

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 4, 2016

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director  
FROM: Dermot Winters, WIPP Cognizant Engineer  
SUBJECT: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Activity Report for October 2016

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** D. Winters and R. Quirk were onsite during 3-8 October to observe the Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR). During 12-14 October, D. Owen and D. Minnema were onsite obtaining access training in preparation for November coverage of the DOE Operational Readiness Review (DORR). M. Forsbacka was at the Carlsbad Field Office on 18 October to observe a meeting of the Safety Design Integration Team (SDIT) for the Permanent Ventilation System (PVS). During 24-28 October D. Winters was again at WIPP to observe a technical assist visit by Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) ground control experts. Staff onsite oversight during the first month of FY-2017, totaled 4.8 man weeks.

**Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR).** The staff observed the CORR during 3-8 October as well as the team outbrief on 14 October. A final CORR report was completed on 28 October which included seven pre-start and five post-start findings. The staff will track closure of the CORR findings as well as any findings developed during the November DOE ORR to verify that a resumption of WIPP disposal operations can be performed in a manner that ensures adequate protection of the workers and the public.

**Permanent Ventilation System (PVS).** Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC (NWP) personnel managing the PVS design project provided an overview of the 60% design package to the Safety Design Integration Team (SDIT) during an 18 October meeting observed by the staff. The primary focus was on arrangement of safety significant components in the New Filter Building (NFB) and the interface with the dedusters upstream of the NFB. The staff plans to discuss several existing gaps in the current design information with the SDIT. These gaps are related to the definition of the safety significant boundaries of the PVS, its filtration bypass function, the functioning of Continuous Air Monitors under accident conditions, and compliance with DOE design criteria. The staff also plans to observe NWP's 60% design review planned for 9-10 November.

**MSHA Ground Control Technical Assist Visit.** The staff observed a 24-28 October technical assist visit to WIPP by MSHA. The MSHA ground control experts are preparing a written report on WIPP ground conditions that is expected to be available by the end of November. The report is expected to provide WIPP information that can be used to enhance underground ground control activities.