

**Environmental Management's (EM)
Monthly Report to the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
November 2011**

Low-Level Waste

- Cumulative waste volumes will now be reported on a quarterly basis. The numbers reported will be preliminary pending audit. Audits are conducted approximately six months later.
- The investigations into the shipment from Batelle Energy Alliance (Idaho) containing several wooden boxes with leaking absorbent material continues. No leakage of radioactive material was detected. The generator has suspended all further waste shipments until a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been submitted to and approved by the Nevada Site Office (NSO) and implemented.
- Investigation into the 17 waste shipments from Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico), with contaminated trailer beds in excess of Department of Energy release limits continues. No radioactive contamination was found on any packages and no containers were found to be leaking. The generator has suspended all further waste shipments until a CAP has been submitted to and approved by the NSO and implemented.
- The NSO's Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted an impromptu surveillance of the UCOR generator on the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee. One minor observation was made concerning the need for additional clarification of the generator procedures regarding LLW contaminated with polychlorinated-biphenyls (a special case waste stream which UCOR has not previously disposed at the Nevada National Security Site). The surveillance report will be sent to UCOR in November and UCOR will have 30 days to respond.
- RWAP will conduct two impromptu facility evaluations in November.
- The NSO conducted an RWAP Audit of the Brookhaven National Laboratory generator October 31 through November 2, 2011. The audit will be completed in November.
- The NSO continues to host the Transportation Working Group meetings to discuss transportation topics related to the draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement. Members of the group are made up of State, county, local and advisory board representatives.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

CAU 97, Yucca Flat

In October, UGTA continued conducting additional analyses on the flow and transport model, which will continue through November.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat

There was no new activity in October. In November, construction will begin on the conductor hole at the ER-11-2 site. The conductor hole is the very first hole drilled at a well site to accommodate the surface casing. The current plan calls for drilling two model evaluation wells with the main hole construction starting in the June/July 2012 time frame.

CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

In October, flow and transport modeling analysis and evaluation continued, and hot well (well containing contamination) sampling at U-12n Vent Hole #2 was completed. Flow and transport modeling analyses and evaluation will continue through November.

CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa

Well development and testing of Well ER-EC-12 was initiated in October and will continue in November. Road and pad construction at the ER-20-11 well site was initiated in October and will be completed in November, at which time construction of the sumps will begin. This work is partially funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Current plans call for two additional Phase I investigation wells (ER-EC-14 and ER-20-11) to be drilled in the September/October 2012 time frame.

Industrial Sites

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites

Closure activities (funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act [ARRA]) continued at CAU 547 in October. CAU 547 consists of radioactively-contaminated gas sampling assemblies at three different historic testing locations: Mullet, Tejon/Bernallilo, and Player. Closure work for these assemblies consists of closure in place by capping the assemblies with a grouted metal casing and installing a soil cover on exposed piping. The Mullet site work is completed. In October, waste disposal, surveys, and casing fabrication occurred at the sites. In November, closure work will continue at Tejon.

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

In October, Phase II closure activities began at CAU 548. CAU 548 consists of 20 Corrective Action Sites (CASs), including items such as drums or spills. The closure activities included excavation of stained soil, debris removal, and verification and characterization sample collection. In November, closure activities are expected to be completed; the excavated areas will be backfilled and waste will be disposed.

CAU 562, Waste Systems

CAU 562 consists of 13 CASs in Areas 2, 23, and 25 of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), including items such as drains and outfalls. In October, closure activities began in Area 2: collecting waste characterization samples, staging of soil, and clean-up of asbestos tiles and lead shot. Closure activities at CAU 562 will continue in November.

CAU 566, EMAD Compound

In October, repair on the damaged wall of the EMAD building began. Repair of the wall will likely continue into November.

Non-RCRA Post Closure Monitoring Sites

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites are 59 CAUs where post-closure monitoring and maintenance is required in accordance with the closure requirements. Post-closure monitoring at these sites is required annually and is conducted during October, November and December.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites are 5 CAUs where post-closure monitoring and maintenance is required in accordance with the closure requirements. Post-closure monitoring at these CAUs is required either quarterly or semi-annually, depending on the requirements. The September inspections for the sites indicated that maintenance (removal of animal burrows, vegetation and debris; sign replacement; and fence repair) is required and will be performed in November.

Soils

CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

Field investigation activities to determine the nature and extent of contamination will begin at CAU 104 in November. CAU 104 comprises 15 CASs; field investigation of these sites will consist of soil sampling and thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) measurements.

CAU 106, Areas 5, 11 Frenchman Flat Atmospheric Sites

NDEP approval of the Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report (CADD/CR) for CAU 106 was received on October 14, 2011. The CADD/CR is an enforceable milestone under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO), and summarizes the results of the corrective action investigation conducted and details the actions taken for closure of the site. There are four CASs in CAU 106; no further action was required at two of the sites, and the other two were clean closed. With the NDEP approval of the CADD/CR, this CAU is now considered to be closed.

CAU 365, Baneberry Contamination Area

NDEP approval of the CADD/CR for CAU 365 was received on October 26, 2011. The CADD/CR is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO, and summarizes the results of the corrective action investigation conducted and details the actions taken for closure of the site. The single CAS in CAU 365 was closed in place with a use restriction. With the NDEP approval of the CADD/CR, this CAU is now considered to be closed. CAU 365 was funded by ARRA.

CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites

NDEP approval of the Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for CAU 366 was received on October 20, 2011. The CAIP is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO and outlines the plan to characterize the six sites comprising the CAU. The CAIP for CAU 366 was funded by ARRA. With the approval of the CAIP, field investigation activities began in October and consist of soil sampling and TLD measurements to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Field activities will continue in November.

CAU 465, Hydronuclear

Submittal to NDEP of the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan for CAU 465 will occur in November. The SAFER is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO and details the investigation and planned closure activities conducted at the CAU. The CAU 465 SAFER was funded by ARRA.

CAU 574, Neptune

CAU 574 comprises two CASs. In October, TLDs placed at CAU 574 to measure external dose were retrieved. In November, the TLDs will be read and data analysis will begin.

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

- Articles:
 - Environmental Management (EM) News Flash: *Biologists Gather New Information on Deer Populations at the NNSS*
 - Headquarters (HQ) EM Update article: *NSO Year-End Accomplishments Bolster EM Missions*
 - HQ EM Recovery News – *NNSS Wraps Up Recovery Act Work with List of Major Achievements*
- Outreach Activities:
 - Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) presentation during the October 5 Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations meeting
 - Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board meeting