

NGO QUESTIONS FOR DOE

1. What are the current locations of and types of materials that are estimated to generate the 200 cubic meters of derived waste that is allowed by the February 27 Administrative Order?

The waste calculation was based the waste coming from the containment tents (ventilation bypass damper sealing, HEPA filter replacement, temporary contamination control tents at the Air Intake Shaft and Salt shaft), used filters, including HEPA filters, and any other surface related decontamination activities that could arise from these activities.

2. What is the schedule for that derived waste to be emplaced in the RH Bay?

Derived waste will be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Order, dated February 27, 2014. The schedule for generation of derived waste will depend upon the activities identified in response to Question 1. It is anticipated that derived waste will be generated throughout the recovery period.

3. What were the radiation and VOC monitoring data in the Waste Handling Building on February 5 before the fire, during the fire, and after the fire was determined to be out and on February 14 at 11 pm, during the radiation event until 15:00 on February 15, on February 16 and on March 11?

Radiological surveys of the Waste Handling Building (WHB) for the requested time period were determined to be no detectable alpha, beta, or gamma contamination. Additionally, there was no detectable VOC measurements in the WHB.

4. What were the location(s) on February 14 and early February 15 of the 13 workers on the site?

The workers were performing inspections around the perimeter fence and outside near the Safety Building. In addition, some of the personnel were outside near the Exhaust Filter Building and Station B responding to the alarm.

5. What were the location(s) on February 15 of the additional eight workers that have tested positive for internal radiation contamination? The additional workers were outside near the Support Building, at Station B, which is near the Exhaust Filter Building, and in the vicinity of the Safety and Engineering Buildings.

6. For any workers that in the future test positive, what were the location(s) they were in on the surface? At the time of any future positive test results, the person would be interviewed to determine their locations during the event timeframe.

7. What were the locations that workers “sheltered in place” on February 14-15 (and if there have been subsequent sheltering in place)? Buildings 451, 486, 453, 452, 951, 953, 459

8. What was the specific data and testing that was done on February 14 and 15 that were the basis for the statements that:

“no personnel contamination has been identified;”

“employees were cleared by radiological control technicians prior to departure;”

Employees were directly frisked by Radiological Control Technicians prior to departing the site on February 15. A whole body frisk was performed using rad detection instruments. The frisk included the head, extremities, front and back of the torso and feet. Some articles of clothing

were kept and bagged until they were cleared the next day which indicated the presence of Radon. No TRU contamination was detected.

“Multiple perimeter monitors at the WIPP boundary have confirmed there is no danger to human health or the environment;

Radiological Control has surveyed the entire fence line of the Property Protection Area, the site Parking Lot, and every structure on site. No detectable contamination was found as a result of all the surveys. The survey included direct frisk with instrumentation as well as swipes that were counted.

“no surface contamination has been found on any equipment, personnel, or facilities;”
“WIPP’s system of air monitors and protective filtration system continue to function as designed.”

Radiological Control has surveyed all structures on site and found no detectable contamination. In addition, all personnel leaving the site were initially frisked until Hand and Foot monitors were obtained from Los Alamos National Lab. Now, all personnel exiting the site are required to utilize these monitors before exiting the site. NWP has procured additional Hand and Foot Monitors that will be installed near the Security Access Control Facility. These monitors will make it easier for people to exit when the population is allowed to return to work at site.

Multiple Portable Air Samplers (PAS) and several Continuous Air Monitors (CAMs) have been running and the filters are analyzed daily to determine if any activity is present. Station A and Station B locations directly collect samples on filters of the exhaust air coming from the Underground. The data analyzed from these filter locations indicates no detectable contamination after radon decay takes place. At Station A, which is the monitoring station prior to the air entering the filtration system, has indicated some levels of TRU activity, but the air monitored at station B, which is after the filtration system, indicates no detectable contamination.

9. What are the results of thorough screening of the vehicles, residences, and family members of the 21 workers that have tested positive for internal contamination? The parking lot was surveyed on the day of the event and no-detectable contamination was found. The process for internal contamination does not require any of the actions above to be performed.
10. Will similar screening be done for any workers that test positive in the future?
Yes, the internal dosimetry process will be followed for any future positive test results.