

# WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT FY21 PROJECT UPDATE











**ACCOMPLISHMENTS** 

- Received VPP status, this highlights the strong safety culture at WIPP
- Received shipments from Sandia National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Completed upgrades to the Central Monitoring Room
- Received shipments from 4 sites for the first time since 2013
- Celebrated 13,000th shipment

# **SHIPMENTS**

- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant plays a vital role in the cleanup of DOE sites and DOE national security missions
- WIPP is averaging 5-7 shipments a week. Shipments will continue to gradually increase over the next couple of years, reaching 17 shipments per week
- Los Alamos National Laboratory and Idaho National Laboratory are expected to continue as the primary TRU waste generator sites for WIPP

# **2021 PRIORITIES**

- Completion of Salt Reduction Building exterior
- Completion of Panel 8
- Begin mining to the west of the current mine
- Los Alamos National Laboratory Shipments
- Waste Control Specialists waste
- Begin restoring traditional remote-handled waste capabilities.

# SAFETY SIGNIFICANT CONFINEMENT VENTILATION SYSTEM

- New contract awarded to The Industrial Company (TIC) on April 22, for completion of the project
- Exterior of Salt Reduction building expected to be completed by the end of 2021
- Total project will be completed no later than 2025

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# **UTILITY SHAFT**

- Received approval for Class 3 permit modification request from the state
- Project completion date is expected to be set once work continues
- Utility shaft will aid with additional air flow to the underground

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

- A Supplement Analysis for replacement panels 11 and 12 determined the existing EIS is adequate
- A Supplemental EIS is being considered for construction of additional panels at WIPP
- Public meetings to discuss future WIPP development are planned for 2022
- Additional panels are necessary for WIPP to complete its important national cleanup mission

# 700-C STATUS

- Completed short duration test on January 31, 2021
- Test data showed routine operation of the fan would result in annual exposures 5,000 times less than the EPA limit of 10 millirem per year
- Balance of airflow testing is complete
- Expectation is that the fan will be in full operation in early 2022

# **GENERAL PLANT PROJECTS**

 WIPP's original design was to operate for 30-35 years, beginning in the 1980's. Many systems are near the end of their planned service life, so modernization is essential











# **FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT**

- Infrastructure improvements continue
- Waste shipments & emplacements safely ramping up
- Mining and ground control continue

# IPP IS ALWAYS SAFELY MOVING FORWARI

# **BIOGRAPHIES**



# REINHARD KNERR

### Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office

Reinhard Knerr is the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management's manager of the Carlsbad Field Office.

The DOE field office oversees the operation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the nation's only deep geologic repository for defense-related transuranic waste, and the National TRU Program (NTP) that oversees the process of preparing TRU waste from DOE waste generator sites to meet WIPP requirements.

Knerr comes to Carlsbad from the Portsmouth Paducah Project Office in Lexington, Kentucky, where he was DUF6 Federal Project Director, overseeing the DUF6 conversion facilities at the Portsmouth and Paducah sites as well as a Record of Decision for disposition of depleted uranium oxide from the two sites.

Knerr has previous project experience with the WIPP site as transuranic waste certification team leader. He also has more than nine years of experience as a nuclear criticality safety engineer supporting contractor operations at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas.

Knerr has held leadership and strategic planning roles at the Paducah site since 2004, including managing environmental remediation work, transitioning the Gaseous Diffusion Plant from the United States Enrichment Corporation back to the Department of Energy and initiating utility and infrastructure optimization projects, among others.

Knerr, who assumed his CBFO role on July 20, 2020, holds a bachelor of science degree in nuclear engineering from Penn State University.



# **MARK BOLLINGER**

## Deputy Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office

Mark Bollinger comes to CBFO from DOE Office of Science's Fermi Site Office, where he served as deputy manager since 2007. He is no stranger to the Office of Environmental Management, though, having worked in EM from 1992 to 2001, during which time he helped found and lead the DOE Center for Risk Excellence. Mark's previous positions in DOE have also included leading a critical effort to bring nuclear compliance to the DOE New Brunswick Laboratory as Acting Laboratory Director from 2015 to 2016, as well as working with the Office of Science's Chicago Integrated Support Center and with the National Nuclear Security Administration's Plutonium Disposition Program.

Mark is a 2003 DOE Executive Potential Program graduate and has completed details with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, DOE Headquarters, the Brookhaven Site Office and the Princeton Site Office. Prior to joining the Department, Mark conducted research on behalf of Proctor and Gamble and was an Environmental Scientist for the State of Indiana. Mark holds an M.S. in Environmental Science from Indiana University and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from IU.



# **SEAN DUNAGAN**

### President and Project Manager, Nuclear Waste Partnership

Sean Dunagan, President and Project Manager for Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC, has more than 18 years of experience supporting the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), including as DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Senior WIPP Recovery Manager and CBFO Deputy Manager.

Prior to accepting his current position in September 2019, he served as Research & Development Manager, Special Projects & Remote Site Support, for Sandia National Laboratories-Carlsbad Programs Group.

He served as CBFO Senior WIPP Recovery Manager during the three-year shutdown of the facility, successfully leading restart of operations.

He holds master's and bachelor's of science degrees in industrial engineering from Texas Tech University.