



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

WIPP Repository and National TRU Program Impacts from Nitrate Salts Waste Management 2017

017 Panel: LANL Recovery - Re-Treatment of Problem Waste Stream Nitrate Salts

**J. R. Stroble, DOE/CBFO
March 6, 2017**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**



- **2016 Corrective Actions**

- In response to the Accident Investigation Board Report from 2014
- Enhancements required for the new WIPP Documented Safety Analysis (DSA)
- Required to re-open WIPP and to resume shipments to WIPP
- Includes new WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC)
 - enhanced acceptable knowledge (AK)
 - oxidizer limitations
 - new program reviews at generator sites for TRU program activities prior to introduction in WIPP Certified Programs
- Includes new DOE and contractor oversight

- **WIPP is Operational**

- waste receipt limitations
- limited receipt rates
- only contact-handled (CH) packages at first
- funding focused in major projects



Lessons Learned for WIPP and NTP



- One mistake at a generator site, led to an energetic release of radioactive particulates into the WIPP mine ventilation air, spreading contamination and causing WIPP to shut down for 3 years.



- Fortunate that no personnel were in mine at time of release, and mine ventilation system properly switched to filtration before any significant contamination was released from the permitted facility.
- New focus on risks associated with energetic events in waste containers, not only related to radiological parameters but also chemical parameters.



- New Documented Safety Analysis requirements emphasize importance of WIPP waste acceptance criteria compliance assurance as a key initial condition for receipt.