

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB November 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW)

Accomplishments (October)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted one (1) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) audit at West Valley and one (1) RWAP impromptu facility evaluation at Pantex in Texas.
- The NSO participated in the Fall Generators' Workshop held October 13-17, 2008 in Livermore, CA.
- As of October 26, 2008, 141,466 ft³ of LLW in 146 shipments and 4,658 ft³ in 12 shipments of Mixed LLW (MLLW) was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).
- As of October 26, 2008, LLW Operations has worked 416,877 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- On 10/23/08 at approximately 0838 hours, while conducting receiving inspections at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC), Operations personnel noticed elevated readings on several boxes from three (3) PermaFix Northwest. It is generated by Permafix Northwest from waste received from Idaho National Laboratory. Container contamination information is as follows:

2500 dpm per 100 cm square alpha swipe
30,000 dpm per 100 cm square alpha direct
10,000 dpm per 100 cm square beta direct

The Sub-Project moved and quarantined the three shipments into the RWMC compound. Further radiological surveys will be taken after posting. Surveys of the tractors or trailers detected no contamination. Operations released the Tractors at 1230 hours, but the trailers will remain in quarantine until PermaFix retrieves them.

No personnel were contaminated.

The NSO is issuing a Corrective Action Request (CAR) to PermaFix. Currently, the NSO is suspending PermaFix' NTSWAC Certification. However, the NSO may reduce that suspension to Permafix Northwest or to the specific waste stream information becomes available.

Expectations (November)

- Expect to receive over 200,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month of November.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) RWAP impromptu facility evaluation of a waste generator.
- NSO will conduct a 435.1 Compliance Audit at the Savannah River Site.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (October)

- Oversized boxes continue to be repackaged in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). As of October 24, 2008, 35 oversized boxes have been repackaged.
- Nevada Site Office continued to work with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). Representatives from CBFO performed Head Space Gas Sampling on 51 TRU drums ready to be shipped,

observed operations, and reviewed documentation to develop process knowledge profiles for TRU shipments to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Consolidation Site.

- NSO participated in weekly meetings with CBFO to discuss the Integrated Project Schedule and ongoing activities to ensure completion of TRU waste shipment to the INL Consolidation Site by December 31, 2008.

Expectations (November)

- Repackaging operation will continue in the VERB. 14 oversized box and 31 drums remain to be repacked.
- NSO will continue to work with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) to validate characterization data for the remaining TRU waste.
- CBFO personnel will set up the Mobile Loading Unit, complete on-site training and begin loading TRUPACT II containers.

Industrial Sites:

Accomplishments (October)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
 - Continued decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continued decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Completed corrective action investigation field work
- CAU 134, Aboveground Storage Tanks
 - Began closure field work
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
 - Began closure field work
- CAU 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases
 - Completed the closure activities
- CAU 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
 - Received approval for the final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) with comment requesting ERRATA Sheet
 - ERRATA sheet submitted and approved by NDEP
- CAU 560, Septic Systems
 - Began corrective action investigation field work

Planned (November)

- CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
 - Continue decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continue decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 134, Aboveground Storage Tanks
 - Continue closure field work
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
 - Continue closure field work
- CAU 557, Spills and Tank Sites
 - Begin corrective action investigation field work
- CAU 560, Septic Systems
 - Complete corrective action investigation field work

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed (October)

Frenchman Flat

- Comments on the draft Phase II Transport Document continued to be addressed.
- A kick-off meeting was held on October 22 to develop the criteria (objectives) for the long-term monitoring.

Pahute Mesa

- The Phase II Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) continued in revision as per DOE comments. A one-month extension (to December 3) was granted for the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) milestone submittal to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).
- The Phase I Transport Document was submitted on October 1 for NDEP review.
- Began compiling the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
- Began comment resolution for the Phase II CAIP Addendum document.
- Relocated the ER-EC-11 site to avoid cultural resources. Re-surveyed and staked boundaries around the new location and conducted ecological surveys of the area.
- Began access road, drill pad and sump construction at the ER-20-7 site.
- Reactivated U-20 Water Well for a water source to support construction.

Yucca Flat

- The fracture evaluation was completed.
- Planning for the temperature data acquisition was initiated with discussions with potential vendors for thermal data collection and identification of boreholes to be included in the tests.
- Began FY 2009 Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation efforts.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Laboratory analyses continued of samples collected from ER-12-3 and ER-12-4.
- Began FY 2009 support to flow and transport modeling.
- Began characterizing Rainier Mesa tunnel effluent ponds.
- Began compiling information about seeps of water in Rainier Mesa tunnels.

Planned (November)

Frenchman Flat

- The Monitoring Network Criteria task will continue with another pre-emptive review meeting planned on November 17.
- The Phase II Transport Document will continue to be revised based on DOE comments.
- Begin NSTec FY 2009 fracture analysis task.

Pahute Mesa

- Development of the Drilling Criteria document will be initiated.
- Complete comment resolution for the Phase II CAIP Addendum document.
- The Phase II CAIP, Rev. 0, will be submitted to DOE.
- Continue compiling the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
- Field stake locations for remaining Phase II drill holes.
- Complete access road, drill pad and sump construction at the ER-20-7 site.
- Begin access road, drill pad and sump construction at the ER-EC-11 site.

Yucca Flat

- Thermal investigations will be initiated.
- The Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation will continue.
- Continue support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling efforts.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- The sampling report for ER-12-3 and ER-12-4 will be completed.
- Continue support to flow and transport modeling.
- Continue characterizing Rainier Mesa tunnel effluent ponds.
- Continue compiling information about seeps of water in Rainier Mesa tunnels.

Soils:

Completed Activities (October)

- Awaiting Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) comments on the Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 107 Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) (Submitted on 9/29/2008).
- Continuing the development of the CAU 370 Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD).
- Continuing the development of the Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for CAU 371.
- Initiated the CAIP for CAU 372

Expectations (November)

- Conduct Corrective Action Alternatives (CAA) meeting for CAU 370 CADD
- Conduct Data Quality Objectives meeting for CAU 371 CAIP.

Public Involvement:

Accomplishments (October)

- Retrieved the Transportation Poster Display, Transportation Drum Display, and the Groundwater Poster Display from the Beatty Public Library and Amargosa Valley Public Library.
- Delivered and set up the Operation Clean Desert display for long-term exhibition at Lied Discovery Children's Museum. Display will remain through December 31, 2008. Activity books and CD games will be distributed as available through the duration of the exhibit.
- Set up Waste Management Timeline Poster Display, Transportation Poster Display, Transportation Drum Display, and the Groundwater Poster Display at the Nevada Site Office in preparation for the Open House sponsored by National Security Technologies.

Expectations (November)

- Set up Waste Management Timeline Poster Display, Transportation Poster Display, Transportation Drum Display, and the Groundwater Poster Display at UNLV School of Engineering for tentative one month duration.
- Participate in CHOLLA (Clasping Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures) meeting. This group is comprised of area organizations and businesses promoting field trips and other learning opportunities to the Clark County School District.
- Participate in the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Program Full Board meeting on November 12.