



Environmental Management

In support of national defense initiatives, a total of 928 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests were conducted between 1951 and 1992 at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program is responsible for assessing and performing environmental corrective actions at locations impacted by this historic nuclear testing. In addition, the EM Nevada Program oversees the safe and compliant disposal of waste at the NNSS radioactive waste disposal facilities.

The EM Nevada Program is committed to transparent and timely communications with the public and intergovernmental entities. In support of this commitment, numerous methods are used to share information on EM Nevada Program activities.

Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) is a federally appointed group of interested citizens representing nearby communities who volunteer to provide informed recommendations on EM Nevada Program activities. The NSSAB provides a mechanism for public and community participation through an ongoing exchange of information. Regularly held NSSAB meetings are open to the public. For more information, visit www.nnss.gov/nssab.

Intergovernmental Groups

Through open two-way communication, the EM Nevada Program is committed to carrying out its mission to the highest level of safety, integrity, transparency, and regulatory compliance. The EM Nevada Program frequently communicates with regulatory and governmental agencies from throughout Nevada. Additionally, the EM Nevada Program hosts bi-monthly information exchanges with representatives from six Nevada counties, two federal organizations, and the State of Nevada regulatory agency.



Tribal representatives work side-by-side with the NNSS team on the revegetation program

Tribal Organizations

The EM Nevada Program engages with tribal representatives in various ways including the NSSAB and Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations. In addition, the EM Nevada Program relies on tribal expertise as subject matter experts of the land to develop recommendations on how to revegetate specific areas at the NNSS. Young adult tribal members are encouraged to assist in the revegetation monitoring in order to pass on tribal ecological knowledge to the next generation.

Definitions

Stakeholder: A person, group, corporation, or system that affects or can be affected by an organization's activities, objectives, and/or decisions. They may be within the community in which it operates, hold relevant official positions or be affected in the long term.

Environmental Corrective Actions: Cleaning up, removing, and/or isolating contaminants that may present a risk to human health and/or the environment.

Stakeholder Involvement

Grant Funding

The EM Nevada Program utilizes several different mechanisms for supporting regulatory oversight and enhanced emergency preparedness, including grants. The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) Grant supports emergency response capabilities in communities along NNSS waste shipment routes. The EM Nevada Program funds the EPWG Grant based on \$.50 per cubic foot of waste disposed at the NNSS. More than \$14 million has been distributed through the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine counties.

The State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection receives funding for activities in support of monitoring air, groundwater, surface water, and waste management. Funds from a grant distributed to NDEM provide added support for resources such as communication equipment upgrades, emergency vehicles, and protective gear for emergency responders. Nye County Nevada receives funding to support groundwater monitoring activities including technical guidance for selection of monitoring locations, groundwater sampling, and independent technical review.

Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum

The EM Nevada Program hosts a quarterly Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum designed to concentrate on active communication with intergovernmental entities. The meetings provide participants an opportunity to discuss topics related to the transportation and disposal of waste at the NNSS. Forum members include multiple counties, the State of Nevada, local emergency response personnel, and NSSAB representatives.



NNSS Fire and Rescue demonstrates its extensive capabilities during a tour for the Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum members

Public Outreach

The EM Nevada Program provides multiple informational tools and resources, such as:

- Social media and a website (www.nnss.gov)
- Open houses and community conversations
- Articles and fact sheets
- Educational demonstrations, displays, and kiosks

Additionally, the EM Nevada Program collaborates with local and regional schools to educate future stakeholders using its *Operation Clean Desert* learning materials and other interactive tools. This free program introduces students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)-based career opportunities, discover the history of nuclear testing, and learn about plants and wildlife at the NNSS.

As an integral part of the community, the EM Nevada Program is dedicated to open communication and transparency with interested stakeholders as well as educating the next generation of Nevadans on the significant history and future of the NNSS.