

**Environmental Management (EM)
Nevada Program Activities
Monthly Report to the
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
March 2023**

External Affairs

- NSSAB:
 - Hosted NSSAB Full Board Meeting via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV, including social media, news release, and newspaper advertising for promotion – February 15, 2023
 - EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) National Chairs’ Meeting final meeting minutes and materials from September 2022 can be accessed [here](#)
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
 - Volunteered at Nevada Science Bowl sponsored by National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office to encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)-related fields (note: students from Davidson Academy in Reno, NV will advance to the National Science Bowl this spring in Washington, D.C.) – held in Las Vegas, NV on February 4, 2023
 - Conducted a groundwater presentation on the Pahute Mesa Corrective Action Unit Groundwater Models for the U.S. National Park Service at Death Valley National Park – February 6, 2023
 - Hosted a Program and field visit of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) for NNSS site liaisons from the EM Consolidated Business Center and EM Headquarters – February 7-8, 2023
 - Hosted Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum via hybrid format in Pahrump, NV (NSSAB representative attended) – February 8, 2023
 - Hosted EM Nevada Program Intergovernmental Meeting via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB leadership attended) – February 15, 2023
 - Exhibited and presented on three sessions (*Assessing the Impacts of Waste Disposal Issues by Program Element, Corrective Action Investigation at Pahute Mesa, and CSAMT Geophysical Data to Aid Groundwater Well Placement*) at the Waste Management Symposia (WMS) in Phoenix, AZ (NSSAB Member attended) – February 27 – March 3, 2023
 - EM Update articles on Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and EM Senior Advisor William “Ike” White (EM-1) addresses at WMS on February 28, 2023 can be accessed [here](#).
- Publications:
 - Published article and social media, *Navarro Awards STEM Education Grants to Two Nevada Schools*, in NNSS News on February 2, 2023, can be accessed [here](#).
 - Published a new fact sheet can be accessed: [Industrial Sites](#)
 - The current *EM Strategic Vision: 2022-2032* can be accessed [here](#). NNSS is featured on pages 37-39. [standing item]

- Planned activities for March 2023:
 - Volunteer during Nevada Reading Week at Walter Bracken STEAM Academy in Las Vegas, NV – February 27 – March 3, 2023
 - Host a Program and field visit of the NNSS for Nicole Nelson-Jean, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (EM-3) from DOE/EM Headquarters – March 7, 2023
 - Participate in EM SSAB National Chairs’ Meeting in Washington, D.C. (NSSAB Vice-Chair and NSSAB Member to attend) – March 21-22, 2023

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- The fiscal year 2023 Transportation Report for the first quarter (October – December 2022) can be accessed at <http://www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/RWM/Reports.html>
- Update from previous reports – Idaho Falls, ID generator. In May 2022, the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding. In July 2022, RWAP approved the generator’s corrective action plan. In February 2023, the EM Nevada Program and RWAP reviewed the documentation and determined that the revised objective evidence implemented the corrective action to address the Finding. See June – July 2022 and September – February 2023 Monthly Reports for more information.
- Update from previous report – Niskayuna, NY generator (potential): In January 2023, RWAP conducted an assist visit for the potential generator to provide a summary of gaps that require completion before a facility evaluation is scheduled. The facility evaluation is now scheduled for April 2023. See February 2023 Monthly Report for more information.
- In February 2023, RWAP conducted four facility evaluations:
 - Los Alamos, NM generator: An onsite facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
 - Oak Ridge, TN generator: An onsite facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
 - Gainesville, FL generator: An onsite facility evaluation that resulted in two Findings. The generator will have 30 days to respond after receiving the RWAP final report.
 - Richland, WA, generator: An onsite facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
- In March 2023, RWAP will conduct one facility evaluation.
- In March 2023, approximately 82,789 cubic feet of low-level waste (LLW), mixed (MLLW), and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.

Underground Test Area (UGTA) - Groundwater

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 101/102, Pahute Mesa

In February 2023, development of a response document to the External Peer Review Panel’s report on the Pahute Mesa Groundwater Flow and Transport Model continued. Planning for preparation of the Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan began.

Industrial Sites

CAU 114, Area 25 Engine Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility

CAU 114 comprises three Corrective Action Sites (CASs) in Area 25 of the NNSS. The Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan was approved by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in June 2021. In February 2023, preparation of the facility for eventual demolition continued, and will continue in March 2023.

CAU 572, Test Cell C Ancillary Building and Structures

CAU 572 comprises five CASs in Area 25 of the NNSS. The SAFER Plan was approved by NDEP in April 2021. In February 2023, preparation of the facility for eventual demolition continued, including completion of the removal of perlite from the Dewars.

Post-Closure Monitoring

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

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance were performed in accordance with closure requirements. In October 2022, annual inspections for the calendar year were completed; maintenance and repairs identified during the 2022 annual inspections will continue in 2023.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance were performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. In December 2022, the quarterly inspections were conducted. Required repairs and maintenance identified during the quarterly inspections will be performed in March 2023.

Groundwater Post-Closure Monitoring

In February 2023, preparation of the calendar year 2022 Letter Report for All Closed Groundwater CAUs began.

NOTE: see the following article on the Jan 18th NSSAB Meeting that was written for the EM Nevada Program and Navarro employees' newsletter.

NSSAB Hosts Meeting in Pahrump

By Barb Ulmer



EM Nevada's Rob Boehlecke, Deputy Designated Federal Officer for the NSSAB, provides updates on current EM activities at the NNSS.

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) held its first full board meeting of fiscal year 2023 in the community of Pahrump. Six new NSSAB members from Tonopah, Henderson, Las Vegas, and Pahrump joined the Board for their first "official" meeting. During the meeting, the NSSAB discussed and provided recommendations to the EM Nevada Program on improvements to public communications on NNSS groundwater topics for future Groundwater Open House events. Members of the public are welcome at every NSSAB meeting to learn more about activities at the NNSS, and they can provide comments during the meeting.

Marilew Bartling, Navarro's RWAP Manager, provided lessons learned from the RWAP annual report. Additionally, Reed Poderis, MST's EM and Compliance Manager, conducted an educational session on the waste disposal permits and environmental monitoring at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex. Chris Andres, Chief for the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of NDEP at DOE sites. More information on the NSSAB can be found at www.nnss.gov/NSSAB/.



NSSAB Meetings are hosted in a hybrid format that includes both in-person and virtual participation.