

Transporting Waste to the NNSS

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Safety is a priority for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program. This commitment to safety is integrated into requirements and work procedures at federal sites across the U.S. which generate 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 safely packaged and transported in compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations, NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria (NNSSWAC), and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations and requirements. This includes packaging waste to comply with safety standards for minimizing public exposure during transport. Compliance is assessed during numerous radiation surveys conducted pre- and post-shipment, and studies documenting these assessments have concluded there are no health impacts in communities through which waste travels en route to the NNSS. There are also rigorous training and reporting requirements for carriers and their drivers that provide additional safety measures during transportation of waste.

Stakeholder Coordination

Timely and transparent communications are also paramount to the EM Nevada Program. Coordination with intergovernmental and public stakeholders occurs during regularly scheduled meetings where routine updates are provided. Through these stakeholder interactions, the EM Nevada Program worked with Nevada DOT to publish a [routing considerations reference](#) that communicates off-limits routes that should be avoided, such as the red-shaded areas of the map on page 2. This key communication link helps to prevent the inadvertent identification of routes in state-issued overweight and/or over-dimensional permits that are required for some waste shipments.



A Commitment to Safety

Since 1999, more than 31,000 radioactive and classified waste shipments have been safely transported to the NNSS. Of the 18 shipments involved in a transportation event during that time frame, none resulted in contamination. Even with such a great safety record, DOE is vigilant in supporting emergency response capabilities in communities near waste shipment routes. Two of these initiatives are the [Emergency Preparedness Working Group Grant \(EPWG\)](#) and the [Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program \(TEPP\)](#).

EPWG

Provides funding to enhance emergency response capabilities in Nevada counties through which waste shipments are transported to the NNSS

- Funded by a \$0.50 fee for every cubic foot of waste disposed at NNSS
- Administered by Nevada Division of Emergency Management
- More than \$15 million distributed since 2000

TEPP

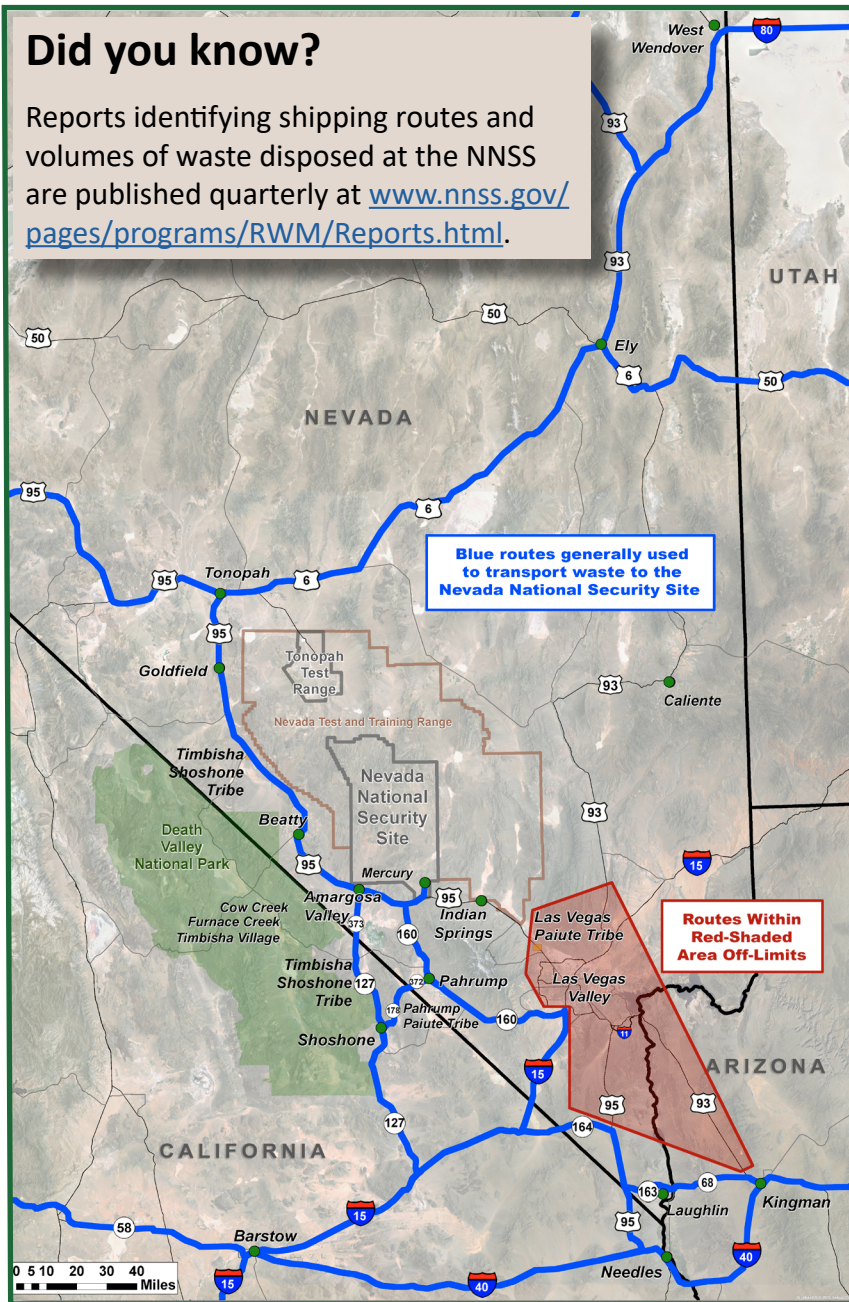
Conducts training across the U.S. (including Nevada) on radiological hazardous material response

- 131 classes conducted in Nevada since January 2014
- Training provided to more than 1,680 responders, representing 40 different Nevada communities

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Did you know?

Reports identifying shipping routes and volumes of waste disposed at the NNSS are published quarterly at www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/RWM/Reports.html.



Routing Preferences

In addition to DOT regulations that require carriers to select routes which minimize radiological risk, the NNSWAC requires waste shipments traveling to the NNSS to avoid the O'Callaghan-Tillman Memorial Bridge and central Las Vegas (as specified below). When selecting routes, the EM Nevada Program advises generators to:

- 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 for identifying routes taken and locations where stops occur (fueling and DOT-required rest breaks for drivers, including overnight stops)

During selection of routes, carriers and generators, with assistance from the EM Nevada Program, also consider weather conditions and construction activities. Should weather, construction, or other law enforcement activities require the unexpected rerouting of shipments, drivers are required to make notifications in accordance with the NNSWAC.

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

Definitions

Carrier: Trucking company which transports waste from the generator site to the NNSS.

Generator: Entities with [NNSWAC-approved waste certification programs](#) that generate [classified and/or low-level/mixed low-level radioactive waste](#) in support of DOE and U.S. Department of Defense missions.

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

Waste: Low-level or mixed low-level radioactive waste, or classified waste that has been approved for disposal at the NNSS in compliance with [NNSWAC](#) requirements.

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