

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB September 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (August)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted five (5) mixed waste verifications at Permafix Northwest in Washington, one (1) at Permafix in Oak Ridge, TN, and one (1) at Waste Control Specialist. Additionally, the NSO conducted one (1) impromptu Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Facility Evaluation at Nuclear Fuel Services in TN.
- As of August 24, 2008, 819,764 ft³ LLW in 954 shipments was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) during FY 2008.
- As of August 24, 2008, 37,037 ft³ of mixed LLW in 82 shipments was disposed at the NTS during FY 2008.
- As of August, 2008, LLW Operations has worked 401,117 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- A letter dated August 12, 2008 was sent to Assistant Secretary Rispoli from the State of Nevada Attorney General regarding the Nevada Test Site land withdrawal and the disposal of mixed low-level waste (MLLW) at the Nevada Test Site. Land withdrawal concerns are the responsibility of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Regarding MLLW, the Nevada Test Site is currently operating Pit 3 in accordance with the State of Nevada issued Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit. Discussions are currently underway between the NSO, Environmental Management Headquarters and NNSA as to how to respond to the letter. **POC:** Jhon Carilli, Nevada Site Office, 702-295-0672.

Expectations (September)

- Expect to receive 200,000 ft³ of LLW and mixed LLW for disposal.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) RWAP impromptu surveillance. The Los Alamos audit scheduled for mid August was cancelled. (note: Los Alamos's Nevada Test Site Waste Acceptance Criteria certification has been suspended since May 2007 and as a result they cannot ship LLW to the NTS unless they use another approved generators program).
- FY 2009 task plans are expected to be approved and loaded into the AMEM system by September 15, 2008.
- The FY 2009 RWAP Facility Evaluation plan is completed. In FY 2009 RWAP will conduct four (4) RWAP certification audits, and 18 impromptu surveillances.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (August)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) Operational Readiness Review (ORR) team evaluated readiness to start operations in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). Based on the successful completion of the review, the NSO Acting Manager approved the startup of operations on August 22, 2008. NSTec began opening oversized boxes in the VERB on August 25, 2008.

Expectations (September)

- NSTec will continue to repackage oversized boxes in the VERB.
- NSO will work with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) to validate characterization data for the repackaged TRU waste for shipment to the Idaho National Laboratory Consolidation Site.

Industrial Sites:

Completed Activities (August)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 110, Area 3 Waste Management Disposal (WMD) U-3ax/bl

Crater

- Submitted the Final Post-Closure Report to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), for approval
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continued decontamination & decommissioning fieldwork
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Began corrective action investigation field work

Expectations (September)

- CAU 90, Area 2 Bitcutter Containment
 - Submit the Final Post-Closure Report to NDEP for approval
- CAU 110, Area 3 WMD U-3ax/bl Crater
 - Obtain approval from NDEP for Final Post-Closure Report
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continue decontamination & decommissioning fieldwork
- CAU 121, Storage Tanks and Miscellaneous Sites
 - Submit the Final Closure Report to NDEP for approval
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Complete corrective action investigation field work

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed (August)

- **Frenchman Flat**
 - Completed first draft of FY 2009 Task Plans.
 - Held discussions with DOE/NDEP on classified modeling.
 - Completed QA Finding on pre- and post-processing computer code documentation.
- **Pahute Mesa**
 - Submitted Phase II CAIP Addendum for DOE review.
 - Completed lead monitoring at U-19ad.
- **Yucca Flat**
 - Submitted Source Term report for DOE review.
 - Completed lead monitoring at UE-2ce.
- **Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain**
 - Completed 3D as-built tunnel maps of the minor tunnel complexes on Rainier Mesa.
 - Completed sampling of U-12n.10 Vent Hole
 - Completed data report for well ER-16-1.

Expectations (September)

- **Frenchman Flat**
 - Complete the following draft reports: *A Hydrostratigraphic System for Modeling Groundwater Flow and Radionuclide Migration at the CAU-Scale, NTS and Surrounding Areas, Clark, Lincoln, and Nye Counties, Nevada; Observations on Faults and Associated Permeability Structures in Hydrogeologic Units at the Nevada Test Site; and Identification and Characterization of Hydrogeologic Units at the NTS Using Geophysical Logs: Examples from the Underground Test Area Project.*
 - Continue addressing comments on draft Phase II Transport Document
 - Complete NSTec support to SNJV Fracture Analysis task
- **Pahute Mesa**
 - Complete land and ecological surveys of the first three new well sites on Western Pahute Mesa.
 - Submit Phase I Transport Document for NDEP review.

- **Yucca Flat.**
 - Complete the letter report: *The Hydrogeologic Character of the Lower Tuff Confining Unit and the Oak Spring Butte Confining Unit in the Tuff Pile Area of Central Yucca Flat.*
 - Continue Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation
- **Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain**
 - Perform sampling at Wells ER-12-3 and ER-12-4.
 - Complete NSTec FY 2008 support to Flow and Transport Modeling efforts.
 - Complete draft report: *Low Water Production from Carbonate Aquifers at Rainier Mesa: Implications on the Distribution of Hydraulic Conductivity within the Lower Carbonate Aquifer, NTS and Vicinity.*
 - Continue Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation
 - Complete the analysis of Rainier Mesa fracture and fault data task.
 - Complete a hydrogeologic characterization of two springs in the vicinity of Rainier Mesa.

Soils:

Completed Activities (August)

- Completed a revision to the Calabash section of draft CAU 107 Streamlined Approach For Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan and received informal NDEP input.
- Completed and submitted the revised draft CAU 107 SAFER Plan.
- Completed the sampling and walkover surveys for CAU 370.
- Completed the site visits of all the current Soils Corrective Action Sites (CASs) as part of the Data Summaries.

Expectations (September)

- Submit the Final CAU 107 SAFER Plan.
- Continue the development of a Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) for CAU 370 T-4 Atmospheric sites.
- Complete the CAU 371 Data Quality Objectives meeting.
- Complete the soil Data Summaries for all existing Soil CASs.

Public Involvement:

Completed Activities (August)

- Delivered and set-up the Transportation Poster Display and Transportation Drum Display (exchanging for Groundwater Poster Display) at Beatty Public Library, including fact sheets/brochures. Display will remain for approximately one month duration.
- Delivered and set-up the Groundwater Poster Display (exchanging for the Transportation Poster Display and Transportation Drum Display) at Amargosa Valley Public Library, including fact sheets/brochures. Display will remain for approximately one month duration.
- Delivered and set up Operation Clean Desert display, along with interactive game, activity book, and other informational materials, and staffed the display at the 3rd Annual Educator Appreciation Day, August 13. 104 activity books and 87 CD games were distributed, along with numerous brochures on the poster displays and the Operation Clean Desert display.
- Provided informational materials regarding educational and informational opportunities available to educators through the Environmental Management program 2008-2009 New Licensed Personnel Orientation Event (Clark County School District), August 13 and 14. A total of 36 teacher packets were distributed.
- Continued to work with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) via a DOE grant that was provided to the university to conduct research regarding Southern Nevada resident

perspectives on EM activities. As of August 25, 2008, ~14,000 questionnaires were distributed and nearly 1,700 have been completed and returned.

- In conjunction with UNLV, submitted an abstract to the Waste Management 2009 Symposium regarding the EM questionnaire. See supporting information above.

Expectations (September)

- Attend CHOLLA (Clasping Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures) meeting on September 9, 2008. This group is comprised of area organizations and businesses promoting field trips and other learning opportunities to the Clark County School District.
- Participate in the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs bimonthly meeting on September 10, 2008.
- Participate in the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs meeting on September 16 – 17 in Washington, DC.
- Assist the Office of Public Affairs with Nevada Test Site tours.
- As a result of the new school year, contact Advanced Technologies Academy (A-Tech) faculty, a high school in Las Vegas, Nevada, to schedule meetings, in order to facilitate continuing the Environmental Management (EM) Student Forum. This group of high school students is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office EM Program and the A-Tech. The EM Student Forum works with members of the EM Public Involvement (PI) team to develop and produce outreach products consistent with the Operation Clean Desert learning trio. The students will use the computer expertise they have acquired at A-Tech to develop and work in a real-world environment while earning credit for their educational class.