

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 7, 2015

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

DNFSB Staff Activity: R. Quirk was onsite July 6-10 and July 27-31 performing site rep-like oversight duties. T. Hunt and C. Beaty were onsite July 20-22 for a maintenance review. A. Gwal, P. Foster and D. Winters were onsite July 28-30 for an electrical and lightning protection review. Oversight has averaged 2.9 man-weeks of Board's staff oversight per month during the first 7 months of 2015.

Consolidated Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) and DSA Revisions. DOE committed to produce a consolidated and simplified ESS document to preclude repeated TSR violations. On July 28, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) provided the staff a draft of the ESS for review. Staff review efforts for Revision 5 of the WIPP DSA and TSR remain on hold pending receipt of additional draft chapters.

Maintenance Review. During the week of July 20, members of the Board's staff assessed the current status of maintenance and engineering corrective actions subsequent to the February 2014 fire and radiation release events. Several of the corrective actions and program improvements in response to the DOE Accident Investigation Board's Judgment Of Needs (JONs) are still evolving and require continuing staff attention. A more comprehensive staff review of maintenance and engineering programs will follow approval of the currently under development maintenance safety management program.

Electrical Review. Members of the staff preliminarily identified issues, including unprotected Silicon Controlled Rectifier (SCR) Panels and past due Preventive Maintenance (PM) activities for most electrical equipment. These were communicated to CBFO and contractor personnel during an informal outbrief on July 30. A formal outbrief via teleconference to senior CBFO and contractor management is pending.

Ventilation System Upgrades. Due to significant delays in receipt of the Interim Ventilation System (IVS) components from damaged and inadequate welds, a proposal is being considered to install and operate the Supplemental Ventilation System (SVS) prior to the IVS system being operational. Schedule uncertainties remain regarding installation and operation of the IVS system, the largest of which involves obtaining an installation electrical subcontractor that meets QA requirements. The staff is continuing to evaluate the potential safety implications of these ventilation system changes.

Fire Protection Status Review. A closeout teleconference with senior CBFO and contractor management for the June 2015 fire protection review was held on July 9. Staff concerns on surface fire protection systems and equipment maintenance, such as leaks in fire water pump packing and in buried fire loop piping, were conveyed, as well as concerns over underground material conditions.