

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB October 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Accomplishments (September)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted one (1) impromptu Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Facility Evaluation at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.
- As of September 21, 2008, 1,038,090 ft³ of LLW in 1,163 shipments and 41,750 ft³ in 94 shipments of Mixed LLW (MLLW) was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) during FY 2008.
- As of September 21, 2008, LLW Operations has worked 407,742 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- Remaining issue - A letter dated August 12, 2008 was sent to Assistant Secretary Rispoli from the State of Nevada Attorney General regarding the Nevada Test Site land withdrawal and the disposal of MLLW at the Nevada Test Site. Land withdrawal concerns are the responsibility of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Regarding MLLW, the Nevada Test Site is currently operating Pit 3 in accordance with the State of Nevada issued Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit. Discussions are currently underway between the NSO, Environmental Management Headquarters and NNSA as to how to respond to the letter.
- FY 2009 task plans were completed.
- The LLW Sub-Project is conducting a cost/benefit analysis to determine if a new MLLW unit is needed for the DOE-complex. Because the analysis is still in its preliminary stages, DOE Headquarters has not made a decision regarding the need for such a unit.

Expectations (October)

- The 2009 LLW/MLLW forecast is 1,269,746 ft³. 1,115,763 ft³ is expected to be LLW and 153,983 ft³ is expected to be MLLW.
- Expect to receive 200,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month of October.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) RWAP impromptu surveillance of a waste generator.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) RWAP Audit of West Valley.
- The LLW Sub-Project will be conducting two (2) site visits of potential new generators near Livermore, CA (General Electric and Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory).

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (September)

- Oversized boxes continued to be repackaged in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). As of September 25, 2008, 21 oversized boxes have been repackaged.
- On September 9-10, 2008, representative from the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) observed operations, reviewed documentation including procedures and video tapes to ensure compliance with the CBFO's Contact-Handled TRU Waste Packaging Instructions.
- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) personnel observed operations inside the VERB on September 9th and 17th.
- Nevada Site Office personnel participated in the CBFO Transuranic Corporate Board meetings on September 23-24, 2008. An Integrated Project Schedule was developed outlining the scheduled activities to ship the remaining TRU waste to the Idaho National Laboratory Consolidation Site by December 31, 2008.

Expectations (October)

- Oversized boxes will continue to be repackaged in the VERB. 28 oversized box and 29 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.

Industrial Sites:

Accomplishments (September)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 90, Area 2 Bitcutter Containment
 - Submitted the Final Post-Closure Report to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for approval
- CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
 - Continued decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continued corrective action investigation fieldwork
- CAU 121, Storage Tanks and Miscellaneous Sites
 - Submitted the Final Closure Report (CR) to NDEP for approval
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Completed corrective action investigation field work
- CAU 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases
 - Completed the closure activities
- CAU 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
 - Submitted the Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report (CADD/CR) to NDEP for approval
- Use Restriction
 - Submitted 18 addendums to the final CADD/CRs or CRs

Expectations (October)

- CAU 90, Area 2 Bitcutter Containment
 - Receive approval for the Final Post-Closure Report from NDEP
- CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
 - Continue decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continue corrective action investigation fieldwork
- CAU 121, Storage Tanks and Miscellaneous Sites
 - Receive approval for the Final Closure Report from NDEP
- CAU 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
 - Receive approval for the Final CADD/CR from NDEP
- CAU 560, Septic Systems
 - Began corrective action investigation field work

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Accomplishments (September)

Frenchman Flat

- Completed the following draft reports:
 - *A Hydrostratigraphic System for Modeling Groundwater Flow and Radionuclide Migration at the CAU-Scale, NTS and Surrounding Areas, Clark, Lincoln, and Nye Counties*
 - *Nevada Observations on Faults and Associated Permeability Structures in Hydrogeologic Units at the Nevada Test Site*

- *Identification and Characterization of Hydrogeologic Units at the NTS Using Geophysical Logs: Examples from the Underground Test Area Project.*

- Task plans for FY 2009 were finalized.
- A letter report on the Data Management System was provided to DOE on September 29, 2008.
- Completed NSTec support to SNJV FY 2008 Fracture Analysis task

Pahute Mesa

- Completed land and ecological surveys of the first three new well sites on Western Pahute Mesa.
- The Phase I Transport Document was submitted to DOE for Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) review on September 30, 2008.

Yucca Flat

- Completed the letter report: *The Hydrogeologic Character of the Lower Tuff Confining Unit and the Oak Spring Butte Confining Unit in the Tuff Pile Area of Central Yucca Flat.*
- Complete NSTec FY 2008 support to Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation
- A briefing was provided to DOE on September 24, 2008 on the Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Completed pumping and sampling of Wells ER-12-3 and ER-12-4.
- Completed NSTec FY 2008 support to Flow and Transport Modeling efforts.
- Completed draft report: *Low Water Production from Carbonate Aquifers at Rainier Mesa: Implications on the Distribution of Hydraulic Conductivity within the Lower Carbonate Aquifer, NTS and Vicinity.*
- Completed NSTec FY 2008 support to Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation
- Completed the analysis of Rainier Mesa fracture and fault data task.
- Completed a hydrogeologic characterization of two springs in the vicinity of Rainier Mesa.

Expectations (October)

Frenchman Flat

- Begin NSTec FY 2009 fracture analysis task.
- Continue addressing comments on draft Phase II Transport Document
- The kick-off meeting will be held to develop criteria for the long-term monitoring.

Pahute Mesa

- Begin compiling the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
- Begin construction of access road, drill pad and sumps for well ER-20-7
- Development of the Drilling Criteria document will be initiated.
- The Phase II CAIP will be revised as per DOE comments.
- The Phase I Transport Document will continue in NDEP review.

Yucca Flat.

- Begin NSTec FY 2009 support to flow and transport modeling.
- The Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation will continue.
- Planning for the temperature data acquisition will be initiated.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Begin NSTec FY 2009 support to flow and transport modeling.
- Begin characterizing Rainier Mesa tunnel effluent ponds.
- Begin compiling information about seeps of water in Rainier Mesa tunnels.
- The sampling report for ER-12-3 and ER-12-4 will be completed.

Soils:

Accomplishments (September)

- Submitted the Final Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 107, Low Impact Soil Sites Streamlined Approach For Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for approval.
- Completed the Data Summaries for all existing Soil Corrective Action Sites.
- Continuing the development of the CAU 370, T-4 Atmospheric Site Corrective Action Decision Document.

Expectations (October)

- Initiate the Corrective Action Investigation Plan for CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriole/Alanquin Unit Craters.
- Receive approval from NDEP for the CAU 107, Low Impact Soil Sites SAFER Plan.

Public Involvement:

Accomplishments (September)

- Participated in CHOLLA (Clasping Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures) meeting on September 9. This group is comprised of area organizations and businesses promoting field trips and other learning opportunities to the Clark County School District.
- Delivered, set up, and staffed the Operation Clean Desert display at MJ Christensen Elementary School on September 30. 100 activity books and CD games were distributed among the four 5th grade classes viewing the display.
- Participated in the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs bimonthly meeting on September 10, 2008.
- Participated in the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs meeting on September 16 – 17 in Washington, DC.
- Assisted the Office of Public Affairs with Nevada Test Site tours.

Expectations (October)

- As a result of the new school year, contact Advanced Technologies Academy (A-Tech) faculty, a high school in Las Vegas, Nevada, to schedule meetings, in order to facilitate continuing the Environmental Management (EM) Student Forum. This group of high school students is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office EM Program and the A-Tech. The EM Student Forum works with members of the EM Public Involvement (PI) team to develop and produce outreach products consistent with the Operation Clean Desert learning trio. The students will use the computer expertise they have acquired at A-Tech to develop and work in a real-world environment while earning credit for their educational class.
- Retrieve the Transportation Poster Display, Transportation Drum Display, and the Groundwater Poster Display from the Beatty Public Library and Amargosa Valley Public Library; will promote displays to other possible venues
- Deliver and set up the Operation Clean Desert display for long-term exhibition at Lied Discovery Children's Museum. Display will be set up October 2 and remain through December 31, 2008. Activity books and CD games will be distributed as available through the duration of the exhibit.
- Participate in Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs meetings.
- Conduct a Nevada Test Site tour for the Community Advisory Board