

## **Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB February 2008**

### **Low-Level Waste (LLW):**

#### Completed Activities (January)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted one (1) Impromptu Facility Evaluation of Savannah River and four (4) on-site waste verifications at Boeing, Perma-Fix (M&EC), Plumbrook, and Perma-Fix Northwest.
- As of January 27, 2008, 270,412 ft<sup>3</sup> of LLW in 345 shipments was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).
- LLW Operations has worked 357,337 hours since last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- On January 16, 2008, EM/HQ held its first LLW Corporate Board Meeting in Las Vegas. The Board will serve as a body to integrate DOE's LLW/MLLW disposal activities.

#### Expectations (February)

- Expect to receive 89,000 ft<sup>3</sup> of LLW and MLLW for disposal.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program Audit (RWAP) of Portsmouth, and two (2) Impromptu Facility Inspections of the generator sites.

### **Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW):**

#### Completed Activities (January)

- Received 4,976 ft<sup>3</sup> in 11 shipments for disposal at the NTS, as of January 27, 2008.
- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Cease order is still in effect for Portsmouth's MLLW program. To help lift the Cease Order, the NDEP requested Portsmouth to take an additional but larger sample of the shipping container and analyze it for lead and cadmium using a total digestive method of analysis. If the results are still less than regulatory limits, the NDEP may lift the Cease Order stating Portsmouth has demonstrated its waste did not contain any hazardous waste constituents.

#### Background:

Last July, the NDEP issued a Cease Order to the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (TN), Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Ohio) and M&EC Permafix (TN) Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) generators, because the NDEP felt that these MLLW generators did not demonstrate enough rigor and vigilance in implementing their waste certification programs. Since then, M&EC and Foster-Wheeler have improved their MLLW programs to have the NDEP lift the Cease Order.

#### MLLW Expectations (February)

- MLLW disposal is included in the LLW section for January.
- Planned facility evaluations are included in the LLW portion of this report.

### **Transuranic Waste (TRU)**

#### Completed Activities (January)

- Modifications to the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB) for the oversized box size-reduction and segregation continued and are planned to be completed in March 2008.
- A Contractor Readiness Assessment was conducted the week of January 7<sup>th</sup> on the process for venting the 12 remaining oversized boxes to ensure worker safety issues have

been adequately addressed prior to the start of operations, and venting was completed on January 31, 2008.

- The Draft 2008 Site Treatment Plan was submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on January 15, 2008, as required by the Federal Facility Compliance Act Consent Order.
- Meet with the NDEP on January 29, 2008 at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex to observe the venting process and VERB modification activities.
- The Nevada Site Office participated in the Transuranic Corporate Board meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 29-30, 2008.

#### Expectations (February)

- Modification activities on the VERB for oversized box size-reduction and waste segregation will continue with completion scheduled for March 2008.
- Collect information to complete data packages for the remaining TRU waste drums to ship off-site for characterization and shipment to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

#### **Industrial Sites:**

##### Accomplishments (January)

- Continued Decontamination & Decommissioning fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility.
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks.
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 151, Septic Systems and Discharge Area.
- Submitted Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 124, Storage Tanks, to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for approval.
- Submitted Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report for Corrective Action Unit 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches, to NDEP for approval.
- Submitted Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report for Corrective Action Unit 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well, to NDEP for approval.
- Submitted Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 543, Liquid Disposal Units, to NDEP for approval.

##### Planned (February)

- Continue Decontamination & Decommissioning fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility.
- Complete corrective action fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks.
- Start corrective action investigation fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points.
- Receive NDEP approval for Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 124, Storage Tanks.
- Receive NDEP approval for Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report for Corrective Action Unit 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches.
- Receive NDEP approval for Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report for Corrective Action Unit 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well.
- Receive NDEP approval for Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 543, Liquid Disposal Units.
- Submit Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks, to NDEP for approval.
- Submit Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 145, Wells and Storage Holes, to

NDEP for approval.

- Submit Final Corrective Action Investigation Report for Corrective Action Unit 563, Septic Systems, to NDEP for approval.
- Submit Final Supplemental Investigation Plan for FFACO Use Restrictions, Nevada Test Site, Nevada, to NDEP for approval.
- Submit Final Recommendations and Justifications for Modifications for Use Restrictions Established under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO), Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO), to NDEP for approval.

### **Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

#### **Completed (January)**

##### **Frenchman Flat**

- Completed mobilization to the DALHART site, well U-4u PS #2A, for “hot well” sampling. Attempted to pump well using coil tubing pump, but groundwater has high solids content. Pulled pump and reran same in well.
- Continued Phase II Transport Model Draft report development. The report underwent internal reviews and revisions.

##### **Pahute Mesa**

- Continued Phase I Transport Model Draft Report development.
- The preemptive review committee held a second meeting to discuss development of the Phase II CAIP

##### **Yucca Flat**

- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- The ER-8-1 Data Report Addendum was completed

##### **Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain**

- Began review of Phase I Transport Parameter Draft Data document.
- Began review of Phase I Hydrology Draft Data document.
- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

#### **Expectations (February)**

##### **Frenchman Flat**

- Complete pumping and sampling of groundwater at the DALHART site.
- Continue Phase II Transport Model Draft report development
- Initiate baseline planning.

##### **Pahute Mesa**

- Continue Phase I Transport Model Draft report development.
- Continued CAIP Addendum initiative.

##### **Yucca Flat**

- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

##### **Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain**

- Begin finalizing the Phase I Hydrology Data document following reviews.
- Begin finalizing the Phase I Transport Parameters Data document following reviews.
- Complete Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Initiate planning field work for groundwater sampling at ER-16-1.

## **Soils**

### **Completed Activities (January)**

- Continued the development of the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) plan and Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) documents for selected Soils Sites.
- Continued conducting preliminary assessments for remaining Soil sites.

### **Expectations (February)**

- Continue the CAIP development for selected Soils Sites. Draft CAIP is expected to be submitted for review in late February.
- Complete the development of the draft SAFER Plan for low impact Soils Sites for internal review. The SAFER Plan represents the first set of Soils Sites that will be on a defined Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order closure path since the inception of the Soils Project in 1994.
- Continue the CAIP development for selected Soils Sites.
- Continue the preliminary assessments of remaining Soils Sites.

## **Public Involvement:**

### **Completed Activities (January)**

- Operation Clean Desert exhibit staffed at 'Family to Family Connection Center' (Pahrump, Nevada) on behalf of the Latter Day Saints Pahrump Home Schoolers organization; 25 activity books and 20 game CDs distributed
- Participated in the Community Advisory Board Full Board meeting in Pahrump, NV.
- Developed a Community Advisory Board fact sheet.
- Met with the Environmental Management Student Forum (a group of high school students from Advanced Technologies in Las Vegas, NV) to begin development of an interactive Nevada Test Site Environmental Management timeline. This is a weekly meeting.

### **Expectations (February)**

- EM Public Involvement participation and Operation Clean Desert presentations at 2008 Math & Science Conference (Spring Valley High School, Las Vegas, NV) for February 9
- EM Public Involvement presentation to elementary school teachers at Regional Professional Development Program event scheduled for February 11, to provide information on Operation Clean Desert learning materials
- Will host a Nevada Test Site Waste Management booth at the Waste Management Symposium (professional conference) in Phoenix, AZ.
- Meet with the Environmental Management Student Forum (a group of high school students from Advanced Technologies in Las Vegas, NV) four times (once a week) to development of an interactive Nevada Test Site Environmental Management timeline.