http://www.wipp.energy.gov>

1-800-336-9477

or on Twitter: @WIPPNEWS