

**Environmental Management (EM)  
Nevada Program Activities  
Monthly Report to the  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)  
December 2018**

**Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- Update from previous months' reports - In October 2017, the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) issued a Finding of Alleged Violation (FOAV) to the Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as a result of the NNSA accepting 93 containers of waste from a generator and disposing as low-level waste (LLW) when the containers should have been disposed as mixed LLW (MLLW). In May 2018, NDEP issued a Final Findings and Draft Settlement Agreement to the DOE/NNSA. The EM Nevada Program, NDEP, and the NNSA/Nevada Field Office have discussed the scope and cost of a proposed Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) that would be undertaken in lieu of paying a penalty associated with the violation. A document entitled *Proposed Supplemental Environmental Project* was formally transmitted to NDEP in October 2018 for approval and incorporation into a formal Administrative Settlement Agreement. All corrective action plan (CAP) actions are proceeding on schedule for completion by December 31, 2018, as required. There has been no change in status. (please see November 2017 – November 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- In November 2018, in accordance with the overweight permit issued by the State of Nevada, a waste shipment from an Oak Ridge, TN generator travelled across the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge destined for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). After travelling across the bridge, the remainder of the transport was made on an NNSS-approved route. The driver self-identified upon arrival at the NNSS that he traversed the bridge. As this is a violation of the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC), a Finding was issued and the generator will be required to submit a CAP. An alert was issued to all NNSS-approved generators to ensure routing directions provided under state-issued permits align with the NNSS WAC-approved routes. The EM Nevada Program will be reviewing generators driver's instructions for clarity in regard to requirements and reaching out to the permitting authorities to ensure they have accurate information regarding routing of waste shipments to the NNSS.
- In late November 2018, a reactor vessel and components (not the reactor or reactor fuel) from the Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor (SEFOR) will begin transport from a University of Arkansas site to the NNSS. The EM Nevada Program received a transportation plan that has been reviewed and approved. The Navarro Transportation Subject Matter Expert will be onsite during loading in Arkansas to perform due diligence review of the motor carrier on the day of shipment, observe marking, labeling, loading, placarding, and load securement, monitor shipper/carrier interface, and ensure that applicable permits are in place. The transporter has obtained state-issued permits along the entire route for this oversize/overweight shipment and Nevada Highway Patrol troopers will provide an escort while in Nevada.
- Update from previous months' reports – Paducah, KY/Portsmouth, OH generator (same generator): In May 2018, a tabletop facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. In June 2018,

the generator submitted its CAP that was accepted by the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP). In November 2018, the generator requested to revise its CAP that was also approved by RWAP. RWAP anticipates that the CAP will be closed in December 2018. (please see June 2018 – November 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

- In November 2018, RWAP conducted one facility evaluation:
  - Oak Ridge, TN generator: The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator will have 30 days to respond after RWAP issues its report.
- In December 2018, RWAP will conduct one facility evaluation.
- In December 2018, approximately 124,910 cubic feet of LLW, MLLW, and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.

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

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

The Model Evaluation Report development continued in November 2018 and will continue in December 2018.

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

In September 2018, responses to the comments on the Rainier Mesa External Peer Review (RM EPR) report were transmitted to NDEP. Development of an addendum to the Flow and Transport model report that formally addresses comments from the RM EPR continued in November 2018 and will continue in December 2018.

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

Development of the Corrective Action Investigation Plan continued in November 2018 and will continue in December 2018. Groundwater sampling for fiscal year 2019 began in October 2018 and will continue through the calendar year.

## **Post-Closure Monitoring**

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

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include Corrective Action Sites (CASs) where post-closure inspections and maintenance are performed in accordance with closure requirements. Annual inspections began in September 2018 and will be completed in December 2018.

### ***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. Irrigation and inspections of the CAU 111 revegetation test plots continued in November 2018 and will continue in December 2018. In addition, the quarterly inspections will be conducted in December 2018.

## **Soils**

### ***CAU 413, Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion***

CAU 413 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The final Closure Report (CR) was submitted to NDEP in November 2018. The EM Nevada Program is awaiting NDEP's response.

### ***CAU 414, Clean Slate III Plutonium Dispersion***

CAU 414 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) was approved by NDEP in January 2018. Field work began in August 2018 that consists of removal and disposal of contaminated soil and debris above action levels. At the end of November 2018, 296 bags of contaminated soil have been filled. The shipping campaign to the NNSC began in October 2018, and 115 shipments of 230 bags have been shipped and disposed at the Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site as of November 30, 2018.

### ***CAU 576, Miscellaneous Radiological Sites and Debris***

CAU 576 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Development of the draft CADD/CR is complete and was submitted to NDEP in November 2018. The EM Nevada Program is awaiting NDEP's response. The final CADD/CR is due to NDEP in December 2018.

## **Industrial Sites:**

### ***CAU 575, Area 15 Miscellaneous Sites***

CAU 575 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In November 2018, preparation of the final CR continued and is due to NDEP by December 31, 2018.

## **External Affairs:**

- NSSAB
  - NSSAB hosted a Full Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV – November 7, 2018
- Publications:
  - Ongoing social media campaign – nine posts on Facebook, ten original tweets on Twitter, and 56 photos uploaded to Flickr
  - Published *Busy Times for the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board* via EM News Flash (10,840 subscribers), nns.gov, and social media
  - Distributed an Operation Clean Desert activity book and teacher's guide per an e-mail request
- Ongoing exhibits:
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room in Las Vegas, Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah, NV, and Pahrump Valley Museum in Pahrump, NV
  - EM kiosk – located at National Atomic Testing Museum Public Reading Room
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - Hosted Low-level Waste Stakeholders Forum in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB Chair and Vice-Chair attended) – November 7, 2018

- Presented Clean Slate III update to Nye County Local Emergency Planning Committee in Pahrump, NV – November 15, 2018
- Participated in EM HQ Intergovernmental Meeting in New Orleans, LA – November 14-16, 2018
- Participated in Gibson Elementary School Career Day – November 16, 2018
- Presented at Perma-fix Nuclear Waste Management Forum in Nashville, TN – November 26-28, 2018
- NNSS Tours:
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) for San Diego State University, International Security Class – November 5, 2018
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Argonne Decommissioning Workshop – November 8, 2018
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Weapons of Mass Destruction Class, Loyola Marymount University – November 8, 2018
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Tribute of Science and Human Rights Class, California State University – November 15, 2018
  - Hosted public tour of the NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC – November 20, 2018
- Planned activities for December 2018:
  - Continue delivering Operation Clean Desert books to schools/teachers in Las Vegas, NV