SAND2020-1251R

Project Plan: Salt in Situ Heater Test

Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition

Prepared for
U.S. Department of Energy
Spent Fuel and Waste Science and Technology

Sandia National Laboratories
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

January 31, 2020

Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

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Sandia National Laboratories

SUMMARY

This project plan gives a high-level description of the US Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition (SFWD) campaign *in situ* borehole heater test project planned for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site, titled the Brine Availability Test in Salt (BATS). BATS is the first stage in a planned sequence of tests to bolster the technical basis for disposal of heat-generating waste in salt. This plan provides an overview of the schedule and responsibilities of the parties involved. This project is a collaborative effort by Sandia, Los Alamos, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories to execute a series of small-diameter borehole heater tests in salt for the DOE-NE SFWD campaign. Design of a heater test in salt at WIPP has evolved over several years. The experiment has begun in January 2020 and the first phase will continue for several months with the possibility for follow-on testing.

BATS comprises a suite of modular tests, which consist of a group of adjacent horizontal boreholes in the wall of drifts at WIPP. Each test is centered around a packer-isolated heated borehole (12.2 cm [4.8″] diameter) containing equipment for water-vapor collection and borehole closure monitoring, surrounded by smaller-diameter (up to 5.3 cm [2.1″] diameter) satellite observation boreholes. Observation boreholes contain grouted-in temperature sensors, electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) sensors, and fiber optics; packer-isolated tracer release and sampling intervals; and acoustic emission (AE) piezoelectric sensors. A larger-diameter (12.2 cm [4.8″]) satellite borehole includes sorel and salt cement plugs, as part of an engineered barrier sealing test. The first two tests, to be implemented in parallel, are heated (target borehole wall temperature of 120 °C) and unheated, with similar arrays of observation borehole monitoring changes. Follow-on tests will be designed using information gathered from the first two tests, and may be conducted at other borehole wall temperatures, use multiple observation boreholes, and may include different measurement types and test designs.

This 2020 update of the original 2018 project plan satisfies DOE-NE Spent Fuel and Waste Science and Technology (SFWST) milestone M3SF-20SN010303034, as part of the SNL “Salt Disposal R&D” work package.

REVISION HISTORY

Rev.	Date	
0	April 30, 2018	Initial version
1	January 31, 2020	Revised version, at start of field test implementation

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ACRONYMS

AE	acoustic emissions
BATS	brine availability test in salt
BCP	baseline change proposal
CBFO	DOE-EM Carlsbad Field Office
DAS	data acquisition system
DOE	Department of Energy
DOE-EM	DOE Office of Environmental Management
DOE-NE	DOE Office of Nuclear Energy
DRZ	disturbed rock zone
ERT	electrical resistivity tomography
EVMS	earned value management system
FY	fiscal year
IPT	integrated project team
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LBNL	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
M&O	Management and Operations
NWP	Nuclear Waste Partnership (WIPP M&O contractor)
PICS:NE	Project Information Collection System: Nuclear Energy
QA	quality assurance
RTD	resistive temperature device
SDI	salt disposal investigations
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
SFWD	Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition
SFWST	Spent Fuel and Waste Science and Technology
TCO	test coordination office
THMC	thermal-hydraulic-mechanical-chemical
U.S.	United States
WBS	work breakdown structure
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Field Test Project Motivation

The long-term goals of the DOE-NE Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition (SFWD) campaign field-testing project for salt are related to the permanent isolation safety case for disposal of heat-generating radioactive waste in a generic salt repository concept. The brine availability test in salt (BATS) borehole heater test is the first component of the field-testing campaign, focused on the quantification of brine inflow and composition (Stauffer et al. 2015; Kuhlman et al. 2017; Johnson et al. 2017b; Mills et al. 2019). Follow-on tests in the field test campaign may focus on other coupled processes and conditions relevant to very hot and large waste packages.

The transient evolution of brine inflow and the brine composition after excavating a drift or borehole are initial conditions relevant to the long-term performance assessment of a generic salt repository system. This field test is being conducted within the context of the larger testing program for generic salt systems, which includes laboratory testing and larger conceptual field testing. The goals of this field test are to:

1) improve understanding of brine availability and brine composition in bedded salt;
2) collect datasets for parameterizing numerical models, populating constitutive models, and generally improving process understanding;
3) improve understanding of bedded salt acid vapor generation mechanisms during heating; and
4) rebuild in-house expertise for implementing *in situ* experiments in salt.

The proposed borehole heater tests are comprised of relatively low-cost repeatable tests performed across a set of adjacent boreholes (one central heater borehole and multiple surrounding observation boreholes). Heated tests will be used to assess changes in physical-chemical properties associated with the liberation and migration of brine and vapor at elevated temperature. These borehole tests will include international collaboration on model prediction, validation, and follow-on test design.

The main focus of the first round of borehole heater tests is brine availability to better understand how much brine may flow into an excavation (e.g., a disposal borehole or room). Brine can lead to waste package corrosion, limit closure of brine-filled cavities, reduce criticality concerns for some waste types, or facilitate radionuclide transport. In a generic salt repository for "hot" radioactive waste (e.g., above brine boiling temperature at the waste package surface) water vapor will in general be driven away from the immediate vicinity of hot waste packages, while brine may still migrate towards the excavation in the near-field beyond the boiling isotherm. A free convection process may set up around the waste, driving salts to precipitate near the waste package while creep closure further reconsolidates backfill and closes any remaining gaps around the waste package. These processes will create a relatively dry, intact, low-permeability zone around the waste packages. As the radioactive decay heat decreases, the peak temperature will drop below the brine boiling temperature, and additional liquid may be drawn back toward the waste packages. However, the low-permeability and porosity of salt surrounding the heater will minimize the amount brine that can flow from the far field to the waste packages. Knowledge of brine availability and brine composition facilitates understanding long-term behavior of consolidated salt around waste packages and possible brine-radionuclide interactions that may affect transport. Designs of future waste packages for salt repositories may take these observations regarding brine availability into account to improve reliability and extend the life of waste packages.

In all salt disposal systems, the far-field ultra-low permeability of the salt provides the primary natural barrier that contains radioactive waste over performance assessment relevant time scales (10^4 to 10^6 years). Salt creep closes open excavations and fractures in the near field that could facilitate transport. This borehole heater project is focused on the quantification of inflow rates and brine composition in the near field (at scales of cm to m from heat source) at relatively short time scales (weeks to months). This is essentially to improve process understanding and to develop an initial condition in the long-term performance of a generic salt repository system, for which we have great confidence in its ability to provide isolation from the shallow geosphere.

1.2 Field Test Project Description

The BATS project is primarily focused on brine availability to a small-diameter (10 to 15 cm [4″ to 6″]) relatively short (<6 m [<20′]) horizontal borehole. Understanding the amount of brine available to flow into such a borehole and a relevant excavation in a generic salt repository involves understanding both the sources of brine in salt, and the mechanism of brine migration through the disturbed rock zone (DRZ) surrounding an excavation. Each phase of the test will also collect unique data on the time-variable brine and water composition. Brine composition and isotopic composition will reflect the transport of multiple types of brine present in a bedded salt formation. The primary types of brine in salt are: intragranular fluid inclusions, intergranular brine (mostly from clay and other non-salt components), and water evolved from hydrous minerals. This horizontal borehole heater test will quantify relevant thermal-hydrological-mechanical-chemical (THMC) processes in salt, which can be upscaled to the drift scale using numerical models. The main benefit of a horizontal test interval is avoidance of mapped clay or anhydrite layers in bedded salt (e.g., the 1-m [3.2′] thick anhydrite Marker Bed 139 below the floor at WIPP). Temperature, brine inflow rate and composition, resistivity, acoustic emission, water isotopic makeup, and gas composition will be monitored to develop validation datasets for existing and future of numerical models. The project is designed to produce data for conceptual process validation, rather than as part of a more complex disposal demonstration (e.g., DOE CBFO 2011 & 2013).

A shakedown test was conducted for several months in 2018 and early 2019 in existing boreholes in E-140 (Figure 1). This phase allowed demonstrating several alternative heater designs, confirming instrumentation compatibility with salt, testing the brine sampling approach, and demonstrating ERT data collection in the WIPP underground. The shakedown test is described in detail in Boukhalfa et al. (2018).

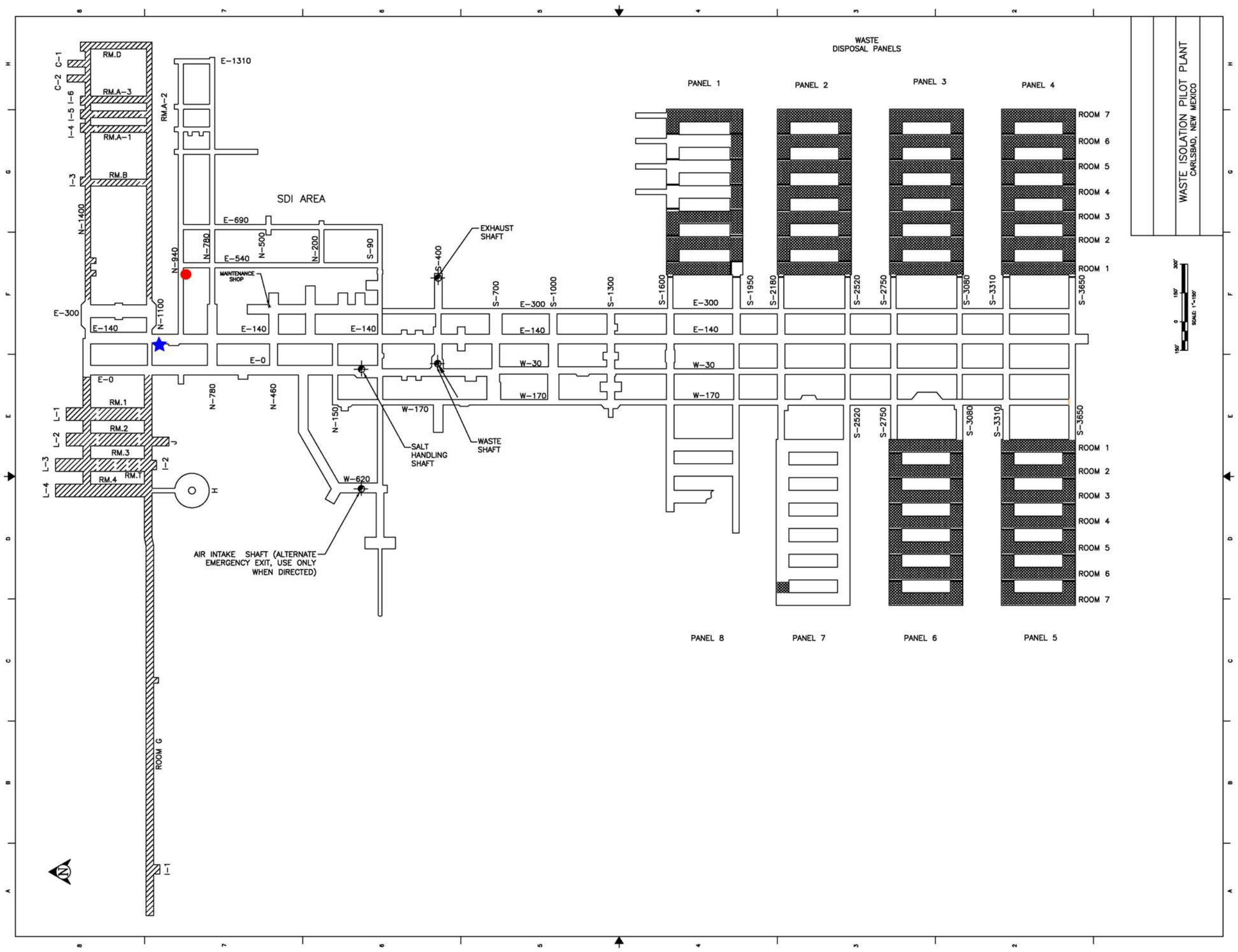

Figure 1. Location of shakedown test (blue star) and BATS test (red circle) at WIPP

Beginning in February 2019 two arrays of boreholes were drilled in the N-940 drift (Figure 1) for the BATS heater test. Each group of boreholes includes a central 12.2 cm [4.8″] diameter HP borehole 3.66 m [12′] long (Figure 2), and several observation boreholes up to 5.3 cm [2.1″] diameter. Observation boreholes in each array (Figure 3) contain instruments to measure temperature (T1 and T2); conduct electrical resistivity tomography (E1 to E3); observe acoustic emissions (AE1 to AE3); measure strain and temperature using fiber-optic based sensors (F1 and F2); emplace tracers (D); collect liquid samples (SM); and monitor cement seal performance (SL). The BATS test is described in detail in Mills et al. (2019). One of the two test arrays will set the central heater at (borehole wall target temperature of 120 °C) and the other test will be at ambient (~30 °C) conditions. These tests will run concurrently to demonstrate the effects that heat has on brine availability, brine chemistry, borehole closure, acoustic emissions, and possible acid vapor generation.

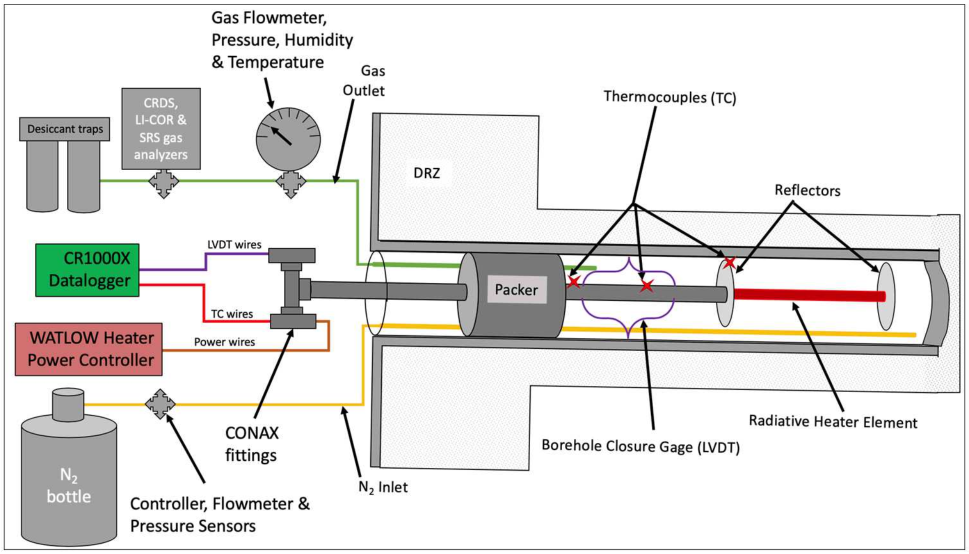

Figure 2. Instrumentation in central (HP) borehole in each array (heated and unheated)

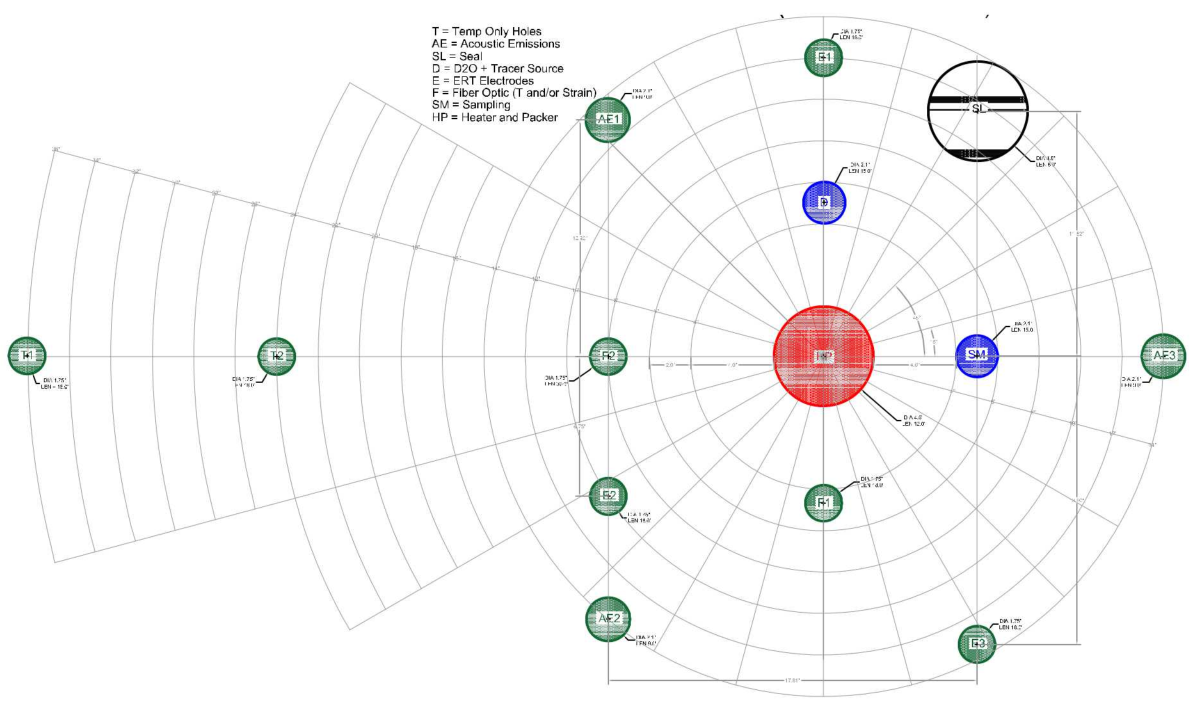

Figure 3. BATS borehole layout view in each array (heated and unheated)

The central heater borehole (HP) will be used to quantify brine inflow by circulating dry nitrogen gas behind the packer, while monitoring the humidity, temperature, water isotopic composition, and gas composition of the gas stream leaving the borehole. The observation boreholes will include the ability to monitor evolution of the salt resistivity, temperature, strain, and acoustic emissions. Liquid samples will be collected from the sampling borehole (SM) to monitor brine composition and added tracer migration through the salt.

As of January 2020, the instrumentation for the BATS test is installed (Figure 4). We have begun flowing nitrogen gas and are ready to begin heating.

Figure 4. BATS test (heated array) in December 2019

2. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The brine availability test in salt (BATS) heater test project is relatively small in scope and, therefore, has a somewhat informal management structure. It is managed as part of the DOE-NE Spent Fuel and Waste Science and Technology (SFWST) Program. Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) serves as the project management lead, while the WIPP Test Coordination Office (TCO) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Carlsbad serves as the underground testing coordinator and liaison to the WIPP site. SNL, LANL, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) are all contributing to test design, fabrication, and implementation. Site preparation work will be conducted by the WIPP management and operations (M&O) contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP). Additional staff from those listed below may be involved in aspects of the project, but the primary staff working on the Project are listed. Additional groups are collaborating with the core team, but since their primary funding is external to the project they are not listed explicitly with roles and responsibilities.

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Project Manager

- Responsible and accountable to DOE for executing the Project within scope, cost, and schedule in a safe and responsible manner
- Provides Project technical guidance to collaborating team members
- Provides access to SNL resources, systems, and capabilities required to execute the Project
- Performs numerical modeling of thermal-hydrological-chemical system to design experiments, locate thermal measurement locations, and interpret results of the Project
- Represents the Project in interactions with the DOE and international partners, participates in management meetings with DOE, and communicates Project status and issues
- Identifies and manages Project risks
- Designs and builds components of the Project related to borehole closure, acoustic emissions, ultrasonic wave velocity, and brine sampling
- Designs and builds engineered barrier system (EBS) seal components of the Project
- Performs laboratory analyses and characterization on salt and brine samples
- Work with the TCO for the development of job hazard analyses and work control documentation necessary to conduct work in the WIPP underground
- Work within the controls established by the test plans and work authorization documentation to implement and operate the testing programs
- Provides personnel for underground installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of experimental equipment

Involved SNL staff: Kris Kuhlman, Melissa Mills, Rick Jayne, Courtney Herrick, Charles Choens, Ed Matteo, Jason Heath, Martin Nemer

Los Alamos National Laboratory Carlsbad Office (LANL-CO) WIPP Underground Test Coordination Office (TCO)

- Provides interface role between Project and US Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and WIPP M&O contractor (Nuclear Waste Partnership, NWP)
- Provides implementation, maintenance, and troubleshooting technical guidance to Project

- Designs and builds temperature sensing, data acquisition, and on-site control aspects of Project
- Provides access to TCO and WIPP resources, systems and capabilities required to execute the Project
- Provides the mechanism to deliver project funds to the WIPP M&O contractor (e.g., for drilling new boreholes)
- Collects and distributes data from the automated Data Acquisition Systems (DAS) as coordinated with the national laboratory project staff
- Provides on-site sample collection and sample control processes and resources as requested by the national laboratories project staff
- Develop (with the national laboratories) appropriate work authorization and work control documentation for testing activities (for NWP review/acceptance), compliant with national laboratory and NWP requirements, to ensure the safe and consistent conduct of physical scientific work activities in the WIPP underground.

Involved TCO staff: Doug Weaver, Shawn Otto, Brian Dozier

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

- Provides access to LANL resources, systems, and capabilities required to execute the Project
- Performs numerical modeling of thermal-hydrological-chemical system to design experiments, locate thermal measurement locations, and interpret results of the Project
- Designs and builds heater, gas handling, and packer components of the Project
- Performs laboratory analysis of brine and gas samples
- Work with the TCO for the development of job hazard analyses and work control documentation necessary to conduct work in the WIPP underground
- Work within the controls established by the test plans and work authorization documentation to implement and operate the testing programs
- Provides personnel for underground installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of experimental equipment
- Participates in interactions with the DOE and international partners

Involved LANL staff: Phil Stauffer, Hakim Boukhalfa, Eric Guiltinan, Doug Ware, Thom Rahn

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

- Provides access to LBNL resources, systems, and capabilities required to execute the Project
- Performs numerical modeling of the thermal-mechanical-hydrological system to design the test and interpret results of the Project
- Design and build geophysical (ERT and fiber-optic based temperature and strain) monitoring components of the Project
- Conduct necessary laboratory tests to support field geophysical monitoring efforts of the Project
- Work with the TCO for the development of job hazard analyses and work control documentation necessary to conduct work in the WIPP underground
- Work within the controls established by the test plans and work authorization documentation to implement and operate the ERT systems
- Provides personnel for underground installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of experimental equipment

- Participates in interactions with the DOE and international partners

Involved LBNL staff: Jonny Rutqvist, Yuxin Wu, Mengsu Hu

Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) site M&O Contractor

- Works through the WIPP Underground Test Coordination Office (TCO)
- Cores and prepares new horizontal boreholes for Project
- Prepares required underground infrastructure for Project including appropriate ventilation, ground control, lighting, communications, and electrical distribution in accordance with applicable budget authorization and/or Contracting Officer direction.
- Provides axillary services required to conduct the Project including underground access, hoisting, training, work control, lockout/tagout, environmental, safety and health, industrial hygiene, survey, and infrastructure maintenance.

2.2 Team Interfaces and Safety

It is mandatory that all WIPP underground science program participants and personnel performing work associated with the science and testing activities in the WIPP underground and on the WIPP site abide by the NWP guidelines and requirements referenced in the Integrated Project Team (IPT) Charter for Science and Testing Activities in the WIPP Underground (DOE 2016). Scientists and personnel associated with the underground test programs are not only responsible for their own health and safety but are also responsible for the safety of fellow employees, and for the safe operation of the experiment, not precluding TCO and NWP oversight of the scientific work. The CBFO holds NWP accountable for safe operations at the WIPP and gives NWP authority to enforce safety rules and policies on all WIPP science participant organizations.

Work within the WIPP facility is strictly controlled to ensure safety and quality. This is accomplished primarily through an integrated work control and authorization process. All scientific testing activities conducted in the WIPP underground will be conducted under a work control package created in accordance with the process described in the IPT Charter (DOE 2016). The process ensures that planned science work scope is appropriately reviewed, authorized, scheduled, released for work, and integrated with the underground controller and field work supervisor for access and support in the underground.

3. INTEGRATED PROJECT BASELINE

3.1 Scope

The salt heater test project has the technical goals to 1) improve understanding of brine availability and brine chemistry in bedded salt; 2) collect datasets for parameterizing numerical models, populating constitutive models, and improving process model understanding; and 3) collect field data to improve understanding of acid vapor generation mechanisms. The project has the additional programmatic goal to rebuild in-house expertise at participating national laboratories in implementing *in situ* experiments in salt.

The technical justification and background relevant to these tests is laid out in Stauffer et al. (2015) and Kuhlman et al. (2017) and the design of the BATS experiment is given in Mills et al. (2019). The following is a high-level summary of ongoing and planned activities in FY20 and FY21 work breakdown structure (WBS).

3.1.1 Instrumentation Shakedown Test (WBS 1.1)

The instrumentation shakedown test was conducted in existing boreholes in drift E-140 (see Figure 1 for location). This testing was performed to test equipment and procedures, as well as getting personnel experience working in the WIPP underground. One of the existing boreholes was instrumented with an inflatable packer, several types of heaters, a borehole closure gage, different types of temperature sensors (thermocouples and resistive temperature devices), and a nitrogen circulation system. The heaters operated at a range of target temperatures. The test included dry nitrogen gas circulation with a humidity gauge to measure water inflow and testing of a sampling pass-through port for collecting liquid brine samples. An ERT system was tested in vertical holes at a different location to minimize the effects of chain-link fencing and rock bolts that exist near the boreholes in the wall of drift E-140. Measurements of the internal borehole temperature and closure, using a borehole closure caliper, were performed.

As of late 2019, the shakedown test equipment is still in place in E-140 but heating and data collection have been stopped to focus on the BATS test in new boreholes in N-940.

3.1.2 BATS Borehole Tests in New Boreholes (WBS 1.2)

Two groups of new boreholes were cored and drilled in early 2019 in the E-940 drift of the salt disposal investigations (SDI) experimental area (Figure 1).

Initially, the BATS test includes two parallel tests (a heated and unheated array sharing some datalogging and measurement equipment, Figure 5) using two sets of boreholes. Each array consists of a larger-diameter HP borehole for sampling and heating (Figure 2), and a number of smaller-diameter observation boreholes (Figure 3). The BATS tests in these new boreholes in N-940 is described in detail in Mills et al. (2019).

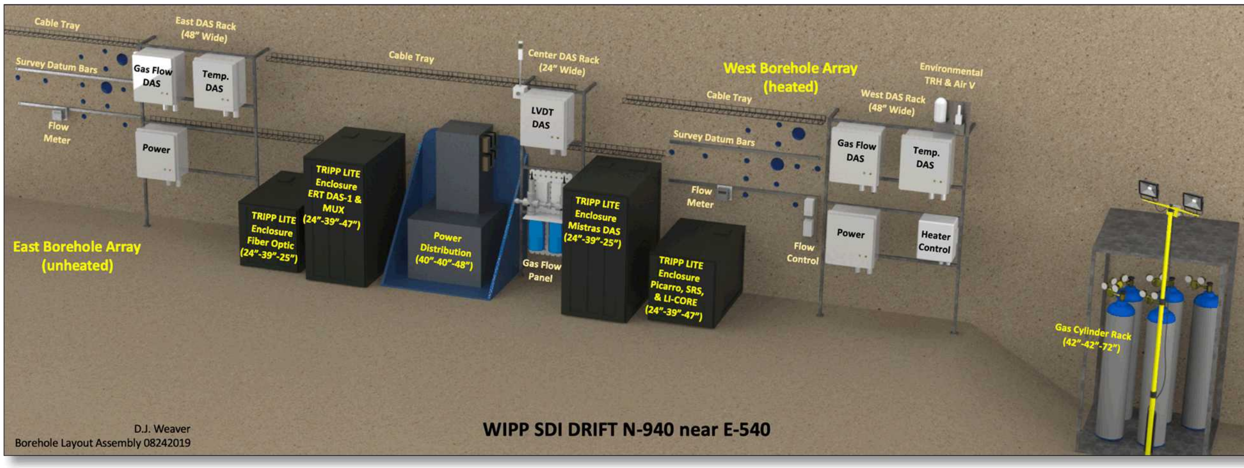

Figure 5. Layout of BATS test arrays and instrumentation in N-940

3.1.3 Laboratory Analyses (WBS 1.3)

Salt samples (i.e., cores and salt precipitate samples from boreholes) will be analyzed to characterize the effect heating and brine flow have on the salt, and to characterize the salt geochemistry precipitated from brine entering the hole during the test. Brine samples will be analyzed for dissolved constituents, including isotopes and pH, and standard physical properties (e.g., density, electrical conductivity). The gas stream will be analyzed in-drift for composition (including water isotopes). Salt cores taken before and after the tests will be analyzed to determine the change in electrical resistivity, ultrasonic wave velocity, frequency, amplitude, energy, and rate with increasing temperature. Sub-samples will be analyzed from salt cores to determine changes in porosity, brine content, and salt mineralogy.

3.1.4 Pre- and Post-Test Modeling (WBS 1.4)

Preliminary numerical modeling has already been conducted (Johnson et al. 2017a; Rutqvist et al. 2017) and these models will continue to be updated to match the actual geometry and boundary conditions encountered during the tests. The numerical model predictions will be used to help locate sensors and design test durations, interpret the data, motivate additional model capability developments, and facilitate integrating the results into the geologic disposal systems analysis program.

3.1.5 Follow-on Tests (WBS 1.5)

The instrumentation shakedown in E-140 provided experience to improve the design of the BATS heater tests in N-940. Results from these first two BATS borehole tests will lead to revised and improved test design for any subsequent follow-on tests. While fielding multiple tests simultaneously increases equipment costs (i.e., multiple packer or data logger systems), waiting to begin additional tests until the first tests finish will allow the boreholes to age before the beginning of the experiments. This task includes planning for additional tests, and monitoring/preserving new boreholes until later tests are conducted in them, to increase their likelihood of producing good data (e.g., sealing boreholes from mine ventilation with plugs).

3.1.6 International Collaborations (WBS 1.6)

Working with existing foreign partners made through the US/German workshops (e.g., Institut für Gebirgsmechanik (IfG), Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS), and Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) in Germany, Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) in the United Kingdom and Centrale Organisatie Voor Radioactief Afval (COVRA) in the Netherlands), we will strive to increase the impact of our work by seeking input and feedback during all aspects of the test development and implementation. International collaborations will involve participating in numerical model benchmarking exercises and sharing data with interested parties.

In November 2019, BATS test was formally accepted as a task in the 2023 DECOVALEX (DEvelopment of COupled models and their VALidation against EXperiments) project. This collaboration will increase the visibility of the project internationally and provide a formal interface for interested parties to develop numerical model predictions for comparing to observations under repository-relevant conditions.

3.2 Schedule

The following high-level schedule (Table 1) summarizes the planned execution of the first two parallel tests in new boreholes. The instrumentation shakedown test took place in fiscal year (FY – October to September) 2018 to early FY19. New boreholes were drilled in N-940 during February-April 2019. Installation of the instrumentation in and around the new boreholes occurred in summer and fall 2019, and the test is beginning in January 2020. Planning and preparations for follow-on tests will begin in the second half of FY20. Laboratory analysis, modeling and international collaborations will continue throughout the life of the project.

Table 1. Projected Borehole Heater Test Schedule Components

		FY19		FY20				FY21			
WBS	**Work Scope Element**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
1.1	Instrumentation Shakedown										
1.2	First Two Tests in New Boreholes										
1.3	Laboratory Analyses										
1.4	Pre- and Post-Test Modeling										
1.5	Follow on Tests										
1.6	International Collaborations										

3.3 Baseline Change Control

This project will be managed using the Project Information Collection System: Nuclear Energy (PICS:NE). The Baseline Change Proposal (BCP) process is managed within PICS:NE.

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1 Project Reporting

The SNL Project Manager reports monthly to DOE-NE to provide updates on project progress and to discuss and resolve issues. Monthly status reports will be entered into the PICS:NE system as required. Each partner's financial system will provide required information related to project budget and costs to the PICS:NE system.

4.1.1 Earned Value Management System (EVMS)

SNL corporate EVMS, consistent with the PICS:NE EVMS guide, will be used, as necessary, to manage, control, analyze and report on the project. EVMS is not required for acquisition of commercial products that are designed and built from commercial off-the-shelf technology.

4.2 Risk Management

Risk Management is an essential element of this project. Risk assessments will be started early in the project lifecycle and will identify critical technical scope, cost, and schedule risks. Many risks can impact multiple aspects of the project. As risks are identified, they will be assessed, prioritized, and monitored by all the technical partners participating in the Project. Where necessary, risk mitigation strategies and actions will be developed, documented, and implemented to mitigate and disposition risks. Some general areas of risk that will be considered are listed below:

- **Technical Scope Risk** – The project includes significant research and development and thus has a high level of technical uncertainty. Independent technical reviews will be performed as appropriate, to minimize technical risks.
- **Cost/Budget Risk** – The funding and budgeting of a federal activity are subject to changes (e.g., availability of funds, continuing resolutions (CRs), congressional action, changes in Administration).
- **Schedule Risk** – As the project proceeds, delays can occur (e.g., equipment failure and technical development). There may also be schedule delays involved in the procurement process or impacts associated with changes in schedule driven by WIPP's disposal operations role.

4.3 Environmental and Regulatory Compliance

This work will operate under existing National Environmental Policy Act framework in place at WIPP and each of the participating laboratories. Additional permitting is not expected, beyond internal environmental safety and health requirements at WIPP.

4.3.1 Integrated Safety Management

Integrated Safety Management is addressed through each participating partners' "Integrated Safety Management System." These activities will follow the guidelines and principles of integrated safety management. Section 2.2 discusses safety and training that is required by WIPP and will be coordinated through the TCO.

4.4 Configuration Management

A configuration management process will be established that controls changes to the physical configuration of project equipment, structures, and systems in compliance with DOE standards. This process ensures that the configuration is in agreement with the performance objectives identified in the technical baseline and the approved Quality Assurance (QA) plan.

A configuration management system will identify and document the configuration of the end products (e.g., samples and equipment) and control configuration changes during the life cycle.

4.5 Records Management/Document Control

Existing partner corporate processes will be utilized to control preparation, review, comment resolution, approval, issuance, use, and revision of documents that establish policies, prescribe work, and specify requirements.

The primary project-controlled documents include contract documents, the Project Plan, Milestone reports, work authorizations, design specifications, compliance documents, QA and Environment, Safety, and Health Plans, and the BCP log including disposition.

4.6 Quality Assurance

QA is an integral part of effective project management and will be employed throughout the design, procurement, and construction of the project. The Project QA Plan will be based on each partner's corporate QA plan and the Spent Fuel Waste Science & Technology (SFWST) Program QA Plan (SNL 2018) and QA program document (DOE 2017). QA requirements will apply to all team members performing work on the project. A graded approach based on importance and significance of activities will be utilized in the application of standards.

In addition, national codes and standards will be followed throughout as applicable. Quality control will be required for the purchase, construction, and/or fabrication of essential components.

4.7 Project Closeout

When the project nears completion, project closeout activities will be identified and implemented. The following activities will be considered for project close out:

- Completion of contract obligations, products, services, and deliverables;
- Proper dispositioning of excess equipment and associated components;
- Determination for long-term use of boreholes; and
- Documentation of project lessons learned.

5. REFERENCES

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