



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

2015 Waste Management Hot Topics Panel

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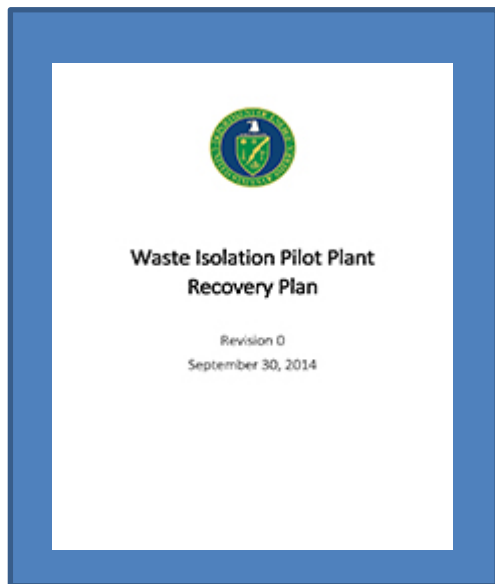
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Hot Topics

- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Recovery
- Legacy Environmental Cleanup at Los Alamos
- Key Programmatic Updates in Waste Management

WIPP Recovery

- EM is implementing an aggressive and deliberate recovery plan for WIPP – with the goal to safely resume operations in early 2016.



- Safety is at the core of the recovery strategy.
- DOE senior leadership continues to be actively engaged in the recovery efforts.
- WIPP continues to communicate often and transparently throughout this process with:
 - Frequent briefings for regulators and stakeholder groups
 - Regular town hall meetings
 - WIPP updates
- Broad support for the safe and timely recovery of this national asset is evidenced by the FY 2015 Appropriations and the President's FY 2016 Congressional Budget Request.



**Salt Truck Fire in WIPP
Underground**



**Breached Drum in WIPP
Underground**

Project REACH



- Equipment specially designed to allow full video/photo review of Room 7.
- Successful completion of Project Reach in January 2015.



Recovery Underway

- **Nuclear Safety Document and Safety Management Program Revitalization**
- **Underground restoration**
- **Expedite mine stability**
- **Initial Panel 6, Panel 7, Room 7 Closure**
- **Ventilation Upgrades**
- **Operational Readiness Activities**



- The TRU waste-generating sites continue to make significant progress in the processing and certification of waste for shipment to WIPP in the future.
- Impacts to the DOE TRU waste-generating sites, including to regulatory commitments, are being carefully monitored and mitigation efforts are being implemented.
 - EM is maintaining continuous dialogue with its regulators.
- EM completed a formal review of TRU generating sites (other than LANL, reviewed in detail by AIB) to confirm that the level of specificity, the quality assurance, the change management processes and the level of documentation exists to meet all permit requirements and to ensure that the WIPP waste acceptance criteria is met.
- EM, Carlsbad and generator sites collaborating in development of comprehensive assessment program to augment existing requirements, respond to AIB JONS and mitigate potential for future waste processing and characterization issues
 - Enhancements planned to DOE's processes to ensure all TRU is fully compliant with WIPP acceptance requirements

- DOE is in the midst of implementing targeted changes at LANL to transition legacy cleanup work (funded by EM) to an EM-managed, incentive based contract.
- Sept – Secretary Moniz directed EM and NNSA to evaluate potential changes in organizational responsibilities at LANL
- Jan – DOE approved initial actions related to establishment of an EM Los Alamos Field Office – to be directly responsible for implementation of legacy environmental cleanup scope

- Despite incidents, needed recovery and transition activities, important cleanup activities at LANL continue
- DOE continues to work closely with the State of New Mexico to prioritize near term activities
- We are ensuring the safe management of the containers remaining at LANL, as well as the balance of above grade legacy TRU remaining at LANL
- Other priority activities in FY 15 include surface and ground water protection activities, interim measure progress to address chromium plume, facility D&D planning and activities required by Consent Order
- Continuously working with WCS and Texas officials to ensure safe management of the LANL TRU staged at WCS

Key Waste Management Updates

- Progress continues in the important waste management projects throughout DOE complex
- We continue to seek opportunities to optimize waste generation, treatment, transportation and disposal
 - On March 2, DOE issued a Request for Proposal for Mixed Low-Level and Low-Level Waste treatment services that may result in the issuance of one or more Basic Ordering Agreements.
- We are maintaining corporate programs to continue to integrate waste disposition efforts (such as LLW and TRU Corporate Boards) – and we value the contractors’ forum – the EFCOG Waste Management Working Group
- We are implementing efforts to strengthen DOE’s oversight of DOE disposal facilities and its waste management programs.

Continued Waste Management Success

- EM continues to make significant progress in disposition of wastes generated through continued site cleanup activities.
- It is more important than ever that DOE optimize its waste management systems.
- Continued collaboration with stakeholders and industry is key to continued success.

