

**Environmental Management
Monthly Report to the NSSAB
October 2012**

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- During FY 2012, the cumulative Low-Level Waste (LLW) volume received was 785,579 cubic feet (ft³), and the cumulative Mixed LLW volume received was 41,531 ft³.
- Last month, it was reported that Nevada Site Office (NSO) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted a facility evaluation at Wastren Advantage, Inc. (WAI), Oak Ridge, Tennessee, at the end of August. There were no corrective action requests and five observations. The observations were minor and the generator has 30 days to respond. WAI is adequately implementing its Nevada National Security Site Waste Acceptance Criteria (NNSW WAC) certification.
- In September, the NSO RWAP conducted one facility evaluation at West Valley (WV), New York. The evaluation resulted in three observations and one Correction Action Request (CAR). RWAP issued a CAR because the generator did not use a lead auditor to conduct its independent assessment required by the NNSW WAC. The observations resulted from the use of a non-approved procurement vendor, failure to complete a waste management self-assessment in FY 2011, and minor word changes necessary to meet the latest revision of the NNSW WAC. West Valley will have 30 days to respond to the CAR and observations. Because the findings were minor, the generator is able to continue sending LLW to the NNSW.
- The site expects to receive approximately 284,276 ft³ of low-level and mixed low-level waste for disposal during the first quarter of FY 2013.
- The NSO will conduct one RWAP impromptu facility survey in October 2012.
- In August, the NSSAB update 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. All further waste shipments from PermaFix Northwest were suspended until the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted in September was approved by RWAP. PermaFix implemented the approved CAP, and RWAP will verify and is expected to close the CAR in mid-October, which will allow PermaFix to resume LLW shipments to the NNSW.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat

Documentation of the flow and transport model continues.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat

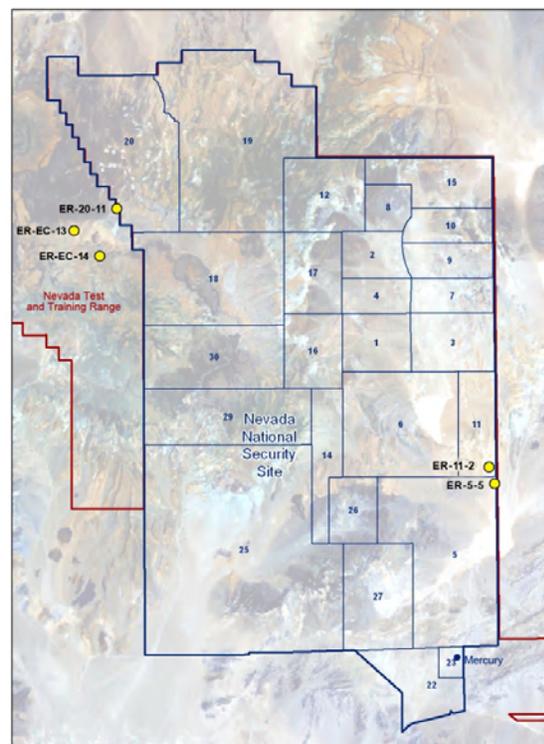
Instrumentation for monitoring water levels was deployed in newly constructed Frenchman Flat Model Evaluation Wells ER-11-2 and ER-5-5 in September.

CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

Flow and transport modeling analyses and evaluation continues.

CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa

Construction of Well ER-20-11 was completed in September, and instrumentation for monitoring water levels was deployed. Drilling and well construction activities were initiated at Well ER-EC-14 in September, and construction is expected to be complete in October.



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 September, characterization work was completed and removal of lead bricks and radiologically contaminated equipment and material was conducted. Demobilization of equipment and disposal of waste was initiated and will be completed in October.

CAU 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites

CAU 547 consists of radiologically-contaminated gas sampling assemblies at *Mullet*, *Tejon/Bernalillo*, and *Player*. Closure work consisted of closure in place by capping expansion joints with grouted metal casings and installing soil covers over piping. The State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approved the Closure Report in August 2012.

CAU 572, Test Cell C Ancillary Building and Structures

CAU 572 consists of six Corrective Action Sites (CASs) comprising facilities associated with the Test Cell C compound and the engine (train) maintenance building at EMAD. In September, preliminary investigation work continued. In addition, personnel entered the train shed in September and obtained additional swipe samples.

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

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include 128 CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance is performed in accordance with the closure requirements. Annual

inspections will begin in October and continue through December. Due to significant precipitation in August, there is erosion that requires repair at the CAU 547 *Mullet* and *Player* sites. A plan for repair of the erosion at CAU 547 and implementation of preventative features was prepared in September.

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. The quarterly/semi-annual inspections were completed in September. Maintenance, including vegetation removal and erosion, fence, and sign repairs, will begin in October.

Soils

CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 104 comprises 15 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The development of the Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) continued in September and is due to NDEP by December 20, 2012. In October, corrective actions, including the removal of lead-sheathed cable, will begin.

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 submitted to NDEP on September 18, 2012. A response is expected in October. Field investigation of these sites will consist of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. Corrective action investigation activities will begin in October.

CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The CADD was submitted to NDEP on September 26, 2012. A response is expected in October. Waste management activities will also be conducted in October.

CAU 465, Hydronuclear

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

CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area

CAU 550 comprises 19 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 continued in September and will continue 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. Additional samples were collected in September. Development of the CADD continued in September; the CADD is due to NDEP by May 6, 2013. In October, step-out sampling will be conducted.

CAU 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites

CAU 568 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Preliminary investigations continued in September and will continue in October.

CAU 570, Area 9 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

CAU 570 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The CAIP was approved by NDEP on September 11, 2012. Field investigation of these sites will consist of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. Corrective action investigation activities will begin in October.

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:
 - 2012 Groundwater Open House in Amargosa Valley (September 18)
 - Distributed 680 *Operation Clean Desert* activity books, 16 *Operation Clean Desert* lesson plans, 605 *Operation Clean Desert* worksheets, and two (2) *Operation Clean Desert* posters
 - Posted the new *Groundwater at the NNS* video to the NSO YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SMYSc2enQw) and distributed 10 DVD copies
- Publications:
 - Published three (3) EM News Flash articles: *Kick-Starting the School Year with Operation Clean Desert* (September 10th), *U.S. Department of Energy to Host Groundwater Open House in Amargosa Valley, Nevada* (September 11th), and *A Fresh Take on Groundwater at Amargosa Valley Open House* (September 25th)
- NSSAB:
 - Full Board meeting on September 12
 - NSSAB booth at Groundwater Open House on September 18