



Cold War Legacy

In 1950, President Truman established what is now known as the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) to perform nuclear weapons testing activities in support of national defense initiatives. A total of 928 atmospheric and underground nuclear weapons tests were conducted at the NNSS between 1951 and 1992. As a result, some groundwater, surface soils, and facilities were contaminated on the NNSS and the surrounding Nevada Test and Training Range, which is controlled by the U.S. Air Force.

EM Nevada Fast Facts

- EM Nevada Program activities are conducted in a manner to ensure the safety of personnel, the public, and the environment.
- Corrective action sites are located within secure federal areas inaccessible by the public, and are likely to be managed by the Federal Government in perpetuity.
- **Closure in place** is a formal process involving the remediation of a site where the implementation of use restrictions and long term institutional controls is necessary.

EM Nevada Program Activities

Groundwater Corrective Action Mission

Nearly 70 years of sampling, testing, and analysis has given the EM Nevada Program an expert understanding of the NNSS groundwater system. Current testing and forecast models show that public water supplies are and will continue to be safe from the impacts of historic nuclear testing. The EM Nevada Program monitors contaminant movement through extensive drilling and sampling, data interpretation, and computer modeling.



President Kennedy visited the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly facility at the NNSS in 1961.

Infrastructure and Soil Corrective Actions

The EM Nevada Program remediation actions are complete for sites with widespread soil contamination, and its demolition and disposal mission for contaminated infrastructure sites is nearly complete. Soil and infrastructure corrective action sites addressed by EM Nevada are located within secure federal areas, are not accessible by the public, and are likely to be managed by the Federal Government in perpetuity.

Safe, Secure, and Successful

To address this contamination, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Program was established in 1989. The EM Program in Nevada is responsible for completing environmental corrective actions and, as appropriate, performing long-term monitoring of historically contaminated sites in accordance with the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, a legally-binding agreement with the State of Nevada. In addition, the EM Nevada Program oversees the safe and compliant disposal of waste at NNSS facilities.

Groundwater Fast Facts

- In 2020, the Rainier Mesa groundwater corrective action area was brought to closure 3 years ahead of schedule, saving **\$5 million** in federal funding.
- The Yucca Flat groundwater corrective action area also reached closure in 2020, bringing **75%** of all NNSS groundwater areas impacted by historical nuclear testing to end-state completion.
- Work is on schedule to complete corrective actions at the Pahute Mesa groundwater area by **2028**.



Groundwater sampling conducted at an NNSS well.

Environmental Management Nevada Program

Infrastructure & Soils Fast Facts

- Final closure has been completed at **99%** of NNSS infrastructure sites identified for environmental corrective actions.
- **70** closed corrective action sites on and around the historic Tonopah Test Range were transferred to the DOE Office of Legacy Management in 2020 – the first such transfer in over a decade.
- In 2019, soils sites corrective actions were completed six years ahead of schedule, saving an estimated **\$66 million** in federal funding.



The Engine Maintenance, Assembly and Disassembly Facility, an industrial site being prepared for demolition and closure.

Waste Management

The EM Nevada Program also manages the safe and compliant acceptance and disposal of classified, low-level, and mixed low-level waste at the NNSS. EM Nevada's waste management mission supports DOE cleanup and ongoing defense and research activities at sites across the U.S. All waste accepted at the NNSS undergoes rigorous review to confirm compliance with applicable requirements.



A waste package is surveyed prior to disposal.

Waste Management Fast Facts

- No high-level, commercial, or transuranic waste is accepted at the NNSS.
- More than **50 million** cubic feet of waste has been safely and securely disposed at the NNSS.
- Since 1999, the NNSS has successfully processed over **32,000** waste shipments.

Grant Funding

*The Emergency Preparedness Working Group Grant supports emergency response capabilities in communities along NNSS waste shipment routes. Over **\$15.7 million** has been distributed through the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties.*

Stakeholder Involvement

Timely and transparent communication is paramount to the success of the EM Nevada Program. In addition to internet resources, regular outreach events are scheduled to provide stakeholders the opportunity to discuss EM Nevada Program Activities in person or through live online meetings. The public can also provide comments at Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) meetings. The [NSSAB](#) is comprised of volunteers from communities near the NNSS who review EM Nevada Program activities and provide stakeholder feedback and recommendations.

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