

Environmental Management Monthly Report to the NSSAB August 2012

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted one impromptu facility evaluation of PermaFix Northwest in Washington which resulted in one observation. The generator will have 30 days, after receiving the report, to respond to the RWAP observation.
- RWAP conducted one announced audit facility evaluation of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The audit was still being conducted at the time of this update and will be reported in the September update.
- The site expects to receive approximately 90,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month.
- The NSO will conduct one RWAP impromptu facility survey and one announced audit facility evaluation of Battelle Energy Alliance (ID) generator in August.
- A shipment from PermaFix Northwest was received at the Nevada National Security Site that contained ten metal boxes of which three boxes were discovered with external contamination in excess of Department of Energy release limits but below DOT limits. The contamination appeared to be cross contamination from a forklift used at the generator site and not from a breached or leaking container. All further waste shipments from PermaFix Northwest have been suspended until a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been submitted, approved and implemented.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat

Documentation of the flow and transport model continues.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat

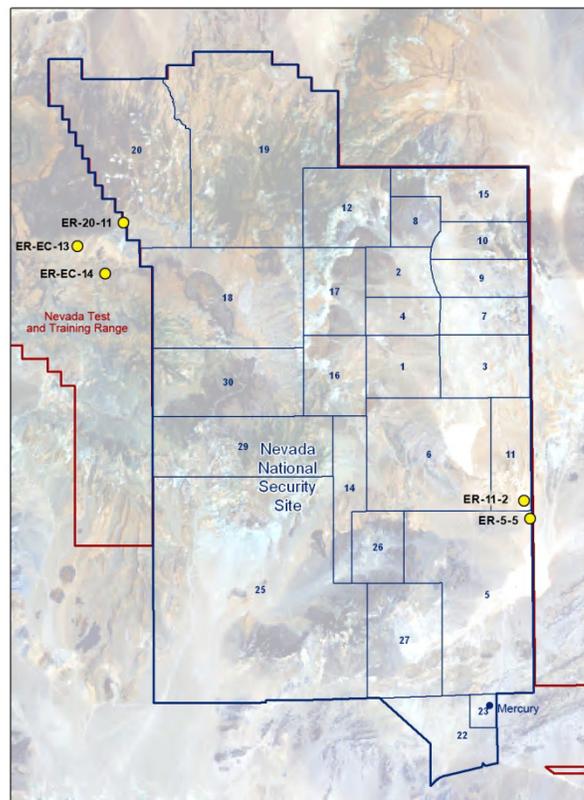
Drilling activities for two model evaluation wells (ER-5-5 and ER-11-2) began in July and will continue into August; both wells are expected to be completed in August.

CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

Flow and transport modeling analyses and evaluation continues.

CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa

Well development, testing, and sampling of the ER-EC-13 well continued in July and are expected to be complete in August. Drilling activities for wells ER-20-11 and ER-EC-14 are planned to begin in late August.



Industrial Sites

CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility

Revision 1 of the final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration Plan (SAFER) for CAU 114 identifies the investigation and closure activities for the site, including site preparation (e.g., utility clearances, radiological surveys), sample collection of potential source material, and removal and disposal of potential source material or closure in place. In July, radiological surveys were completed and vault and pit investigation was conducted. The current characterization work is expected to be completed in September.

CAU 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites

CAU 547 consists of radioactively contaminated gas sampling assemblies at *Mullet*, *Tejon/Bernalillo*, and *Player*. Closure work consisted of closure in place by capping expansion joints with grouted metal casings and installing soil covers over piping. The final Closure Report was submitted to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on July 18, 2012. NDEP approval of the Closure Report is expected in August.

CAU 548, Areas 9, 10, 18, 19, and 20 Housekeeping Sites

CAU 548 consists of 20 housekeeping sites, including drums, waste piles, and batteries. Closure field work associated with CAU 548 is complete. In February, nine boxes of mixed waste lead soil and shot was transported off-site for treatment. The waste was treated in April and returned to the NNSS and disposed at Area 5 in June. The draft Closure Report was submitted to NDEP in June. The final report is due to NDEP by August 31, 2012.

CAU 572, Test Cell C Ancillary Building and Structures

CAU 572 consists of a six Corrective Action Sites (CASs) comprising facilities associated with the Test Cell C compound and the engine (train) maintenance building at EMAD. In July, preliminary investigation work continued at CAU 572 in preparation to develop a conceptual site model. The conceptual site model will drive the Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for CAU 572. Preliminary investigation work will continue in August.

Non- Resource Conservation Recovery Act Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include 119 CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance is performed in accordance with the closure requirements. Annual inspections were completed in December 2011, and repairs were required at 37 sites. Repairs began in January and included re-hanging or replacing signs, tightening fencing, and replacing posts. Sign repairs at CAU 371 will be completed in August.

Resource Conservation Recovery Act Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure monitoring and maintenance is performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Post-closure monitoring at these CAUs is required either quarterly or semi-annually. The quarterly/semi-annual inspections were completed in June. Maintenance, including vegetation removal and sign repairs, was identified and will be completed in August.

Tonopah Test Range Post-Closure Sites

The Tonopah Test Range (TTR) Post-Closure Sites are those sites on the TTR where post-closure inspections and maintenance is performed in accordance with the closure

requirements. Annual inspections were completed in May. Maintenance, including fence and sign repairs, backfilling animal burrows, and subsidence repair, was identified and completed in July.

Soils

CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 104 comprises 15 Corrective Action Sites (CASs) related to historical nuclear testing. The development of the Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) continued in July and is due to NDEP by December 20, 2012.

CAU 105, Area 2 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 105 comprises five CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The development of the Corrective Action Investigation Plan continued in July and is due to NDEP by October 9, 2012.

CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Development of the Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) continued in July and is due to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection by November 16, 2012.

CAU 465, Hydronuclear

CAU 465 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear experiments. Closure activities continued in July with the excavation and sampling of chromium-impacted soil. In August, the chromium-impacted soil and anomaly excavations will be backfilled, the LLW debris packaged, and the hazardous waste transported off site.

CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area

CAU 550 comprises 19 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The final Corrective Action Investigation Plan was submitted to NDEP in May and approved by NDEP. Field activities are expected to begin in September.

CAU 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites

CAU 568 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Preliminary investigations at CAU 568 continued in July.

CAU 569, Area 3 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 569 comprises nine CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites will consist of soil sampling and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. The corrective action investigation activities continued in July.

CAU 570, Area 9 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 570 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Preparation of the Corrective Action Investigation Plan continued in July and is due to NDEP by September 21, 2012.

Public Involvement:

- Ongoing exhibits:
 - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room, Las Vegas
 - *Groundwater at the Nevada National Security Site* poster – Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, and Central Nevada Museum
 - Environmental Management kiosks – Windmill Library, Henderson and Pahrump Community Library, Pahrump
- Publications:
 - Published EM News Flash article: *Groundwater Program Reaches Anticipated Model Evaluation Phase*
- Outreach:
 - Waste Management Open House Nevada National Security Site tour (July 17th)
 - NSSAB Full Board meeting