

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB December 2007

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (November)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted two (2) Facility Evaluations. The facilities evaluated were Oak Ridge Reservation, and Y-12. Also Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) team member participated in a Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility Federal Review Group waste stream review in Oak Ridge, TN during the week of November 26, 2007.
- Received 153,286 ft³ of LLW in 227 shipments for disposal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), as of November 25, 2007.
- LLW Operations has worked 349,016 hours since last lost-time accident (September 2003).

Expectations (December)

- Expect to receive 70,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal.
- Expect to conduct one (1) unannounced RWAP Facility Inspections of the generator sites.

Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW):

Completed Activities (November)

- Received 742 ft³ in 2 shipments for disposal at the NTS, as of November 25, 2007.
- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Cease order is still in effect for Foster-Wheeler and Portsmouth's MLLW programs. This is a result of the NDEP issuing a Cease Order to Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) generators from Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (TN), Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Ohio) and M&EC Permafex (TN). This is a result of NDEP's concerns that some MLLW generators that ship to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) are not demonstrating enough rigor and vigilance in implementing their waste certification programs.

MLLW Expectations (December)

- MLLW disposal is included in the LLW section for December
- Planned facility evaluations are included in the LLW portion of this report.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (November)

- Modifications to the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB) for the oversized box size-reduction and segregation continued and are planned to be completed in March 2008.
- Disposal of ducting and other low-level waste from the removal of items from the VERB to allow for new construction was completed in November.
- Some construction activities, such as the fabrication of ducting and other inner structures, are being conducted by subcontractors at off-site locations to be installed in the building once completed. The field also awaits the arrival of parts that are being procured to finalize construction in March 2008.

Expectations (December)

- Modification activities on the VERB for oversized box size-reduction and waste segregation will continue.

- Assessments will be conducted on the technology to be used to vent the 12 remaining oversized boxes to ensure worker safety issues have been adequately addressed prior to the start of operations.
- Radioactive sources that were found in waste drums during repackaging in the glovebox have been kept in holding containers. These sources require special packaging, shipment and disposal through the Off-Site Source Recovery Program based out of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Packaging and preparation for off-site shipment is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of December.
- Final characterization data for the remaining TRU drums that do not require repackaging in the VERB was submitted to the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) for review and concurrence that all activities that can be done by the Nevada Site Office have been completed. If the CBFO agrees that the NSO work is completed, the remaining drums will be ready for shipment off-site to the Central Characterization Facility with the exception of some drums that require characterization by the CBFO prior to shipment.

Industrial Sites:

Accomplishments (November)

- Completed corrective action investigation field work for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 234: Mud Pits, Cellars, and Mud Spills
- Completed corrective action investigation fieldwork for CAU 545: Dumps, Waste Disposal Sites, and Buried Radioactive Materials
- Completed investigation fieldwork for CAU 565: Stored Samples
- Continued Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) fieldwork for CAU 116: Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for CAU 127: Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for CAU 151: Septic Systems and Discharge Area
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for CAU 190: Contaminated Waste Sites
- Received Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approval for the Final Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for CAU 166: Storage Yards and Contaminated Materials
- Received NDEP approval for the Final Closure Report for CAU 224: Decon Pad and Septic Systems

Planned (December)

- Begin corrective action fieldwork for CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
- Complete corrective action fieldwork for CAU 127: Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks
- Complete corrective action fieldwork for CAU 190: Contaminated Waste Sites
- Continue D&D fieldwork for CAU 116: Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continue corrective action fieldwork for CAU 151: Septic Systems and Discharge Area
- Submit Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report for CAU 565, Stored Samples, to NDEP

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed (November)

Frenchman Flat

- Continued Phase II Transport Model Draft Development.

Pahute Mesa

- Continued Phase I Transport Model Draft Report development.

Yucca Flat

- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Continue Phase I Transport Parameter Draft Data document development.
- Continue Phase I Hydrology Draft Data document development.
- Continue Phase I Model Approach and Strategy Analysis and Evaluation.

Expectations (December)

Frenchman Flat

- Continue pump and sample groundwater at the Bilby and Dalhart sites

Pahute Mesa

- Continue Phase I Transport Model Draft report development.

Yucca Flat

- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Continue Phase I Transport Parameter Draft Data document development.
- Continue Phase I Hydrology Draft Data document development.
- Continue Phase I Model Approach and Strategy Analysis and Evaluation.

Soils

Completed Activities (November)

- Continued work on Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan for low impact Soils Sites.
- Meeting between NSTec and SNJV held to support pre-Data Quality Objectives meeting
- Began work of Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for selected Soils Sites.
- Initiated the preliminary assessments of remaining Soils Sites.

Expectations (December)

- Continue the development of the SAFER and CAIP documents for selected Soils Sites.
- Conduct preliminary Data Quality Objectives meetings in support of the SAFER and CAIP.
- Conduct Data Quality Objectives meeting supporting SAFER Plan
- Continue conducting preliminary assessments for remaining Soil sites.

Public Involvement:

Completed Activities (November)

- Participated in the Clark County School District sponsored Connecting Hands: Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures (CHOLLA) meetings to promote the Operation Clean Desert activity trio.
- Participated in the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for NTS Programs Full Board meeting on November 6 in Amargosa Valley, Nev.
- Participated in the CAB EMPIRE committee meeting on November 6 in Amargosa Valley, Nev.
- Participated in the CAB Budget committee meeting on November 6 in Amargosa Valley, Nev.
- Participated in the CAB Transportation/Waste committee meeting on November 27.
- Updated the Waste Management display.
- Held Environmental Management EM Student Forum meeting with principal and staff of Advanced Technologies Academy (Las Vegas, NV); agreement reached and project approved by school officials. The students will create an interactive timeline on the NTS and the EM historic and current restoration and waste management activities.

- Forty-three (43) Operation Clean Desert activity books were distributed.
- Three (3) Operation Clean Desert computer games were distributed.

Expectations (December)

- Plan to distribute EM News Flash article on “Report on NTS Radioactive Waste Shipments”
- Update the Groundwater at the NTS display
- Update the Radioactive Waste Transportation display