

Environmental Management Monthly Report to the NSSAB November 2012

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) expects to receive approximately 284,276 cubic feet of low-level and mixed low-level waste for disposal during the first quarter of FY 2013
- In October, the Nevada Site Office (NSO), Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted two facility evaluations.
 - National Security Technologies, Inc. (NSTec), Nevada - Evaluation resulted in two minor observations. NSTec is correcting the observations and is able to continue sending low-level waste to the NNSS.
 - Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG), Maryland - Evaluation resulted in two minor observations. APG is correcting the observations and is able to continue sending low-level waste to the NNSS.
- The NSO will conduct one RWAP impromptu facility survey in November 2012.
- In October, the NSSAB Monthly Report 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. Waste shipments from PermaFix Northwest were suspended until the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted in September was approved by RWAP. PermaFix Northwest implemented and RWAP verified the approved CAP. The Corrective Action Request was closed by the RWAP in mid-October, and PermaFix Northwest is authorized to resume low-level waste shipments to the NNSS.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat

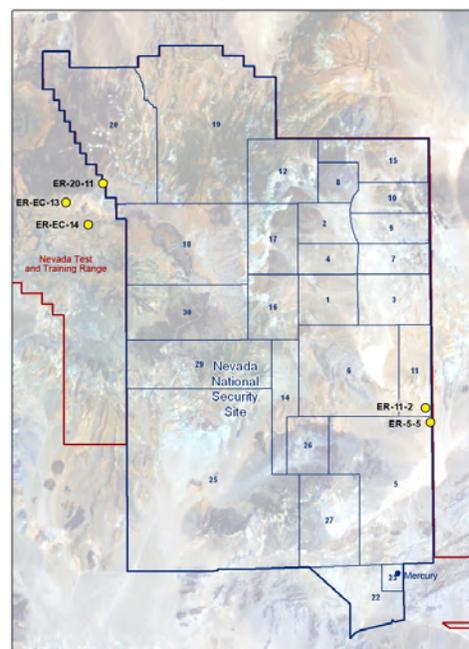
Documentation of the flow and transport model continues.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat

In October, work continued on the geologic characterization and Well Completion Reports for Wells ER-5-5 and ER-11-2.

CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

Flow and transport modeling analyses and evaluation continues.



UGTA (cont.)

CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa

Drilling, well construction activities, and demobilization were completed at Well ER-EC-14 in October. Work began on the geologic characterization and Well Completion Report for Well ER-EC-14 in October. Well development and testing activities will resume in November at the ER-EC-13 site.

Industrial Sites

CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility

Revision 1 of the final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration 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 October, demobilization of equipment and disposal of waste was completed.

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

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include 128 Corrective Action Sites (CASs) where post-closure inspections and maintenance is performed in accordance with the closure requirements. Annual inspections began in October and will continue through December. Repairs were completed, including backfilling of animal burrows at the CAU 547 *Tejon* and *Mullet* sites and sign and fence repairs at CAU 365 (CAS 08-23-02) and CAU 139 (CAS 09-23-01). Due to significant precipitation in August, there is erosion that requires repair at the CAU 547 *Mullet* and *Player* sites. A walkdown was conducted for runoff control design. Additional precipitation inspections were conducted in October following heavy rainfall.

RCRA 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. Maintenance (identified during the quarterly/semi-annual inspections in September), including subsidence, fence, and sign repairs, was completed in October.

Soils

CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 104 comprises 15 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan was submitted to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in October. A response is expected in November. In October, corrective actions, including location and removal of lead-sheathed cable, began and will continue in November. Waste management activities were conducted in October and will continue in November.

CAU 105, Area 2 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 105 comprises five CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The Corrective Action Investigation Plan was approved by NDEP in October. Field investigation of these sites consists of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. Corrective action investigation activities began in October and will continue in November.

CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The Corrective Action Decision Document was approved by NDEP in October. Waste management activities were conducted in October.

CAU 465, Hydronuclear

CAU 465 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear experiments. Low-level waste disposal took place in October. Use restriction sign installation will take place in November.

CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area

CAU 550 comprises 19 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites consists of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. Corrective action investigation and waste management activities continued in October.

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. Development of the Correction Action Decision Document (CADD) and corrective action alternatives was conducted in October and will continue in November; the CADD is due to NDEP in May 2013.

CAU 570, Area 9 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 570 comprises six 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 October and will continue in November.

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:
 - Distributed 21 *Operation Clean Desert* activity books, 13 *Operation Clean Desert* teachers guides, seven (7) *Operation Clean Desert* CDs, seven (7) boxes of Environmental Management soy crayons, and 60 *Groundwater Characterization* fact sheets/*Groundwater Qs and As*

- Distributed groundwater video and fact sheets to 31 libraries in communities surrounding the NNSS
- Completed successful *Name that Tortoise* contest as part of the desert tortoise translocation study
- Publications:
 - Published three (3) EM News Flash articles related to the desert tortoise translocation study
 - Contributed three (3) OneVoice articles: *Amargosa Valley Residents Get Closer Look at NNSS Groundwater Efforts*; *NNSS Helps Schools with Operation Clean Desert*; and *Navarro Donates to Local Charities*
- NSSAB:
 - EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 2-3
 - New member orientation on October 10