

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

### **April 2009**

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

##### **Activities (March)**

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted two (2) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) facility surveillances this month (one of the Savannah River Site [SRS], and one on the Nuclear Fuel Services [NFS] site). The NFS surveillance began on March 31 and results of it will be reported in next month's update. The SRS surveillance resulted in seven observations and no findings.
- As of March 29, 2008, the cumulative LLW volume received for FY 2009 is 595,641 ft<sup>3</sup> in 615 shipments. The cumulative mixed LLW (MLLW) volume received for FY 2009 is 14,310 ft<sup>3</sup> in 25 shipments. LLW Operations has worked 445,665 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- Acceptance of new waste streams of MLLW for disposal is still under hiatus due to ongoing discussion with the State of Nevada Attorney General.
- The LLW Sub-Project conducted a safety surveillance of the Areas 3 Radioactive Waste Management Complex Disposal Authorization Statement. No findings or observations were discovered.

##### **Planned Activities (April)**

- Expect to receive over 126,000 ft<sup>3</sup> of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month.
- The LLW Sub-Project plans to conduct one RWAP Audit of the Y-12 facility.
- The Sub-Project will host the Spring Waste Generators' Workshop, the NNSA/EM-50 generator meeting, and the LLW Federal Review Group's meeting, during the week of April 27, 2009.

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

##### **Activities (March)**

- Repackaging activities were completed in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). Completed rework of Standard Waste Boxes (SWB) that were rejected by Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO).
- NSO continued to work with CBFO to validate characterization data for the repackaged waste to ensure compliance with the CBFO's repackaging requirements.
- In March 2009, 192 cubic meters of LLW from the VERB repackaging operations were disposed at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (total LLW disposed since the start of VERB operation in August 2008: 471 cubic meters).
- Macroencapsulated and disposed of MLLW Oversized Boxes (OSB) debris in 16 containers with a total volume of 136 cubic meters.
- CBFO will continue to work with NSO to approve the remaining legacy TRU waste for shipment (25 SWBs and 26 drums). The Mobile Loading Unit is scheduled to return in April 2009.
- CBFO provided gas generation test canisters and their final procedure. Gas generation testing is required on seven drums prior to shipment in TRUPACT II container.
- NSO participated in weekly meetings with CBFO to discuss the Integrated Project Schedule and ongoing activities to ensure completion of TRU waste shipment to the INL Consolidation Site.

### Planned Activities (April)

- Any SWBs that do not pass CBFO's approval will be reworked as necessary. Final VERB decontamination will be completed.
- Gas generation testing of seven TRU waste drums will be completed.
- Macroencapsulation will be completed on all remaining boxes for disposal as MLLW.
- NSO will continue to work with the CBFO to validate characterization data for the remaining TRU waste.
- Final TRU waste shipments to the Idaho National Laboratory Consolidation Site will be made.

### Underground Test Area (UGTA)

#### Activities (March)

- Frenchman Flat
  - Continued support to FY 2009 fracture analysis task and other geologic databases.
  - Comment resolution continued for the Phase II Transport Model.
  - The risk evaluation team continued developing recommendations for further work.
- Pahute Mesa
  - Completed the draft Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
  - Began construction of access road, drill pad and sumps at the ER-EC-11 site
  - Began construction of access road, drill pad and sumps at the ER-20-8 site
  - Completed baseline change control for new work scope at the ER-EC-1 and ER-EC-6 well sites.
  - Continued support to acquisition of subcontracts for new well drilling and related services.
  - Began acquisition process for downhole hardware required for ER-EC-6 well.
  - Continued revising National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for new wells on the Nevada Test and Training Range.
  - Revisions to field instructions continued.
  - The Fluid Management and Waste Management plans were completed.
  - Sampling at ER-EC-1 was initiated.
- Yucca Flat
  - Phase I flow and transport modeling continued.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
  - Continued support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling efforts.

#### Planned Activities (April)

- Frenchman Flat
  - Continue FY 2009 fracture analysis task and other geologic databases.
  - Recommendations for further risk evaluation work will be completed.
  - Comment responses for the Phase II Transport Model will continue development.
- Pahute Mesa
  - Review and finalize the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
  - Stake remaining seven new Phase II well site locations
  - Complete construction of ER-20-8 access road, drill pad and sumps.
  - Continue construction of access road, drill pad and sumps at the ER-EC-11 well site
  - Begin construction of the conductor hole at the ER-20-7 well site
  - Complete sampling of ER-EC-1 and ER-EC-6 wells.
  - Continue support to acquisition of subcontracts for new well drilling and related services.
  - Sampling at ER-EC-1 and ER-EC-6 will be completed.
  - Preparations will continue for well drilling.
- Yucca Flat
  - Continue support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling.

- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
  - Continue support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling efforts.

## **Industrial Sites**

### **Activities (March)**

- Corrective Action Units (CAU)s 5, 113, 115, 118, 127, 137, 140, 143, 145, 151, 165, 168, 204, 254, 261, 262, 309, 322, 339, 357, 383, 476, 477, 478, 482, 528, 529, 542, 543, 545, 551, 552, 554 & 559
  - Submitted Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). The letter report covers above-listed CAUs, which include contaminated waste sites, decontamination and decommissioning sites, inactive tanks, disposal wells, bunkers, drains and sumps, septic tanks and lagoons, inactive ponds and tunnel muckpiles, and spill sites.
- CAU 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well; CAU 92, Area 6 Decon Pond Facility; CAU 110, Area 3 WMD U-3ax/bl Crater; and CAU 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches
  - Performed Post-Closure Inspections
- CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility
  - Completed closure strategy presentation
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
  - Completed closure field work, demobilization in progress
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
  - Submitted Final Closure Report to NDEP
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
  - Completed closure field work
- CAUs 143, Area 25 Contaminated Waste Dumps; 165, Area 25 and 26 Dry Well and Washdown Areas; 261, Area 25 Test Cell A Leachfield System; 262, Area 25 Septic Systems and UDP; and 528, Polychlorinated Biphenyls Contamination
  - Performed post-closure repairs
- CAU 166, Storage Yards and Contaminated Materials
  - Began closure field work
- CAUs 400, 404, 407, 423, 424, 426, 427, 453, 484 & 487
  - Submitted Final Post-Closure Inspection Report to NDEP. The letter report covers above-listed CAUs, which include ordnance sites, contaminated waste sites, drains and sumps, and septic tanks and lagoons on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR).
- CAU 563, Septic Systems
  - Submitted Final Corrective Action Plan to NDEP

### **Planned Activities (April)**

- CAUs 5, 113, 115, 118, 127, 137, 140, 143, 145, 151, 165, 168, 204, 254, 261, 262, 309, 322, 339, 357, 383, 476, 477, 478, 482, 528, 529, 542, 543, 545, 551, 552, 554 & 559
  - Receive approval for the Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report from NDEP. The report covers above-listed CAUs, which include contaminated waste sites, decontamination and decommissioning sites, inactive tanks, disposal wells, bunkers, drains and sumps, septic tanks and lagoons, inactive ponds and tunnel muckpiles, and spill sites.
- CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility
  - Begin closure field work
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
  - Complete demobilization

- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
  - Receive Final Closure Report approval from NDEP
- CAU 166, Storage Yards and Contaminated Materials
  - Complete closure field work
- CAUs 400, 404, 407, 423, 424, 426, 427, 453, 484 & 487
  - Receive approval for the Final Post-Closure Inspection Report from NDEP. The report covers above-listed CAUs, which include ordnance sites, contaminated waste sites, drains and sumps, and septic tanks and lagoons on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR).
- CAU 562, Waste Systems
  - Submit Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan to NDEP
- CAU 563, Septic Systems
  - Receive approval for the Final Corrective Action Plan from NDEP

### **Soils:**

#### **Activities (March)**

- CAU 107, Low Impact Soil Sites
  - Submitted the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration Plan, Rev. 1 to NDEP

#### **Planned Activities (April)**

- CAU 107, Low Impact Soil Sites
  - Complete fieldwork for Closure Report
  - Receive approval for the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration Plan, Rev. 1 from NDEP
- CAU 371, Johnnie Boy Crater and Pin Stripe
  - Initiate field investigation activities

### **Public Involvement**

#### **Activities (March)**

- Hosted a booth at the Waste Management Symposium 2009 (Phoenix, Arizona, March 1 - 5).
- Met with Susan Gunn, instructor at Advanced Technologies High School, to facilitate progress on the Environmental Management Student Forum project
- Attended CHOLLA (Clasping Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures) meeting. This group is comprised of area organizations and businesses promoting field trips and other learning opportunities to the Clark County School District.
- Attended the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board Chairs meeting in August, GA
- Participated in Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs committee meetings.

#### **Planned Activities (April)**

- Staff the Operation Clean Desert display at the “2009 Party for the Planet - Earth Day Festival” at Mandalay Bay, Shark Reef Aquarium (April 18).
- Staff the Operation Clean Desert display for the “Bring Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” at the Nevada Site Office (April 23).
- Participate in Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs committee meetings.