

Environmental Remediation Work at TTR

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



The Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program is completing cleanup activities at the Clean Slate sites on the Tonopah Test Range (TTR). This fact sheet provides an update on what the DOE EM Nevada Program is doing to ensure the safety of the public, workers, and environment during these activities.

What is Clean Slate III?

Clean Slate is the name of a series of three safety experiments (Clean Slate I, II and III) conducted in the spring of 1963 to determine if nuclear weapons could be accidentally set off and produce a nuclear yield. These experiments resulted in the contamination of soil and debris. Clean Slate III is the last of these sites to complete the remediation process in accordance with a legal agreement between DOE, the State of Nevada and Department of Defense. Clean Slate II cleanup is anticipated to be complete this summer. Cleanup of the Clean Slate I site was deemed complete in October 2016.

Environmental Closure

Remediation of the Clean Slate III site involves removing approximately 7,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris. This waste is primarily contaminated by plutonium, which is only hazardous if inhaled or ingested since alpha-emitting radioactive particles cannot penetrate skin, or even paper.

The waste will be sealed in Department of Transportation (DOT)-compliant containers and transported on placarded trucks from the TTR along US-95 to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) where it will be safely and permanently disposed. The estimated 6-month shipping campaign is anticipated to begin this summer.



Transporting waste from Clean Slate III to the NNSS

By the Numbers

Remediation of Clean Slate III involves the removal of

~7,500 cubic yards

of contaminated soil and debris characterized as low-level waste

450

LLW shipments from Clean Slate III to the NNSS

2
waste packages per shipment

shipments to occur in multi-week campaigns spread out over the course of

6
months

Shipped Monday through Thursday

Distance from TTR to NNSS:

~200 miles

One-way through Tonopah, Goldfield and Beatty

Shipping campaign is estimated to last

6 months

(July-December 2018)

Since 2014, more than

1,100 professionals

(representing 40 communities) received training in Nevada to enhance radiological hazardous material response capabilities

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Ensuring Safety

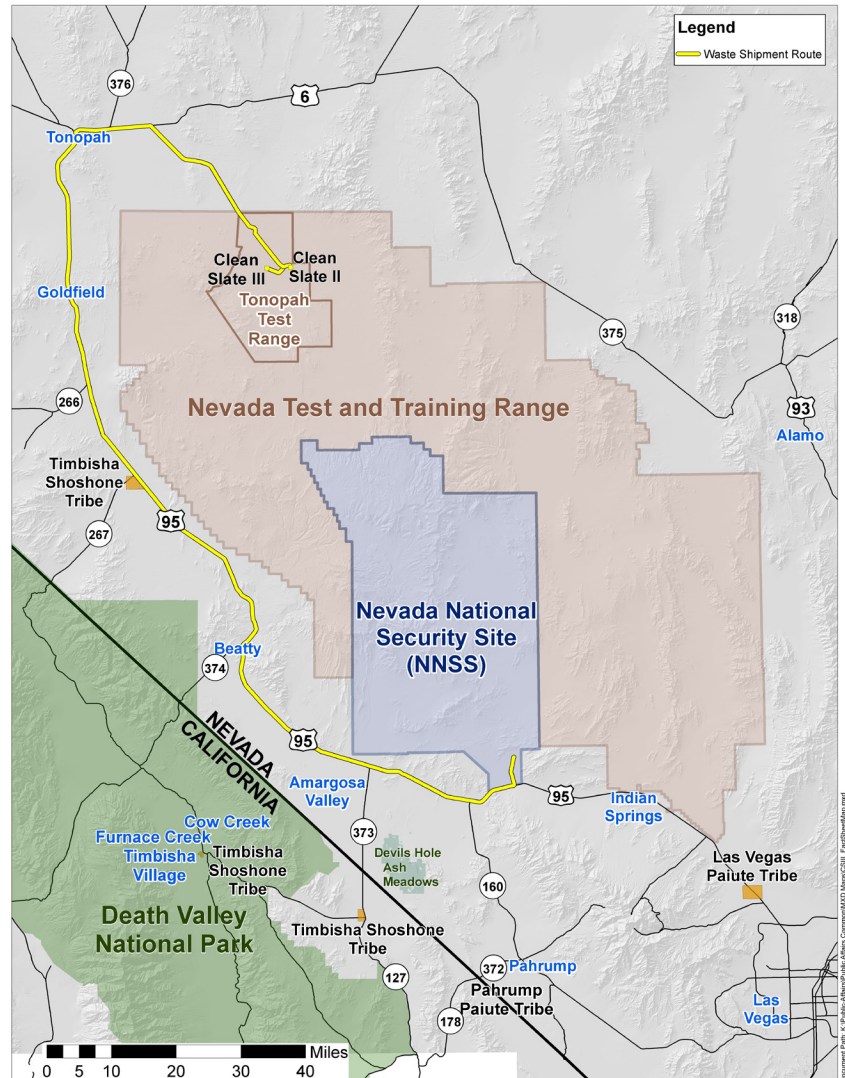
The safety of workers, the public, and environment is a priority. Workers wear protective clothing, respirators, and air monitoring devices while removing the contaminated soil and debris. In addition, dust suppression techniques are used and portable air monitoring equipment is setup near the remediation area. Once sealed in DOT-compliant containers, radiological control technicians conduct surveys on the waste packages to ensure radiation levels are in compliance with DOT safety limits for drivers and the public.

The shipments will be operated by a DOE-approved motor carrier. The contracted shipping company has undergone a thorough screening and evaluation process and has extensive experience in transporting similar waste.

Emergency Preparedness

Addressing potential risk is important. This is why DOE has hosted several training classes and exercises to prepare emergency responders in the unlikely event of an incident involving any shipments to the NNSS. Since 2014, more than 1,100 emergency responders and representatives of various businesses, tribes, agencies, organizations, and local governments from 40 communities have received training in Nevada to enhance radiological hazardous material response capabilities. DOE's Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program provided the training during more than 90 classes that included participation by first responders living in communities near the shipping route.

In addition, numerous high-tech resources and emergency response personnel are stationed at the NNSS which has agreements in place to support nearby communities -- and not just for radioactive waste shipments. NNSS Fire and



Rescue has responded to dozens of traffic incidents on nearby public highways and participates in local emergency preparedness committees in Clark and Nye counties.

Commitment to Stakeholders

The safe transportation of radioactive waste is paramount. Since 1999, more than 27,000 shipments have been safely transported to the NNSS along multiple routes from dozens of locations across the U.S. (www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/RWM/Reports.html). The DOE EM Nevada Program is committed to ensuring this trend continues and believes in a transparent approach in sharing information with the public. Public and intergovernmental stakeholders have and will continue to be engaged in discussions about DOE cleanup activities on the TTR. This includes updates provided during public meetings hosted by the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (www.nnss.gov/nssab).