

Environmental Management Monthly Report to the NSSAB September 2012

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted two facility evaluations in the month of August.
 - The first facility evaluation was an RWAP audit of Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) in Idaho that resulted in no findings and eight observations that require a Corrective Action Report. The observations were minor word changes necessary to meet the latest revision of the Nevada National Security Site Waste Acceptance Criteria, and BEA will have 30 days to respond.
 - The second facility evaluation was conducted at Wastren Advantage, Inc., Oak Ridge, Tennessee, at the end of August. No results were shared at the time of this report, but will be included in next month's update.
- The site expects to receive approximately 90,000 cubic feet of low-level and mixed low-level waste for disposal during the month.
- The NSO will conduct one RWAP impromptu facility survey in September 2012.
- Last month's update included information on a shipment from PermaFix Northwest that contained ten metal boxes in which three boxes were discovered with external contamination in excess of DOE release limits but below Department of Transportation 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 the Corrective Action Plan that has been submitted to RWAP is 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

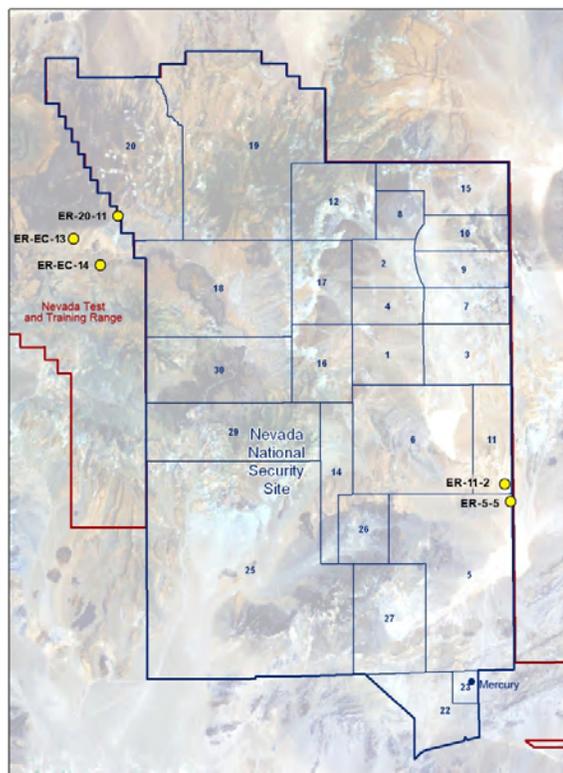
Drilling activities for model evaluation wells ER-5-5 and ER-11-2 were completed in August.

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 Well ER-EC-13 Upper Zone was completed in August. Mobilization activities for well ER-20-11 began in August; well construction is expected to be complete in September.



Industrial Sites

CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility

Revision 1 of the final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan 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 August, removal of radiologically-contaminated material was conducted. The current characterization work is expected to be completed in September.

CAU 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites

CAU 547 consists of radiologically-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. Final State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approval of the Closure Report was received on August 16, 2012. Due to significant precipitation in August, a formal precipitation inspection was conducted on August 23; erosion that requires repair was observed. A plan for the repair of the erosion at CAU 547 and implementation of preventative features will be devised in September.

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 August, 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 September.

Non- Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include 128 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. Repairs were 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 completed in August. The next post-closure inspections will be completed in September.

Soils

CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 104 comprises 15 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The development of the Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) continued in August 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 CAIP continued in August 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 CADD continued in July and is due to NDEP by November 16, 2012. Waste management activities will be conducted in September.

CAU 465, Hydronuclear

CAU 465 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear experiments. Closure activities continued in August with the packaging of low-level waste (LLW) debris, the off-site disposal of chromium-impacted soil, backfill of excavations, and utility surveys for the installation of use restriction signs. Use restriction sign installation and LLW disposal will take place in September.

CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area

CAU 550 comprises 19 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites will consist of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. Corrective action investigation activities began in August and will continue in September.

CAU 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites

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

CAU 569, Area 3 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 569 comprises nine CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites consists of soil sampling and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. The corrective action investigation activities continued in August; additional samples will be collected in early September. Development of the CADD began in August and is due to NDEP by May 6, 2013.

CAU 570, Area 9 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 570 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The CAIP was submitted to NDEP on August 21, 2012. A response is expected from NDEP in September.

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
- Outreach:
 - Teacher Appreciation and Back to School Fair (August 21st)
 - Distributed 171 *Operation Clean Desert* activity books and 52 *Operation Clean Desert* teacher lesson plans
 - Distributed 150 *Operation Clean Desert* activity books and 300 *Operation Clean Desert* CDs to Nevada Public Reading Room, Las Vegas (August 14th)