

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 5, 2015

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

DNFSB Staff Activity: No DNFSB staff were onsite during May. Staff oversight has averaged 2.75 man-weeks of oversight during the first 5 months of 2015.

DSA Revision Review. The staff began review efforts for the under-development Revision 5 of the WIPP Documented Safety Analysis (DSA). Efforts included review of underlying documents, particularly the three DOE Accident Investigation Board (AIB) reports and the related DOE Technical Assistance Team (TAT) report. These preparations were followed by review of Chapter 2 of the DSA (Facility Description). The staff is awaiting receipt of additional chapters for review.

Agenda for IVS Telecon. The staff prepared a detailed agenda for a review telecon proposed for June 16 on the status of the planned Interim Ventilation System (IVS). This agenda was transmitted to the site on June 2, 2015. The purpose of the proposed telecon is to discuss IVS design features to meet current Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) controls for the underground ventilation system and active confinement function design and performance criteria.

Agenda for Fire Protection Status Review. The staff prepared an agenda for an onsite review visit proposed for June 22-24. The purpose of the visit is to assess the current status of fire protection improvements made to surface and underground facilities subsequent to the February 2014 fire and rad release events. This agenda was transmitted to the site on June 4, 2015.

Combined ESS Simplifying Controls. During the April 29, 2015 Board public meeting in Carlsbad, DOE made a commitment to produce a consolidated and simplified ESS document to preclude future TSR violations pending completion and implementation of Revision 5 of the Documented Safety Analysis. The DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) committed to providing a copy to the staff for review in parallel with that of the CBFO. As of the end of May the WIPP contractor had as yet not provided CBFO with an ESS document to share with the staff for review.