

Second radiation release indicated at New Mexico site

19 March 2014

New air sampling data from southeastern New Mexico's troubled nuclear waste dump indicates there has been another small radiation release.

Department of Energy officials say a monitoring station picked up elevated radiation readings around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad on March 11. That's nearly a month after a Valentine's Day leak contaminated 17 workers and shut the only repository for [toxic waste](#) from the nation's nuclear bomb-building program.

Engineers say they believe the contamination is from previous deposits on the [inner surface](#) of exhaust ductwork.

Officials say occasional low-level releases are anticipated, but they should be well within safe limits.

The plant has been shuttered since early February. Shipments were halted after a truck hauling salt through the repository's tunnels caught fire. Nine days later, the plant's alarms were triggered by the radiation release.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: Second radiation release indicated at New Mexico site (2014, March 19) retrieved 24 January 2022 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-03-mexico-site.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.