

and administrative programs.

The DOE will need to spend an additional \$370 million to \$400 million over the next five years for capital asset projects that include the new exhaust shaft and filter building, collectively known as the new permanent ventilation system, which is necessary to increase filtered ventilation to the underground to pre-incident rates.

● The Department of Energy is seeking to modify its hazardous waste facility permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico to allow for an aboveground transuranic (TRU) waste container storage unit at the facility. The DOE's Carlsbad Field Office and contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership submitted the Class 3 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department on September 29, 2016, and they provided information about the request during public meetings held in Santa Fe and Carlsbad, N.M., on October 25 and 27, respectively.

Under the modified permit, up to 65,280 cubic feet of contact-handled TRU waste will be stored in as many as 408 concrete overpacks on a 96,500-square-foot outdoor concrete storage area located to the south of WIPP's Waste Handling Building. Waste will be stored for up to one year before disposal. According to the permit request, the additional storage capacity will include remote-handled waste in shielded containers that is managed and stored as contact-handled waste. Each concrete overpack can hold the contents of one Transuranic Package Transporter-II (TRUPACT-II), giving the storage unit the capacity to store up to eight weeks of TRUPACT-II container shipments at a rate of 17 shipments per week.

According to the DOE, the additional storage capacity will allow WIPP to continue receiving waste when the facility is undergoing a planned or unplanned maintenance activity or during an event, such as inclement weather, that delays waste

emplacement or shipments to the site. This will significantly increase efficiency, the DOE said, by allowing WIPP workers to process stored waste during periods when new waste shipments have slowed or stopped.

San Onofre

The engineering company AECOM and Utah-based EnergySolutions will lead the decontamination and decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station under a contract awarded by Southern California Edison on December 20. SCE said that it selected the joint venture general contractor, which will be known as SONGS Decommissioning Solutions (SDS), after a 10-month competitive bid process.

SCE announced in June 2013 that it would retire San Onofre-2 and -3 and that it had begun preparations to decommission the facility. One of the largest commercial nuclear plant decommissioning projects to date in the United States, the project has an estimated total cost of \$4.4 billion, including used fuel management, radiological decommissioning, and site restoration costs. The project is expected to create about 600 new jobs over the 10-year dismantlement and decontamination phase.

According to SCE, the major dismantlement work will not begin before 2018, when state regulators are expected to complete their environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. SCE shares responsibility for decommissioning with San Onofre co-owners San Diego Gas & Electric and the city of Riverside, and former co-owner, the city of Anaheim. The decommissioning is being financed through existing trust funds, including SCE's share of the project as majority owner.

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