

# Transporting Radioactive Waste to the NNSS

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



**S**afety is a priority for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program. In fact, this commitment to safety is integrated into requirements and work procedures at DOE sites across the U.S. that generate classified, low-level and mixed low-level waste that is transported to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) for permanent disposal.

Generators of this waste are responsible for ensuring that it is packaged and transported in a safe and compliant manner. These generators and their contracted commercial carriers must comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria, and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations and requirements.

## Routing Preferences

**U**.S. Department of Transportation regulations require generators to use appropriate packaging and carriers to select routes, both of which minimize radiological risk. In addition, the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria requires that classified, low-level and mixed low-level waste shipments avoid the O'Callaghan-Tillman Memorial Bridge and central Las Vegas (as specified below).

When selecting routes (see map on reverse side), the EM Nevada Program advises generators to conform to the following guidelines:

- Avoid heavily populated/congested areas in the state of Nevada (including the Las Vegas Beltway, I-215, and I-15/US-95 interchange)
- Direct carrier drivers to complete the mandatory driver questionnaire

In addition, carriers consider weather conditions and construction activities when selecting routes.

The EM Nevada Program may suspend generator shipments if waste is not transported in compliance with the identified requirements and guidelines.

DOE also strives to accommodate a request by the State of California to limit the number of shipments that travel along California Highway CA-127 due to limited and remote emergency response capabilities (see blackout dates on reverse).

## Emergency Response

**A**n EM Nevada Program grant funds emergency preparedness activities and resources in counties near the NNSS. The grant is funded by charging a fifty-cent fee for every cubic foot of waste disposed at NNSS Radioactive Waste Management Sites. The State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management administers the grant.



**S**ince 2000, more than \$15 million has been awarded to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties to enhance emergency response capabilities.

## Definitions

**Carrier:** The trucking company which transports radioactive waste from the generator site to the Nevada National Security Site.

**Waste Generator:** U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Defense sites that generate classified, low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste.

**U.S. Department of Transportation:** The federal agency that regulates the packaging and transportation of radioactive materials in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49.

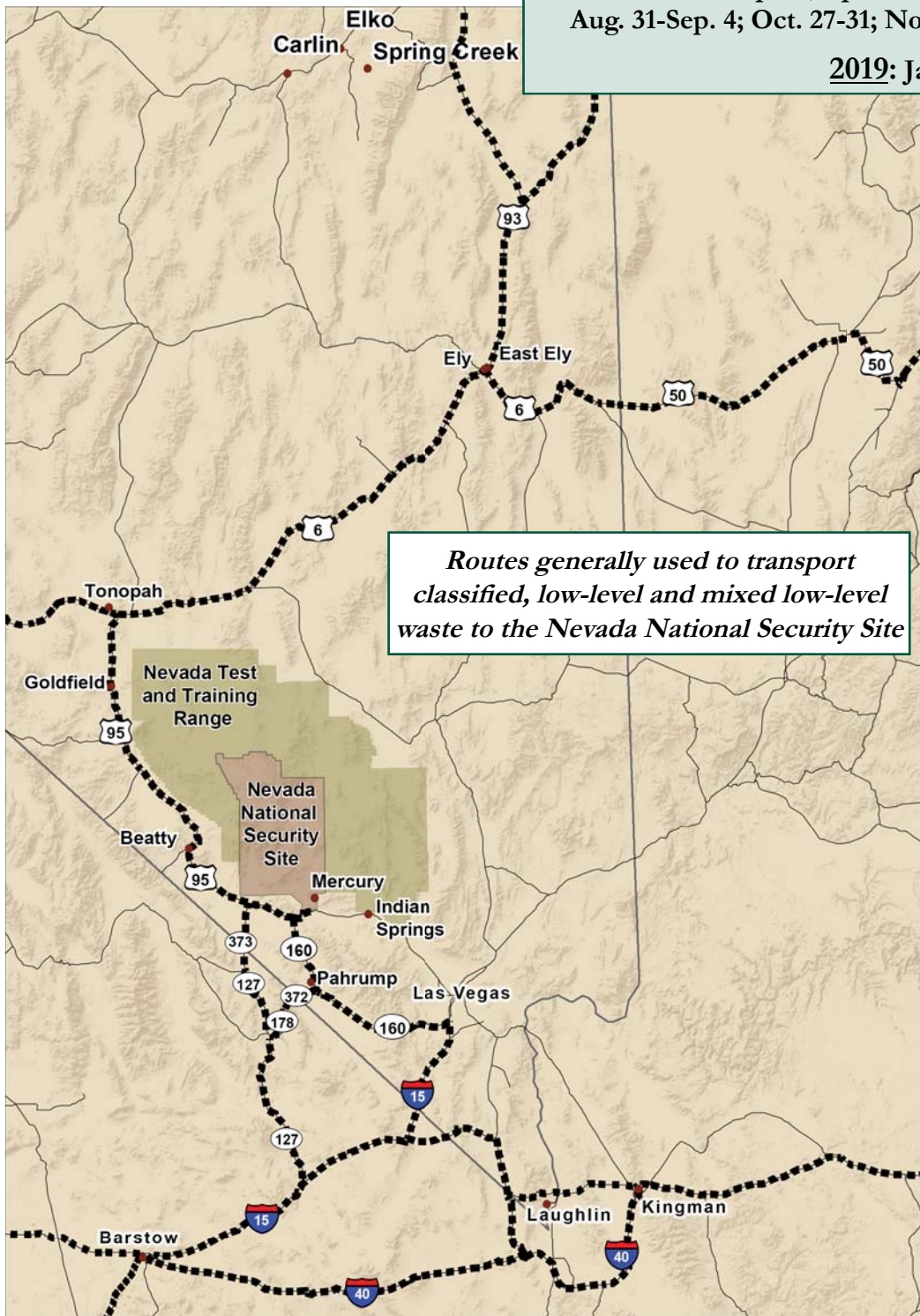
# Transporting Radioactive Waste to the NNSS

## Black-Out Dates for CA-127

Generators must advise their carriers to avoid transporting radioactive waste shipments along CA-127 on the following dates:

**2018:** Jan. 1-8 and 12-15; Feb. 16-19; Mar. 16-19;  
Mar. 30-Apr. 2; Apr. 25-29; May 25-29; Jul. 1-7;  
Aug. 31-Sep. 4; Oct. 27-31; Nov. 4-12 and 21-25; Dec. 24-31

**2019:** Jan. 1-6



## Permitted Shipments

In addition to any required hazardous material permits and prior to movement in Nevada and any neighboring state, overweight and/or over-dimensional shipments must possess the appropriate state-issued permits. When applying for such permits, all carriers to the NNSS must declare that the load is radioactive material and specify intended routes. Annual permit holders carrying radioactive materials to the NNSS are also limited to specific routes. Routes may be further restricted due to bridge weight capacities, width/height limits, or work zone lane restrictions. Carriers stay abreast of all current conditions by accessing: [www.nevadadot.com/business/trucker](http://www.nevadadot.com/business/trucker).