

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 3, 2015

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Dermot Winters, WIPP Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: WIPP Activity Report for June 2015

DNFSB Staff Activity: D. Winters, C. March and M. Wright were onsite June 22-23. Oversight has averaged 2.50 man-weeks per month during the first 6 months of 2015.

DSA Revision Review. Staff review efforts for Revision 5 of the WIPP Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) were completed for Chapter 2 of the DSA, *Facility Description*, in early June. The staff is awaiting receipt of additional chapters for review.

Interim Ventilation System (IVS). On June 25 the staff held a teleconference with DOE and contractor personnel to discuss how the design of the IVS will allow current safety controls and contingency measures to be implemented. How the design would meet the design and performance criteria for active confinement ventilation systems in DOE Guide (G) 420.1-1A, *Nonreactor Nuclear Safety Design Guide for use with DOE O 420.1C, Facility Safety* was also covered. The IVS design will be able to provide equivalent protection to that provided by the current systems if (1) adequate administrative controls are incorporated into the Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) and (2) contingency measures are put into place in emergency response procedures. A future review of the ability of the system to be upgraded to *safety significant* is planned as part of the DSA Revision 5 review.

Permanent Ventilation System (PVS). The staff has received a copy of the schedule and alternatives analysis for the PVS project. The schedule calls for critical decision (CD) 1 in January 2016, combined CDs 2/3 in March 2017, followed immediately by mining of any new drifts and/or shafts, with CD 4 to follow. DOE has not completed its review of the alternatives analysis. The staff will continue to assess incorporation of safety in the design process.

Fire Protection Status Review. The staff held an onsite fire protection review June 22-23. Positive observations included that combustible loading conditions in the underground are significantly improved and DOE is instituting an Operational Support Team to resolve questions related to appropriate implementation of both Mine Safety Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association requirements regarding fighting fires in the underground. There remain delays in completing revised Baseline Needs Assessment, Fire Hazards Analysis and the Fire Protection Program document, work remains to implement automatic fire suppression systems on diesel powered vehicles, plant fire water lines continue to leak, and fire pumps and facility sprinkler systems need repair. A closeout teleconference is planned for July 8.

Combined ESS Simplifying Controls. DOE committed to producing a consolidated and simplified ESS document to preclude Technical Safety Requirement violations pending implementation of Revision 5 of the WIPP DSA. The DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) has agreed to provide the staff a draft for review in parallel with that of the CBFO. The draft was not yet available at the end of June.