

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB September 2007

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (August)

- Conducted two (2) audits. The facilities audited were Los Alamos National Laboratory and Paducah (KY). The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection observed both audits. The Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted a surveillance of the Pantex generator.
- Received 619,978 cubic feet of LLW in 873 shipments for disposal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), as of August 26, 2007.
- LLW Operations has worked 332,693 hours since last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- FY 2008 LLW and MLLW Forecast received from the Generators. Currently, the FY 2008 MLLW and LLW forecast is 915,025 cubic feet.

Expectations (September)

- Expect to receive 100,000 cubic feet of LLW for disposal in September.
- Expect to conduct three (3) unannounced RWAP Facility Inspections of the generator sites.

Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW):

Completed Activities (August)

- Received 137, 810 cubic feet in 127 shipments for disposal at the NTS, as of August 26, 2007.
- On August 27, 2007, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) issued an Order to Cease Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) acceptance from Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (Tennessee), Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Ohio) and M&EC Permafix (Tennessee). This is a result of NDEP's concerns that some MLLW generators that ship to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) are not demonstrating enough rigor and vigilance in implementing their waste certification programs. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters and NDEP will meet during the week of September 3, 2007 to discuss these activities and an acceptable path forward.

In April 2007, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation shipped a package of MLLW which contained six drums to the NTS for disposal. The NSO disposed the package in Pit 3 at Area 5. On July 25, 2007, the generator self disclosed that one of the drums contained transuranic waste and self suspended shipments. The NSO verbally notified the NDEP of this incident. On July 26, 2007, the NSO issued the generator a corrective action request and suspended all waste shipments. As of September 4, the container is still buried. The NTS Disposal Operations contractor is developing plans to safely retrieve the container. The generator is responsible for the cost of retrieving the container and shipping it back to its site.

As previously reported to the CAB in the April 2007 Monthly Report, Portsmouth sent a leaking Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) cargo container to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The Nevada Site Office (NSO) verbally notified the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) of this incident. The NTS did not dispose the cargo container. It was staged in Pit 3 pending analysis of the leaking liquid. It was determined that the leaking liquid contained hazardous constituents and the NTS contacted the generator. The generator retrieved the cargo container on August 20, 2007.

The generator will open the cargo container at their site on September 11, 2007. The NDEP will be present as the cargo container is opened and emptied.

In June 2007, during a Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) surveillance visit at M&EC Permafix (Tennessee) it was discovered that non-DOE low-level waste (LLW) containers were going to be inadvertently shipped to the NTS for disposal with DOE LLW. One box had already been shipped. As a result, three corrective action requests were issued and shipments were suspended. The generator later issued a Corrective Action Plan that RWAP reviewed and accepted. During the week of August 27, 2007, RWAP was present while M&EC opened the remaining suspect boxes at the generator site. This activity verified that M&EC inventory placement list was correct and the box that was sent to the NTS contained Department of Defense waste; which is compliant with the NTS waste acceptance criteria.

MLLW Expectations (September)

- Planned facility evaluations are included in the LLW portion of this report.
- Expect to receive 500 cubic feet of MLLW in September.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (August)

- NSTec shipped 10 drums of mixed low-level waste (MLLW) off-site to be treated and returned to be disposed at the Nevada Test Site. These drums were once a part of the TRU drum population that did not ship to WIPP because it was determined to be MLLW.
- The required nuclear safety documents to allow size reduction and waste segregation of the oversized boxes in the VERB were completed including the engineering design for the VERB.
- Construction on the VERB to make modifications for the oversized box work began. The first activity is to remove ducting and other materials from the building to prepare for rework.

Expectations (September)

- Continue construction activities on the VERB for oversized box size reduction and waste segregation.
- Ship remaining 20 MLLW drums off-site to be treated and returned to be disposed at the Nevada Test Site. These drums were once a part of the TRU drum population that did not ship to WIPP because it was determined to be MLLW.
- Finalize the Task Plan for Fiscal Year 2008, the final year of the TRU Sub-Project.

Industrial Sites

Accomplishments (August)

- Began investigation fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 545: Dumps, Waste Disposal Sites, and Buried Radioactive Materials
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for CAU 484: Surface Debris, Waste Sites, and Burn Area (Tonopah Test Range - TTR)
- Completed SAFER fieldwork for CAU 124: Storage Tanks
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for CAU 127: Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for CAU 224: Decon Pad and Septic Systems
- Completed investigation fieldwork for CAU 563: Septic Systems
- Continued D&D fieldwork for CAU 116: Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for CAU 543: Liquid Disposal Units

- Completed investigation fieldwork for CAU 565: Stored Samples
- Submitted ERRATA (corrected/revised document) for CAU 254: Area 25 R-MAD Decontamination Facility, to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for approval
- Submitted ERRATA for CAU 261: Area 25 Test Cell A Leachfield System, to NDEP for approval
- Submitted approved Record of Technical Change for the Final Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for CAU 224: Decon Pad and Septic Systems
- Submitted the Final Post-Closure Inspection Report for CAU 90: Area 2 Bitcutter Containment, to NDEP for acceptance
- Submitted the Final Post-Closure Inspection and Monitoring Report for CAU 110: Area 3 WMD U-3AX/BL Crater, Nevada Test Site, Nevada, for the Period July 2006-June 2007, Revision 0, July 2007, to NDEP for acceptance
- Submitted the Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan for Corrective Action Unit 234: Mud Pits, Cellars, and Mud Spills, to NDEP for approval
- Submitted the Final Corrective Action Plan for CAU 139: Waste Disposal Sites, to NDEP for approval
- Submitted the Final Closure Report for CAU 536: Area 3 Release Site, to NDEP for approval
- Submitted the Final Closure Report for CAU 553: Areas 19, 20 Mud Pits and Cellars
- Received NDEP acceptance for the Post-Closure Inspection and Monitoring Report for CAU 110: Area 3 U-3ax/bl Subsidence Crater
- Received NDEP approval for the Corrective Action Plan for CAU 139: Waste Disposal Sites

Planned (September)

- Complete final well closure activities for CAU 329: Area 22 Desert Rock Airstrip Fuel Spill
- Complete corrective action fieldwork for CAU 543: Liquid Disposal Sites
- Continue Decontamination & Decommissioning (D&D) fieldwork for CAU 116: Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continue fieldwork for CAU 145: Wells and Storage Holes
- Continue post-closure maintenance work for CAU 335: Area 6 Injection Well and Drain Pit
- Continue fieldwork for CAU 408: Bomblet Target Area (TTR)
- Continue fieldwork for CAU 545: Dumps, Waste Disposal Sites, and Buried Radioactive Materials
- Continue investigation fieldwork for CAU 565: Stored Samples
- Submit Final Closure Report for CAU 484: Surface Debris, Waste Sites, and Burn Area (TTR)
- Submit the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration for CAU 117: Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility, to NDEP for approval
- Submit the Final Closure Report for CAU 118: Area 27 Super Kukla Facility, to NDEP for approval
- Submit the Final Closure Report for CAU 300: Surface Release Areas, to NDEP for approval

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed Activities (August)

Frenchman Flat

- Completed Phase II Transport Modeling Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase II Transport Model draft report development.
- Continued routine project support activities.
- Completed draft proposed FY 2008 Task Plan.

Pahute Mesa

- Continued Phase I Transport Modeling Analysis and Evaluation
- Continued Phase I Transport Model draft report development.

Yucca Flat

- Completed Project Manager Assessment of the ER-8-1 Re-complete field operations.
- Completed response to NDEP and NNSA/NSO (Technical Security Support Team) review comments on the Phase I Transport Parameter Draft "Revision 1" Report.
- Initiated document revision on the Phase I Transport Parameter report.
- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Mobilized for re-completion of well ER-8-1.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Continued Phase I Transport Parameter Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Hydrology Analysis and Evaluation.

Expectations (September)

Frenchman Flat

- Continue Phase II Transport Model draft report development.
- Continue routine project support activities.
- Work with NNSA/NSO to revise and complete final FY 2008 Task Plan.

Pahute Mesa

- Continue Phase I Transport Modeling Analysis and Evaluation
- Continue Phase I Transport Model draft report development.

Yucca Flat

- Complete ER-8-1 Re-complete field operations.
- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Complete and transmit final Phase I Transport Parameter Report – Revision 1 to NNSA/NSO.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Continue Phase I Transport Parameter Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Hydrology Analysis and Evaluation.

Soils

Completed Activities (August)

- Completed revisions to 10 CFR 830 Exemption Request based on input and written comments from Nevada Site Office (NSO)
- Continued development of Data Summary documents
- Continued work on the development of the task plans for FY 2008

Expectations (September)

- Continue development of Soils Project Data Summaries
- Incorporate additional NSO input into 10 CFR 830 Exemption Request document and finalize.
- Continue the investigation of the eleven potential soil sites to determine if these require inclusion into the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order.
- Complete work on the task plans for FY 2008.

Public Involvement:

Completed Activities (August)

- Setup an Operation Clean Desert (OCD) exhibit at "Get to Know Your Community Day" at Bob Miller Middle School in Las Vegas sponsored by the Clark County School District
- Mailed 26 OCD teacher's packets to teachers who signed up at "Get to Know Your Community Day" (packet includes 1 OCD activity book, 1 OCD computer game CD, 1 OCD brochure, 1 Environmental Management (EM) Public Outreach brochure, 1 EM Speaker's Bureau brochure, and 1 cover letter)
- Continued revising EM fact sheets

Expectations (September)

- Completion and approval of enhancements to OCD computer game
- Support Community Advisory Board meetings
- Continue updating EM fact sheets
- Publish EM Update (newsletter) and distribute via EM electronic mailing list
- Continue revising EM fact sheets
- Finalize FY 2008 Public Involvement task plans
- Revising Transportation Display
- Support Greater-Than-Class-C public scoping meeting