

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 4, 2015

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

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** R. Quirk was onsite August 1-6 and August 24-28 performing site rep-like oversight duties. B. Broderick and C. March were in Carlsbad August 3-6 observing a WIPP fire protection workshop. Board Member Santos and NMPS group lead J. Pasko were onsite and in Carlsbad August 13 for WIPP recovery progress discussions with CBFO and contractor senior management. Oversight has averaged 3.0 man-weeks of Board's staff oversight per month during the first 8 months of 2015.

**Fire Protection Workshop.** Members of the Board's staff observed the DOE Operations Support Team fire protection workshop held in Carlsbad, NM, August 3-6. The workshop addressed updating the WIPP Fire Protection (FP) Program to be compliant with applicable laws, orders and standards, corrective actions associated with the accident investigation board reports on the February 2014 events, and restoration of the WIPP safety envelope. The staff is tracking DOE and contractor post-workshop efforts to verify proper implementation.

**Electrical Review Follow-up.** The Board's staff identified issues, including unprotected Silicon Controlled Rectifier (SCR) Panels and past due Preventive Maintenance (PM) activities for electrical equipment. These concerns were communicated to CBFO and contractor personnel during an informal July 30 outbrief and formally communicated to senior NWP and CBFO management during an August 18 telecon. The contractor site manager committed to taking action to address the issues identified.

**Consolidated Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS).** DOE committed to produce a consolidated and simplified ESS document to preclude repeated TSR violations. A draft of the document provided to the staff was reviewed during August. The staff will discuss its comments with DOE and the contractor in September.

**Ventilation System Upgrades.** The design, installation and operation of planned and proposed site ventilation system upgrades has been accelerated. The Supplemental Ventilation System (SVS) mine fan is installed in the underground and construction of foundation pads for the Interim Ventilation System (IVS) system is complete. The IVS and SVS systems are projected to become operable in mid-January 2016. The Permanent Ventilation System Critical Decision-1 conceptual design point is now scheduled for October 30. The staff is evaluating the the IVS and SVS and is beginning to review safety in design for the PVS system.

**CBFO Management Turnover.** The acting CBFO Manager announced his retirement effective October 2. The permanent CBFO Manager has been selected and has adequate time to affect turnover with the acting manager in September.