

**Environmental Management (EM)
Nevada Program Activities
Monthly Report to the
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
November 2022**

External Affairs

- NSSAB
 - Participated in tour of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) – October 19, 2022
NOTE: During the tour, NSSAB members requested the document, *U.S. Nuclear Tests-July 1945 through September 1992* (DOE/NV-209). The document can be accessed [here](#)
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
 - Conducted groundwater demonstration at Amargosa Valley School in Amargosa Valley, NV – October 27, 2022
- Publications:
 - The current *EM Strategic Vision: 2022-2032* can be accessed [here](#). NNSS is featured on pages 37-39. [standing item]
 - Published article, *EM Nevada Raises Money for Homeless People in Las Vegas*, in EM Update on October 25, can be accessed [here](#)
- Planned activities for November 2022:
 - Host Groundwater Open House to provide public outreach/education on the groundwater mission and monitoring at the Amargosa Valley Community Center in Amargosa Valley, NV – November 2, 2022
 - Host NSSAB Orientation in Las Vegas, NV – November 9, 2022

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- The fiscal year 2022 Waste Volume Report for fourth quarter (July – September 2022) is available 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 (CAP). In September 2022, the generator requested an extension for CAP closure to November 2022 that was granted by RWAP. (please see June - July 2022 and September – October 2022 Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous reports – Erwin, TN generator. In May 2022, RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding. In September 2022, the generator submitted its CAP that was reviewed and approved by RWAP. The generator submitted a position paper to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review that is expected to take approximately 90 days. The generator cannot ship this specific waste stream for disposal until the Finding is closed. (please see June – July 2022 and September – October 2022 Monthly Reports for more information)

- Update from previous reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator. In September 2022, RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in two Findings. In September 2022, the EM Nevada Program suspended all but two of the generator’s waste streams. The generator submitted its CAP that was reviewed and approved by RWAP. In October 2022, the EM Nevada Program lifted the suspension. (please see September – October 2022 Monthly Reports for more information)
- In October 2022, the RWAP conducted four facility evaluations:
 - Paducah, KY generator: A facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
 - Oak Ridge, TN generator: A facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
 - Portsmouth, OH generator: A facility evaluation resulting in no Findings.
 - Erwin, TN generator: A facility evaluation resulting in no Findings.
- In November 2022, the RWAP will conduct one facility evaluation.
- In November 2022, approximately 71,796 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 October 2022, the External Peer Review Panel report on the Pahute Mesa Groundwater Flow and Transport Model was submitted to State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). In October 2022, preparations took place for a Groundwater Open House scheduled November 2 from 4-6 p.m. in Amargosa Valley, NV.

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 NDEP in June 2021. In October 2022, preparation of the facility for eventual demolition continued, and will continue in November 2022.

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 October 2022, preparation of the facility for eventual demolition continued, and will continue in November 2022 as access allows.

CAU 577, Area 5 Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells

CAU 577 comprises five CASs located at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). In October 2022, the Addendum to the Closure Report for CAU 577 was approved by NDEP. The Addendum includes information about the closure of CAS 05-21-05 in CAU 577.

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 December 2021, annual inspections for the

calendar year were completed; maintenance and repairs identified during the 2021 annual inspections will continue throughout the 2022 calendar year. Annual inspections for 2022 were completed in October 2022.

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 October 2022, required maintenance identified during the quarterly inspections were performed.

NOTE: see the following pages 4-5 for an article on the Sept 28th NSSAB meeting and pages 6-7 for an article on the Oct 19th NSSAB Tour of the NNSS that was written for EM Nevada Program and Navarro employees.

NSSAB gets to work for FY 2023

By Barbara Ulmer



EM Nevada's John Myers leads a presentation about the EMNV Soils mission.

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) met in September for its final meeting of fiscal year (FY) 2022. The board advanced its work plan for the upcoming fiscal year that included three Department of Energy (DOE) proposed items and two NSSAB proposed items. The board also elected its chair and vice-chair.

The NSSAB is a federally chartered DOE advisory board made up of members from urban and rural communities in southern Nevada. Members volunteer their time to study and discuss environmental activities that take place at the NNSS and provide recommendations to the EM Nevada program. The NSSAB also functions as an educational and informational link to the community by providing an opportunity for the public to review and comment on environmental activities at the NNSS. The NSSAB is one of eight advisory boards across the DOE EM Complex.



Members received updates from the DOE EM Nevada program, NNSA/Nevada Field Office, and NSSAB liaisons. The NSSAB has eleven liaison positions to ensure representation of governmental, tribal, and other federal agencies, including the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations. Liaisons are non-voting members that offer their organization's perspective and viewpoints on EM Nevada program activities.





During the meeting, the NSSAB received its FY 2022 Wrap Up and FY 2023 Planned Activities briefings for Long-Term Monitoring, Industrial Sites, Soils, Underground Test Area, and Waste Management. The NSSAB provided recommendations to the EM Nevada Program for enhancements to the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Annual Report.

Robert Boehlecke, deputy designated federal officer for the Board, recognized outgoing members for their interest, sacrifice, and dedication to the program. Five of these members served the maximum three terms of two years for a total of six years of service. The NSSAB welcomed seven incoming board members who joined the meeting. Current and new members and liaisons look forward to the upcoming tour of the NNSS on Oct. 19 and orientation on Nov. 9. More information on the NSSAB can be found online at www.nnss.gov/NSSAB/.



NSSAB members get a front-row view of the Security Site

By Glenn Puit



NSSAB members pose in front of the Sedan Crater on the NNSS. (Photo by Barb Ulmer.)

Members of the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) recently went on a successful and informative tour of the Nevada National Security Site.

Board members first visited the United States Geological Survey Core Library to learn more about groundwater and how it is monitored at the site. Up next were stops at Frenchman Flat and then the Radioactive Waste Management Complex where members learned about disposal, real-time radiography, and efforts to enhance cover vegetation on the surrounding landscape. After lunch, members visited the intriguing Sedan Crater that was formed in 1962 when the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, predecessor of the U.S. Department of Energy, conducted an excavation experiment using a 104-kiloton thermonuclear device.

New board member Eddie Williams said the tour was of great merit to him.

"I thought it was very informative, very educational and enjoyable," Williams said. "I learned a whole lot about nuclear testing sites and this allowed me to be better prepared to help the board provide great suggestions on behalf of the community. It is very worthwhile for any new members. Also, for older committee members, they said that every time they go on a tour they learn something new."

Other stops on the tour included the ICECAP Ground Zero, where board members learned about the remarkable infrastructure used to conduct underground testing, and the Apple II house that has remarkably withstood both a detonation along with the traditional tests of time.



The group observes ICECAP Ground Zero. (Photo by Barb Ulmer.)

"I am greatly thankful for the opportunity to tour the NNSS with the NSSAB," newly elected Board Chair Anthony Graham said. "Though I have been out to the test site about 15 times, on each excursion I notice something new and unique. To me the tour provides a great sense of the scale of the test site as well as the scope of activities conducted there over the second half of the 20th century. On this particular tour I appreciated the extended time we were allowed to leave the bus at the historic sites and the Core Library. The opportunity to experience the space and landscape of our atomic history provides deeper levels of understanding of space and place than any book, film, or presentation."

Graham said the tour also highlights the environmental challenges faced by EM Nevada and the Department of Energy.

"As helpful as the educational sessions and presentations are at NSSAB meetings, visiting a space provides an invaluable level of context for NSSAB members to understand the activities on the test site and better represent their communities on the board," Graham said.

