

# **Environmental Management Monthly Report to the NSSAB September 2013**

## **Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- In August 2013, the Nevada Field Office (NFO), Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted three impromptu surveillances:
  - Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, Illinois: The surveillance resulted in no findings or observations.
  - Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, New Mexico: The surveillance resulted in six observations. Once LANL receives the final report from NFO, they will have 30 days to respond.
  - Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Y-12 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee: The surveillance was conducted late in August 2013; so the results will be reported in the October 2013 Monthly Report to the NSSAB.
  
- In September 2013, RWAP will conduct three impromptu facility evaluations.
  
- On June 20, 2013, Secretary Moniz received a letter from Nevada Governor Sandoval regarding his opposition to the disposal of Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project (U-233) material at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). On August 13, 2013, Secretary Moniz and Governor Sandoval met and after discussion agreed to form a working group to address the issue.
  
- During the week of July 15, 2013, the NFO determined mixed-low level radioactive waste (MLLW) containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from two waste generators was disposed at the NNSS with inadequate documentation. The generators have submitted Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) that were approved by NFO and objective evidence to preclude recurrence of the events was provided to NFO by the waste generators and found to be satisfactory. No further action is required from the waste generators and all shipments have resumed.
  
- During September 2013, the NNSS is forecasted to dispose approximately 248,000 cubic feet of low-level waste (LLW) and MLLW.

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

### ***Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat/Climax Mine***

Development of the final flow and transport model document and responses to the comments from the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) continued in August 2013 and will continue in September 2013.

### ***CAU 98, Frenchman Flat***

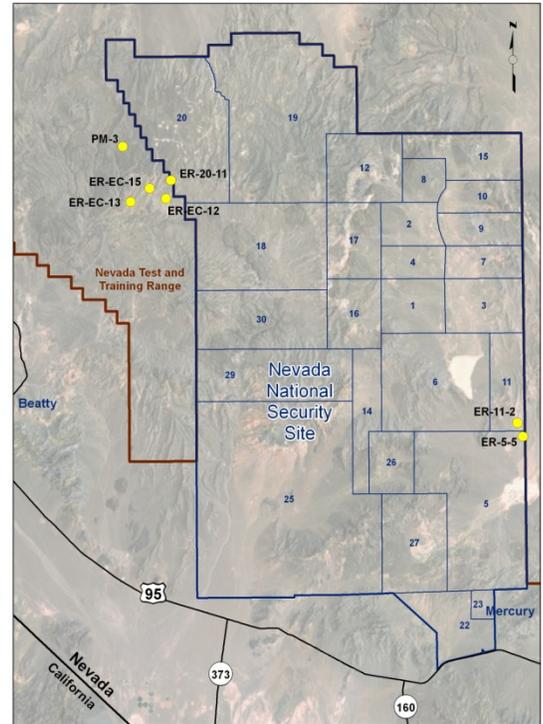
In August 2013, ER-5-5 pumping test data and ER-11-2 sampling data was evaluated; evaluation will continue in September 2013.

### ***CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain***

Review of the flow and transport model document by the Pre-emptive Review Committee continued in August 2013.

### ***CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa***

Work continues on the Phase II framework and conceptual models. Constant rate testing and sampling of the ER-20-11 well were completed in August 2013. Groundwater samples were collected at the PM-3 well in August 2013. Mobilization to the ER-EC-15 well site for well development and testing began in August 2013 and will continue in September 2013. Also in September 2013, analysis of the data for wells ER-EC-12 and ER-EC-13 will occur.



## **Industrial Sites**

### ***Non-Resource Conservation and 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 are performed in accordance with closure requirements. A review of closed sites to determine whether use restrictions can be removed or post-closure requirements can be reduced continued in August 2013 and will continue in September 2013; removing the use restrictions would reduce post-closure monitoring costs. In August 2013, a site visit was conducted at closed CAUs 383 and 551 with NFO and NDEP to determine the impact of recent precipitation.

### ***RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance are performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. In August 2013, seed was received and sampled for the revegetation of portions of the CAU 111 cover. In September 2013, weeds on the CAU 111 cover will be disked under in preparation for revegetation efforts, and the quarterly and semi-annual post-closure inspections will be performed.

## **Soils**

### ***CAU 105, Area 2 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

CAU 105 comprises five CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites consists of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) measurements. In August 2013, development of the Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report (CADD/CR) continued and will be submitted to NDEP in September 2013. The CADD/CR is due to NDEP in October 2013.

***CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites***

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In August 2013, LLW associated with CAU 366 was disposed. The CR is due to NDEP in December 2013.

***CAUs 411 and 412, Double Tracks Plutonium Dispersion and Clean Slate I Plutonium Dispersion***

CAUs 411 and 412 comprise one CAS each on the Nevada Test and Training Range. In August 2013, preparation of the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) and the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plans for CAUs 411 and 412 continued and will continue in September 2013. The DQO process is a seven-step approach to plan investigation activities, ensuring the data collected will provide sufficient information to recommend corrective actions for CAUs 411 and 412. The DQOs will be included in the SAFER Plans for CAUs 411 and 412, which are enforceable milestones under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) and due to NDEP in December 2013.

***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 TLD measurements. In August 2013, development of the CADD continued and will continue in September 2013. The CADD is due to NDEP in March 2014. Also in August 2013, potential source material was sampled and radiological surveys of areas affected by recent precipitation were performed. Additional radiological surveys are scheduled for September 2013.

***CAU 567, Miscellaneous Soil Sites***

CAU 567 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In August 2013, the Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for CAU 567 was approved by NDEP. In August 2013, radiological surveys and installation of TLDs were performed.

***CAU 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites***

CAU 568 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In August 2013, the DQO meeting was held with NDEP. The DQO process is a seven-step approach to plan investigation activities, ensuring the data collected will provide sufficient information to recommend corrective actions for CAU 568. The DQOs will be included in the CAIP for CAU 568, which is due to NDEP in March 2014.

***CAU 570, Area 9 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

CAU 570 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In August 2013, the FFACO milestone requirement was changed from a CADD to a CADD/CR, because preparation of a CADD/CR will be more cost and time efficient by combining the two documents. Preparation of the CADD/CR continued in August 2013 and will continue in September 2013. The FFACO milestone deadline was also changed to allow additional time to prepare the CADD/CR and is now due to NDEP in December 2013.

***CAU 571, Area 9 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites***

CAU 571 comprises five CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The CAIP for CAU 571 was approved by NDEP in August 2013. In September 2013, radiological surveys and installation of TLDs will continue.

## **Public Involvement:**

- Ongoing exhibits:
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room in Las Vegas, Beatty Library, Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, and Central Nevada Museum (Tonopah)
- Environmental Management kiosks – Green Valley Library, Henderson; Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas
- Publications:
  - Published one (1) article (*Community Monitoring Program Meets for Network Update*) in the August 2013 edition of [OneVoice](#)
- Outreach:
  - Delivered *Operation Clean Desert* posters to Beatty Library, Goldfield Library, Amargosa Valley Library, and Central Nevada Museum (Tonopah)
  - Distributed 576 *Operation Clean Desert Activity Books*, 453 *Operation Clean Desert CDs*, 117 *Operation Clean Desert Teacher's Guides*
  - Attended and participated at the *New Teacher Kick-Off* (August 15<sup>th</sup>) and the *Back To School Fair* (August 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Hosted intergovernmental open discussion-Pahrump, NV (August 21<sup>st</sup>)
- NSSAB:
  - Full Board Meeting – August 21, 2013