

## Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB October 2007

### Low-Level Waste (LLW):

#### Completed Activities (September)

- The Nevada Sit Office conducted two (2) surveillances. The facilities surveyed were West Valley, and Brookhaven.
- EM/HQ conducted three Facility Surveillances at Portsmouth (Ohio), PermaFix (TN), and EnergX (TN).
- On August 27, 2007, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) issued an Order to Cease Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) acceptance from Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (TN), Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Ohio) and M&EC Permafix (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.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters and NDEP met the week of September 3, 2007 to discuss these activities and concur on an acceptable path forward. From the meeting, it was decided that the NDEP will be present when the Portsmouth opened its retrieved cargo container (opened on September 11, 2007) to verify the Portsmouth waste and try to discover why the liquid contained hazardous waste constituents. It was further decided that the Foster-Wheeler Box will be retrieved and returned (This action is still pending receiving funding from the Generator). Finally, it was decided that M&EC's waste issue would be reviewed by EM/HQ and Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP). This took place the week of September 17, 2007. The NSO RWAP concluded its verification of the issue on October 2, 2007, and verbally recommended re-start of M&EC's LLW program (written report to follow in October).

To date the "Cease and Desist" letter prohibiting MLLW receipts from these generators is still active.

- Received 793,512.38 ft<sup>3</sup> of LLW in 1,111 shipments for disposal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), as of September 30, 2007.
- LLW Operations has worked 332,693 hours since last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- Received the FY 2008 LLW and MLLW forecast from the Generators. Currently, the FY 2008 MLLW and LLW forecast is 940,476 cubic feet.
- On September 20, 2007, a LLW truck driver shipping Portsmouth's LLW did not follow detailed instruction by Portsmouth officials to avoid the Las Vegas Valley Metropolitan area. The NSO immediately shut-down all shipments from Portsmouth (Ohio). RWAP issued a Corrective Action Request (CAR) on September 24, 2007. Portsmouth contacted the transportation provider and terminated use of their services for 30-days after the CAR was lifted. The provider terminated the driver. On September 27, Portsmouth CAR was closed and with EM/HQ concurrence, Portsmouth's LLW Program was re-started. **Please note:** Portsmouth's MLLW program is still under the "Cease and Desist" letter.

#### Expectations (October)

- Expect to receive 110,000 cubic feet of LLW for disposal in October.
- Expect to conduct three (3) unannounced RWAP Facility Inspections of the generator sites.
- RWAP will be conducting an assist visit to Argonne National Laboratory.

## **Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW):**

### **Completed Activities (September)**

- Received 150,481 cubic feet in 154 shipments for disposal at the NTS, as of September 30, 2007.
- Conducted waste verifications at PeCos in Richland , WA and the NTS

### **MLLW Expectations (October)**

- Planned facility evaluations are included in the LLW portion of this report.
- Three MLLW Verifications at Oak Ridge (TN), Idaho National Laboratory and Hanford (WA).

## **Transuranic Waste (TRU)**

### **Completed Activities (September)**

- Shipped 20 drums of mixed low-level waste (MLLW) off-site to be treated and returned for disposal at the Nevada Test Site. These drums were once a part of the TRU drum population that did not ship to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant because it was determined to be MLLW.
- Construction on the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB) to make modifications for the oversized box work began. The first activity is demolition to remove ducting and other materials from the building to prepare for construction.
- Finalized the Task Plan for fiscal year 2008, the final year of the TRU Sub-Project.

### **Expectations (October)**

- Continue demolition activities on the VERB for oversized box size-reduction and waste segregation.
- Radioactive sources were found in waste drums during repackaging in the glovebox and were 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 taking place.

## **Industrial Sites**

### **Accomplishments (September)**

- Completed corrective action investigation fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 563, Septic Systems
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for CAU 145: Wells and Storage Holes
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for CAU 543: Liquid Disposal Sites
- Completed final well closure activities for CAU 329: Area 22 Desert Rock Airstrip Fuel Spill
- Continued D&D fieldwork for CAU 116: Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continued post-closure maintenance work for CAU 335: Area 6 Injection Well and Drain Pit
- Completed corrective action investigation fieldwork for CAU 545: Dumps, Waste Disposal Sites, and Buried Radioactive Materials
- Continued investigation fieldwork for CAU 565: Stored Samples
- Received Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approval for the Closure Report for CAU 553: Areas 19, 20 Mud Pits and Cellars
- Submitted Final Closure Report for CAU 484: Surface Debris, Waste Sites, and Burn Area (Tonopah Test Range- TTR)

- Submitted the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration for CAU 117: Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility, to NDEP for approval
- Submitted the Final Closure Report for CAU 118: Area 27 Super Kukla Facility, to NDEP for approval
- Submitted the Final Closure Report for CAU 300: Surface Release Areas, to NDEP for approval

#### Planned (October)

- Begin corrective action investigation field work for CAU 234: Mud Pits, Cellars, and Mud Spills
- Begin corrective action fieldwork for CAU 151: Septic Systems and Discharge Area
- Continue corrective action investigation fieldwork for CAU 545: Dumps, Waste Disposal Sites, and Buried Radioactive Materials
- Continue fieldwork for CAU 190: Contaminated Waste Sites
- Continue corrective action fieldwork for CAU 543: Liquid Disposal Units
- Submit Final CAP for CAU 166: Storage Yards and Contaminated Materials, to NDEP for approval
- Submit Final Closure Report for CAU 224: Decon Pad and Septic Systems, to NDEP for approval
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Closure Report for CAU 484: Surface Debris, Waste Sites, and Burn Area (TTR)
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration for CAU 117: Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility, to NDEP for approval
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Closure Report for CAU 118: Area 27 Super Kukla Facility, to NDEP for approval
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Closure Report for CAU 300: Surface Release Areas, to NDEP for approval

### **Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

#### Completed (September)

##### **Frenchman Flat**

- Continued Phase II Transport Model Draft Report development.

##### **Pahute Mesa**

- Completed Phase I Transport Modeling Analysis and Evaluation
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Draft Report development.

##### **Yucca Flat**

- Completed UGTA investigation well ER-8-1 as a water level monitoring well.
- Completed and transmitted the final Phase I Transport Parameter Report – Revision 1 to NNSA/NSO.

##### **Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain**

- Completed Phase I Transport Parameter Analysis and Evaluation.
- Completed Phase I Hydrology Analysis and Evaluation.
- Completed a fracture and fault study (dataset and accompanying text) for Rainier Mesa tunnels.
- Completed and disseminated categorization information for Rainier Mesa tests as part of the Support LLNL Hydrologic Source Term Modeling task.

#### Expectations (October)

##### **Frenchman Flat**

- Continue Phase II Transport Model draft report development.

##### **Pahute Mesa**

- Continue Phase I Transport Model draft report development.

#### **Yucca Flat**

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

#### **Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain**

- Initiate Phase I Transport Parameter Draft Technical Letter Report development.
- Initiate Phase I Hydrology Draft Technical Letter Report development.
- Initiate Phase I Model Approach and Strategy Analysis and Evaluation.
- Begin as-built 3D tunnel maps for remaining (smaller) tunnel complexes.

#### **Soils**

##### Completed Activities (September)

- Finalized 10 CFR 830 Exemption Request based on input and written comments from Nevada Site Office
- Completed development of Data Summary documents

##### Expectations (October)

- Begin work on Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration Plan for low impact Soils Sites
- Begin work of Corrective Action Investigation Plan for selected Soils Sites.

#### **Public Involvement:**

##### Completed Activities (September)

- No Operation Clean Desert (OCD) outreach materials were distributed nor the display set up.
- Community Advisory Board meeting was held on September 12, 2007
- Three CAB members and support staff attended the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs Meeting in Paducah, KY on September 24 – 25, 2007.
- The EM Update newsletter was distributed to the EM distribution list (~250 individuals).
- An EM News Flash titled “U.S. Department of Energy Partners With Community Advisory Board to Site Groundwater Well Locations” was distributed to the EM distribution list.

##### Expectations (October)

- October: The OCD Kid's Display will be set up at the Atomic Testing Museum on October 9 and 26 for Educator Appreciation Day and Nevada Day, respectively. The updated OCD computer game will be finalized and distributed during both events and to those who have the original version on CD.
- No CAB meetings are planned.