



Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program Activities Monthly Report to the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) June 2024



External Affairs

- NSSAB:
 - Featured in article and social media, *EM Site-Specific Advisory Board Hears Updates from Avery, Tours Portsmouth Site*, in EM Update, can be accessed [here](#) – May 14, 2024 (another article and photos included in an internal newsletter on pages 5-6)
 - Observed real time radiography operations at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in support of a work plan item (two NSSAB members participated) – May 14, 2024
- Events/Stakeholder Meetings:
 - Presented groundwater demonstration during “May the Science Be with You” event at the Atomic Museum in Las Vegas, NV – May 2, 2024
 - Hosted meetings, networking event, and an NNSS tour during Waste Generator Workshop for contractors and federal staff supporting waste generator sites with approved NNSS waste certification programs in Las Vegas, NV – May 6–9, 2024
 - Hosted quarterly partnering session with EM Consolidated Business Center, EM Nevada Program and Navarro senior staff at the Molasky Corporate Center, Las Vegas, NV – May 9, 2024
 - Hosted Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum via hybrid format at the Molasky Corporate Center, Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB representative attended) – May 15, 2024
- Publications:
 - The current *NNSS Environmental Report* can be accessed [here](#). This report is written to inform the public, regulators, employees, and other stakeholders of the performance of the NNSS environmental program. [*standing item*]
 - The current *EM Strategic Vision: 2024-2034* can be accessed [here](#). The NNSS is featured on pages 32-33. This vision outlines EM’s anticipated accomplishments in protection of the workforce, the public,



EM Nevada Program Hosted Groundwater Demonstration at the 'May the Science Be with You' Event at the Atomic Museum

and the environment. The vision was developed with feedback from state and local officials, Tribal Nations, and stakeholders. EM remains committed to working in a collaborative manner with Congress and the cleanup community to advance shared goals of safe, effective cleanup and fiscal responsibility. [*standing item*]

- EM Headquarters leadership change, *William “Ike” White nominated by the President to Serve on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*, in EM Update, can be accessed [here](#) – May 28, 2024
- Planned activities for June 2024:
 - Host a bottled water drive for the Las Vegas Rescue Mission to help keep the homeless hydrated this summer – month of June 2024
 - Attend and participate in a panel, *Small Businesses, Big Missions*, during RadWaste Summit in Louisville, KY – June 3-5, 2024
 - Host a site visit for two NSSAB members to observe a facility evaluation at an Idaho generator in support of a work plan item – June 24-27, 2024

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- Update from previous reports – Erwin, TN generator. In May 2022, the RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding. In June 2024, the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) will be conducting another facility evaluation. The generator cannot ship this specific waste stream for disposal until the Finding is closed. (please see June – July 2022, September – October 2022, May – June 2023, November 2023 – January 2024, March 2024, and May 2024 Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous reports - Portsmouth, OH generator: In November 2023, RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding. In May 2024, RWAP received, reviewed, and accepted the generator’s objective evidence and closed the Finding. (please see December 2023 – January 2024 and March 2024 Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous reports – Los Alamos, NM generator: In January 2024, the RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in two Findings. In May 2024, the generator requested an extension to June 2024 to provide a corrective action plan (CAP), and RWAP granted the request. (please see February - May 2024 Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator: In February 2024, RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in two Findings. In May 2024, the generator requested an extension to June 2024 to provide a CAP, and RWAP granted the request. (please see March – May 2024 Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous report – Oak Ridge, TN generator #2: In April 2024, RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in three Findings. In May 2024, RWAP issued its final report, and the generator has 30 days to respond. (please see May 2024 Monthly Report for more information)
- In the month of May 2024, RWAP conducted one facility evaluation:
 - Portsmouth, OH generator: RWAP conducted a facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
- In the month of June 2024, RWAP will conduct two facility evaluations.
- In the month of June 2024, approximately 64,246 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 May 2024, planning activities for collection of new data including drilling, surface geophysics, and groundwater sampling for the Pahute Mesa CAUs continued. Revision of the Pahute Mesa Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) to reflect drilling planning activities continued. Modeling activities consistent with the Pahute Mesa CADD/CAP are ongoing. Development of the Pahute Mesa groundwater annual sampling letter report 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 May 2024, preparation of the facility for eventual demolition continued and will continue throughout 2024.

CAU 572, Test Cell C (TCC) 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 May 2024, preparation of the facility for eventual demolition continued and will continue throughout 2024.

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. Maintenance and repairs identified during the 2023 annual inspections will be conducted in calendar year 2024. Annual inspections for calendar year 2024 started in May 2024.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include seven CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance were performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. No activities occurred in May 2024.

Groundwater Post-Closure Monitoring

In May 2024, the Annual Letter Report for all Closed Groundwater CAUs was submitted to NDEP. Planning for groundwater sampling at well WW-C-1 in Yucca Flat continued.

Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO)

The FFACO is a regulatory agreement that identifies sites of potential historic contamination on the NNSS and outlines a strategy and timeline for completing corrective actions. A collaborative effort with all signatories to modify the FFACO is underway to update the main body and appendices. One key change is the identification of the EM Nevada Program as a separate signatory (previously, the EM Nevada Program and the NNSA/NFO were represented by NNSA/NFO signature). A new Appendix, VII, was also written to provide a Post-Closure Strategy for closed CAUs that includes processes for transitioning responsibility of FFACO sites to long-term

stewards. This extensive revision process was last undertaken when the FFACO was modified in 2010. The proposed changes in progress further solidify the Department's commitment to long-term environmental protection and support the evolution of the EM Nevada Program mission. In May 2024, the approval and final signature process continued and will continue in June 2024.

FFACO-related records are, per the Agreement, transmitted to both the [Nevada State Library & Archives](#) as well as the [Nuclear Testing Archives](#), and transitioning FFACO sites to another long-term steward does not mean retrieving the FFACO records from those repositories. The records that are transitioned to a new long-term steward are those that are maintained by Navarro.

NSSAB Represented at National Chairs Meeting

By Glenn Puit



NSSAB Chair Anthony Graham and Vice Chair Mark Hilton attended the event in Chillicothe, Ohio from April 30 to May 2.

Two members of the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) recently attended a national meeting that offers the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM) significant citizen feedback on how things are going for advisory boards across the EM complex.

Anthony Graham and Mark Hilton, chair and vice chair of the NSSAB, participated in the EM Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs meeting in Chillicothe, Ohio, from April 30 to May 2. The meeting draws advisory board leaders from EM sites throughout the nation, allowing them the opportunity to interact directly with EM leaders including Jeffrey Avery, principal deputy assistant secretary for EM.

Board leaders use the meeting to tell EM about challenges and opportunities advisory boards are facing. Graham and Hilton communicated on behalf of the NSSAB some recent accomplishments at the EM Nevada site including successful revegetation efforts at the Area 5 facility at the Nevada National Security Site. Graham and Hilton also told EM leaders about the strong commitments NSSAB members and liaisons have demonstrated recently as part of the NSSAB's mission to provide independent advice, information and recommendations on issues the EM Nevada program faces. Graham and Hilton detailed some board concerns as well, including the impact of climate change on previously closed locations at the NNSS and the need for continued community participation after the NSSAB sunsets over the long-term.

The Nevada representatives were joined on the trip by NSSAB Administrator Barb Ulmer and Glenn Puit of Navarro's strategic communications team.



Above: Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office Site Lead Jeremy Davis delivers a presentation.

Below: NSSAB Vice Chair Mark Hilton (right) looks on as Portsmouth/Paducah Manager Joel B. Bradburne addresses the room.

In addition to meeting participation, attendees toured the Portsmouth, Ohio EM site and learned about the ongoing environmental cleanup there. Several attendees also toured the Fernald Preserve near Cincinnati. Fernald was once the site of a uranium metal production facility that caused significant environmental contamination. The area has since been the site of an extensive cleanup that led the area being converted into a preserve.



Participants toured the Portsmouth Site on April 30.