

# Nevada National Security Site Tour Booklet



**Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board**

October 29, 2014



**EM** *Environmental Management*

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

[www.em.doe.gov](http://www.em.doe.gov)

# Prohibited Articles On Nevada National Security Site Public Tours

**The following items are prohibited within the boundaries of the Nevada National Security Site public tours. Tour escorts are required to do random checks.**

- Cellular Phones
- Bluetooth Enabled Devices
- PDA, BlackBerry, etc.
- Computers
- Portable Data Storage Devices
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Cameras/Camcorders
- Binoculars
- Optical Instruments
- Recording Devices
- Pets and Animals
- Explosives
- Ammunition
- Incendiary Devices
- Chemical Irritants
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Controlled Substances
- Any Item Prohibited by Law

**Possession of these items may delay the tour and prevent your participation.**

**If at any point during the tour these items are discovered, the tour may be terminated.**



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Tour Agenda\*

8:30 a.m.	Arrive at Mercury Badge Office	12:45 p.m.	Depart for Icecap
8:40 a.m.	Arrive at Gate 100 for badge check	1:00 p.m.	Arrive at Icecap
8:50 a.m.	Arrive at Mercury Cafe for rest stop	1:25 p.m.	Depart for Sedan Crater
9:05 a.m.	Depart for Frenchman Flat Overlook	1:45 p.m.	Arrive at Sedan Crater-photo op
9:15 a.m.	Arrive at Frenchman Flat Overlook	2:00 p.m.	Depart for Apple II Houses
9:35 a.m.	Depart for Frenchman Flat	2:20 p.m.	Arrive at Apple II Houses
9:45 a.m.	Arrive at Frenchman Flat	2:30 p.m.	Depart for Area 25, Engine Maintenance Assembly Disassembly (EMAD) Facility
10:05 a.m.	Depart for Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC)	3:10 p.m.	Arrive at Area 25, EMAD
10:10 a.m.	Arrive at Area 5 RWMC, Work Plan 1 & 9	3:25 p.m.	Depart for Mercury
11:30 a.m.	Depart for Well ER-6-2 Drill Site	3:50 p.m.	Arrive at Mercury Cafe for rest stop
11:50 a.m.	Arrive at Well ER-6-2 Drill Site	4:10 p.m.	Depart for Gate 100 for badge check
12:10 p.m.	Depart for CAU 568	5:20 p.m.	Arrive at Park and Ride in LV
12:25 p.m.	Arrive at CAU 568, Work Plan 2		

\* Subject to change

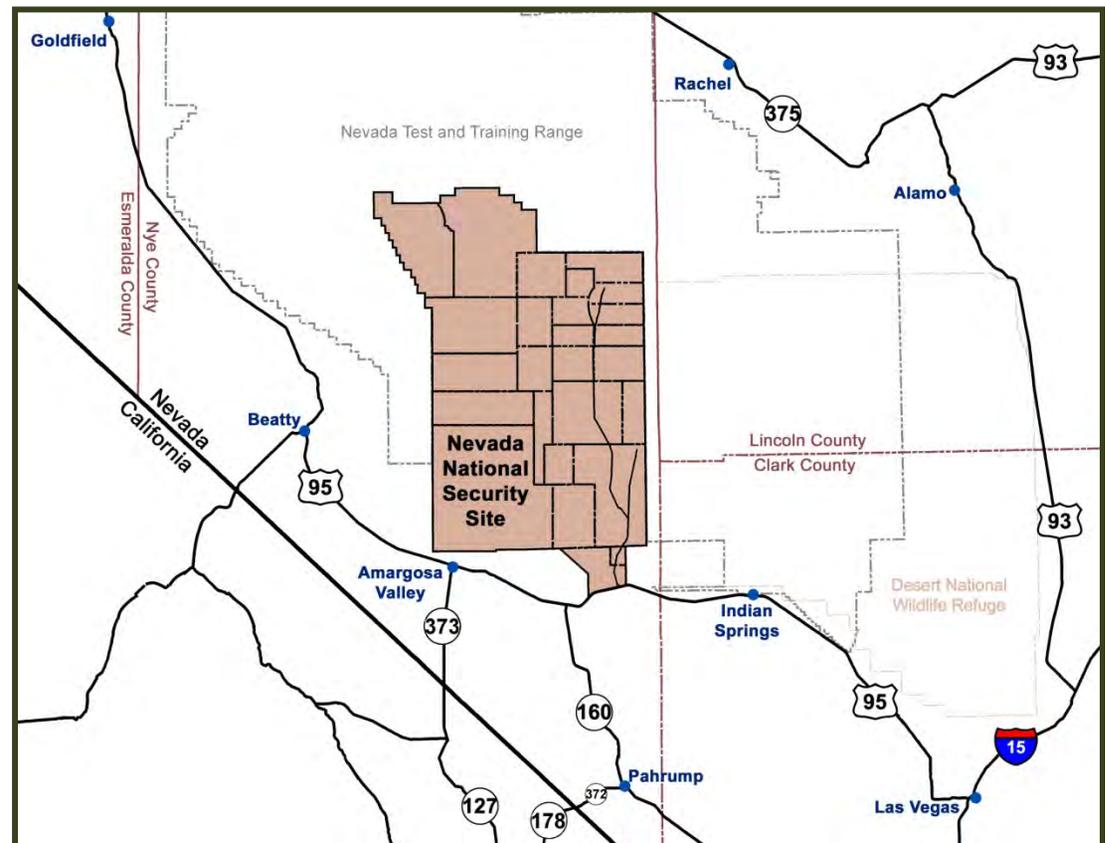


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)

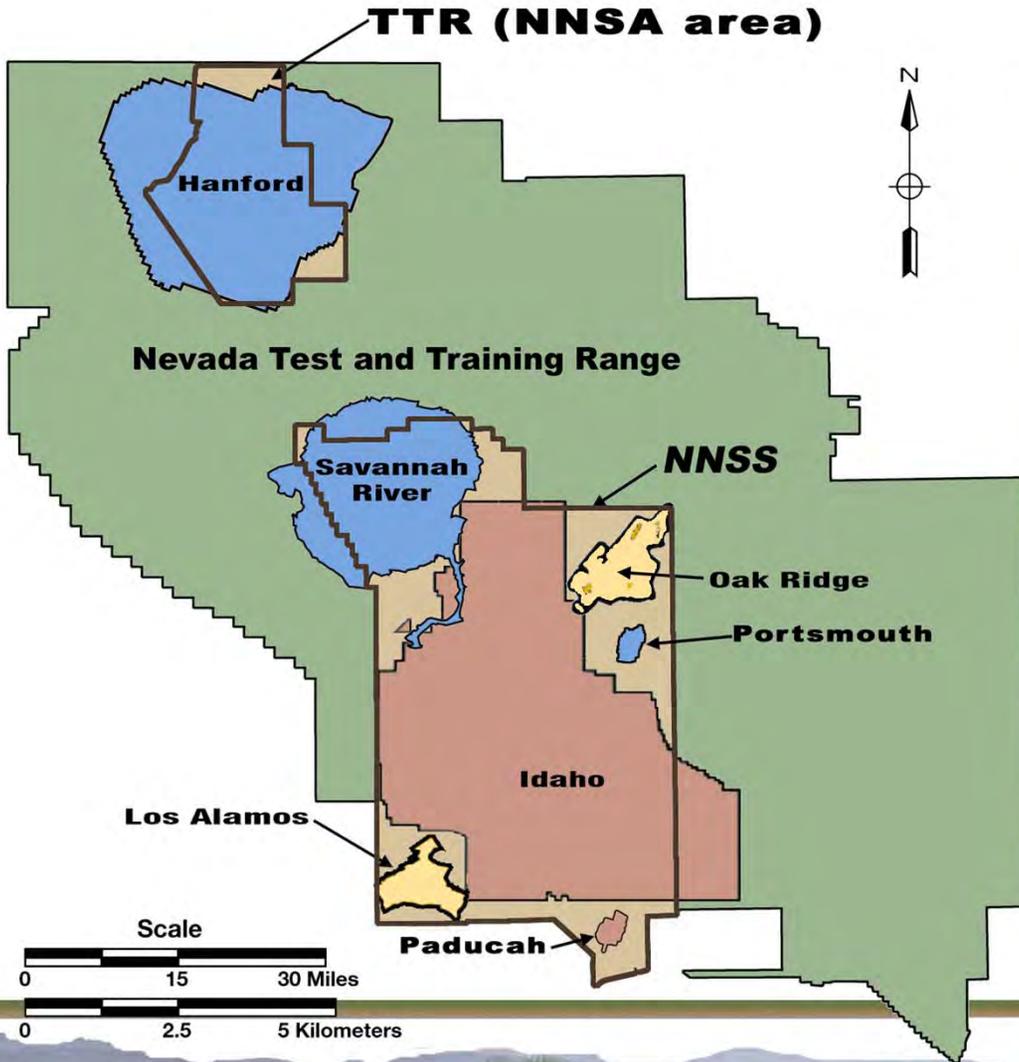
- Approximately 1,360 square miles of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-controlled land
  - Surrounded by approximately 4,500 square miles of federally-controlled land
- Located approximately 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# DOE Site Comparisons



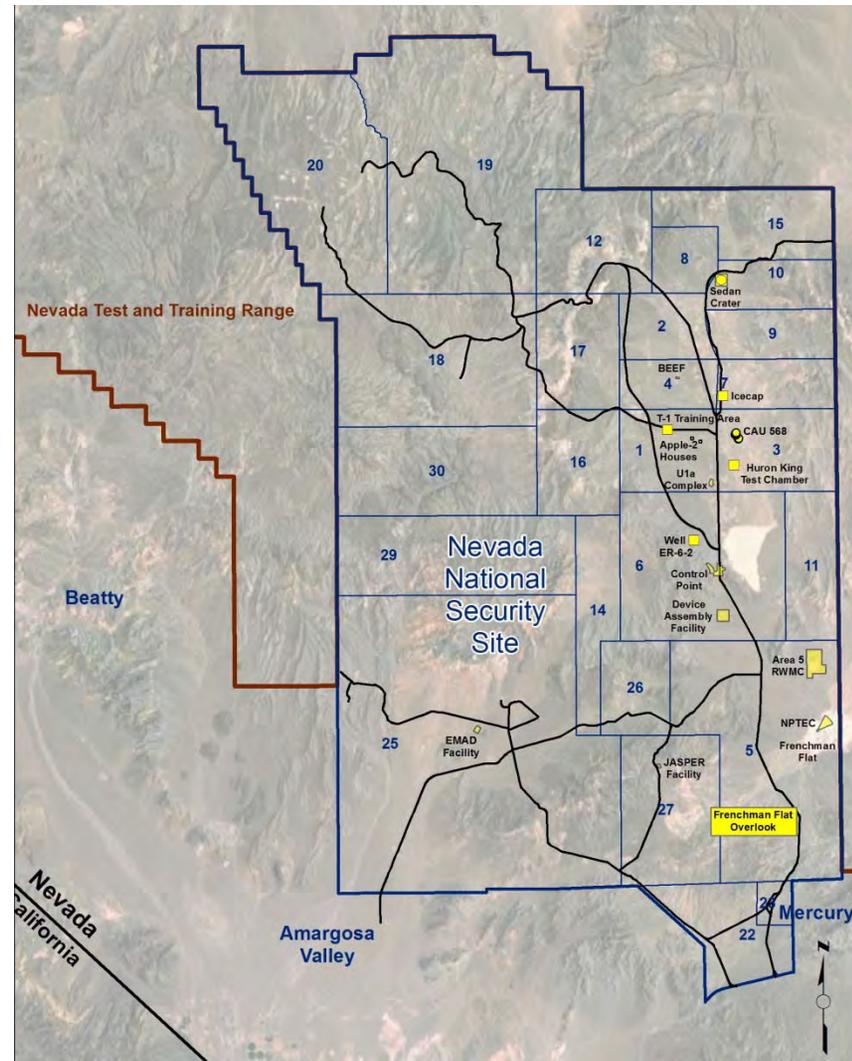
Site	Sq. Mi.
Hanford	560
Idaho	893
Los Alamos	43
Oak Ridge	53
Paducah	5
Portsmouth	6
Savannah River	310
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,870</b>
NNSS	~1,360
TTR (NNSA area)	~280
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>~1,640</b>



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NNSS Tour Map



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Life in Mercury



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Life in Mercury (continued)



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Nuclear Testing Road to the NNSS

- U.S. enters World War II in 1941 after Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
- U.S. Manhattan Project begins developing first atomic bomb in 1942 to influence the outcome of the war
- Manhattan Project tests first atomic bomb in New Mexico on July 16, 1945, called “Trinity”
- U.S. drops two atomic bombs on two cities in Japan on August 6 and 9, 1945 – Japan surrenders August 14, 1945
- Nuclear testing begins in the South Pacific Ocean in 1946



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NNSS Established in 1950

- Atomic testing in the South Pacific presented challenges
  - Logistics
  - Weather
  - Security
  - Safety
- Urgent need for continental test site
  - Top secret feasibility study, code named *Nutmeg*, commenced to search for a continental test site
  - Study concluded arid, southwest section of U.S. as an ideal location
- President Truman officially established Nevada Proving Grounds, now the NNSS, on December 18, 1950



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Historic Activities

- First NNSS atmospheric nuclear test detonated on January 27, 1951
- 928 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests conducted between 1951 and 1992
- Development and testing of nuclear weapons generated radioactive waste



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# United States Nuclear Tests

Location	Tests	Detonations
South Atlantic	3	3
Pacific	106	106
Alamogordo, NM	1	1
Amchitka, AK	3	3
Carlsbad, NM	1	1
Central, NV	1	1
Fallon, NV	1	1
Farmington, NM	1	1
Grand Valley, CO	1	1
Hattiesburg, MS	2	2
Nellis Range	5	5
Rifle, CO	1	3
NNSS Atmospheric	100	100
NNSS Underground – U.S.	804	
NNSS Underground – U.S./U.K.	24	921
	<b>1,054</b>	<b>1,149</b>

A test is defined in the Threshold Test Ban Treaty as either a *single underground nuclear explosion* (detonation) or *two or more underground nuclear explosions* (detonations) conducted within an area delineated by a circle having a diameter of two kilometers and conducted within a total period of time not to exceed 0.1 second.



**EM** Environmental Management

Source: NV-209 Rev 15

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Atmospheric Testing at the NNSS

- 100 atmospheric tests conducted at the NNSS from January 1951 through July 1962 to study weapons-related effects, as safety experiments, and to study peaceful effects of nuclear explosions
- Conducted aboveground in the atmosphere
 

– Tower	43
– Balloon	23
– Airdrop	19
– Surface	13
– Rocket	1
– Airburst	1



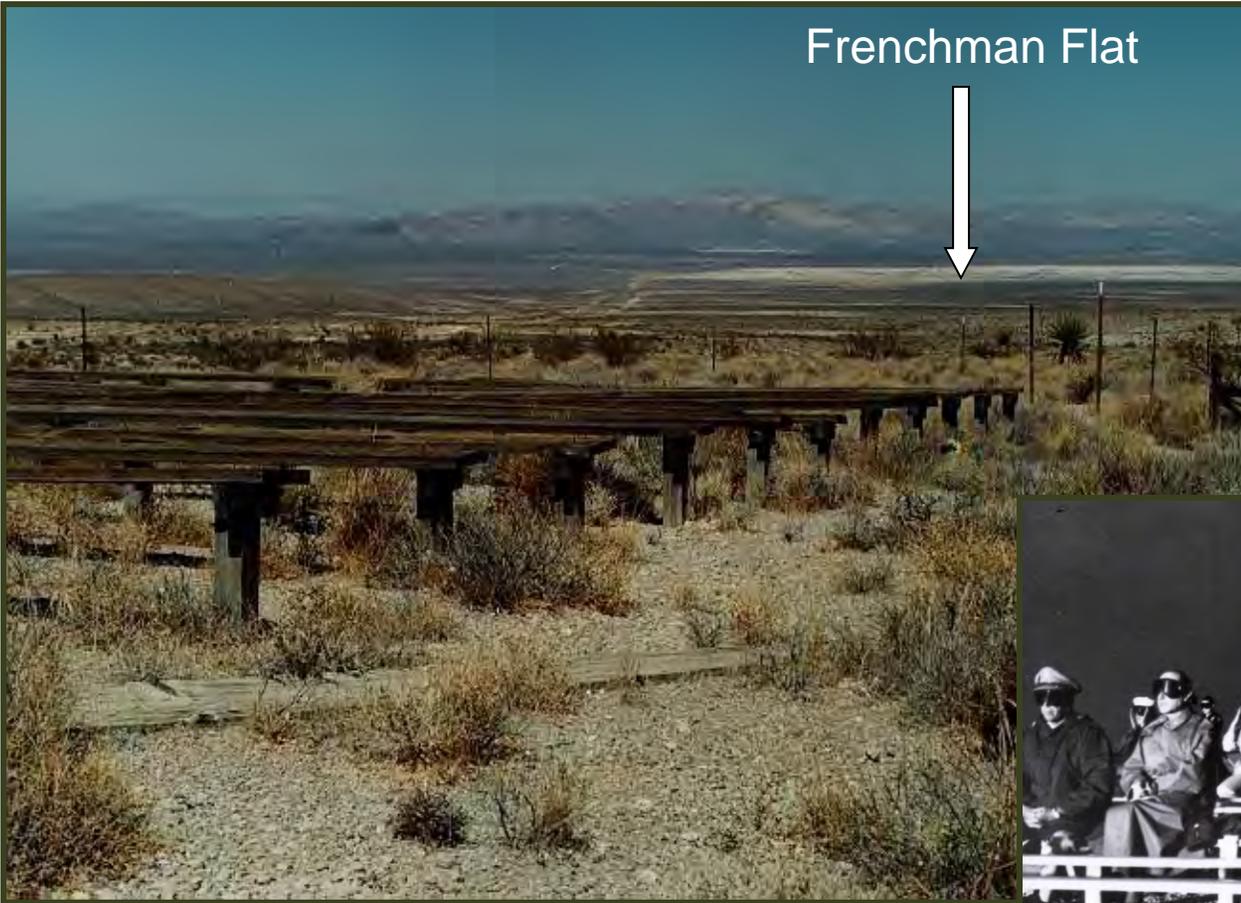
*Climax* – an airdrop test at the NNSS on June 4, 1953



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

Frenchman Flat



Seated at these bleachers, located alongside the Mercury Highway, official observers viewed the detonation of 14 atmospheric tests in Frenchman Flat



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

37-kiloton *Priscilla*  
test detonated on  
June 24, 1957 on  
the NNSS  
Frenchman Flat



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex (NPTEC)



- Unique 67-acre facility equipped to test sensors using a variety of release methods, including chemical releases, wind tunnel releases, and portable release systems
- Provides sensor arrays for ground truth data, an explosives pad, weather data instrumentation, calibrated release systems, and 24-hour release capability
- Environmental Impact Statement allows release of hazardous materials for training, field-testing of detectors, plume dispersion experimentation, and equipment and materials testing
- Includes activities at various other locations on the NNSS



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Soils

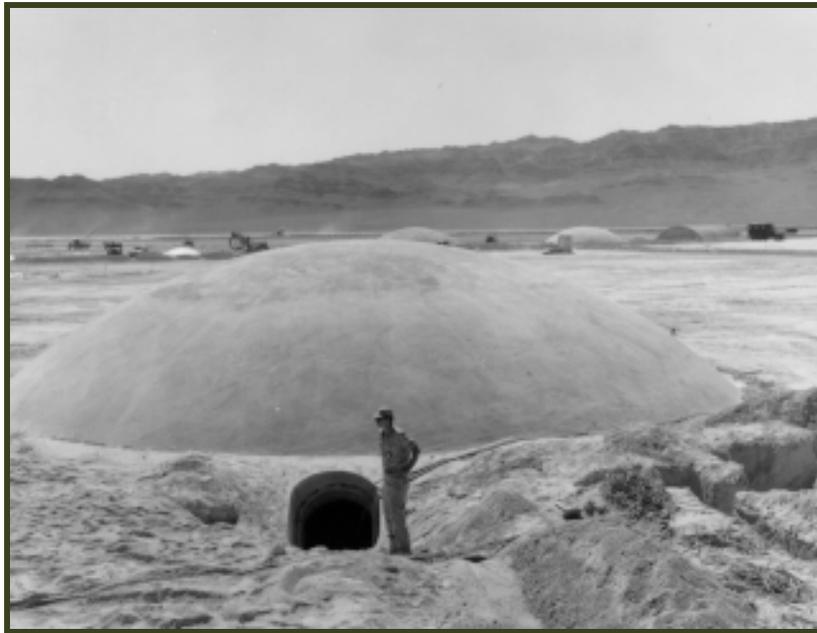
- Atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, nuclear safety experiments, surface releases from underground tests, nuclear testing done in support of nuclear rocket development in Area 25, and evaluation tests for peaceful uses of nuclear explosives conducted at the NNSS and Nevada Test and Training Range (operated by the U.S. Air Force) resulted in the radioactive contamination of surface soils
- Soils responsible for 130 Corrective Action Sites (~ 70% closed)
  - Characterizing and/or remediating surface soil contamination
  - Ensuring appropriate controls (i.e. postings, barriers, etc.) are in place at the sites and conducting long-term site monitoring, as needed



*EM* Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Atmospheric Test Relics

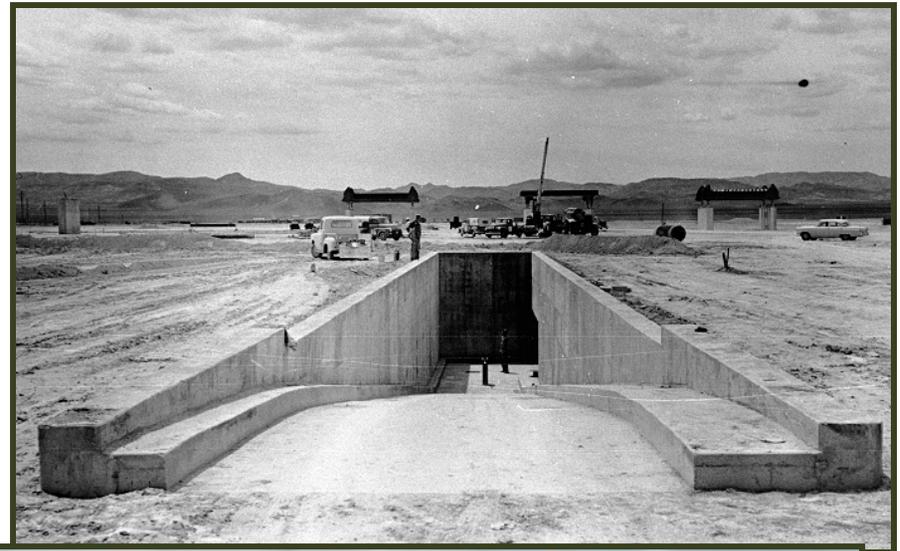


Concrete shelter domes prior to the 1957 *Priscilla* test



Effect of the test on the concrete shelter dome



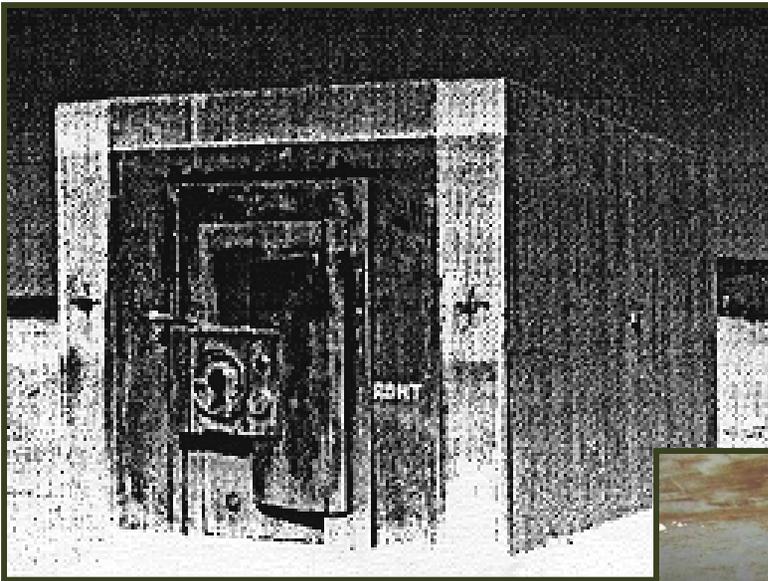


900-square foot underground dual purpose garage and mass shelter built and tested for *Priscilla* in 1957

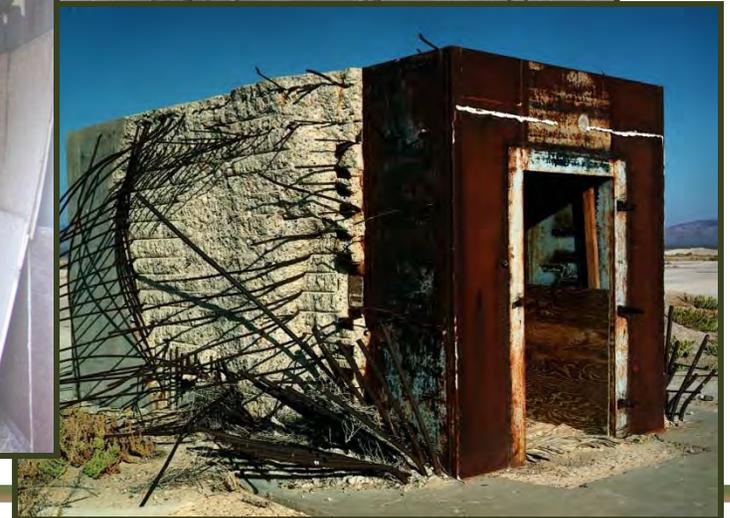


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Mosler Safe Company designed a 12-foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete vault for the *Priscilla* test in 1957; trim on the steel door was loosened by the blast, but the door itself was not damaged – contents placed within the safe remained intact



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Four railroad trestles constructed for *Operation Plumbbob* in 1953 – only one structure remains in place today with visible significant bowing of the steel “I” beams



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# The End of Atmospheric Testing

- U.S. agreed to observe Limited Test Ban Treaty in October 1963, effectively ending atmospheric testing



*Little Feller I* test location  
46 years after the last  
atmospheric test on the  
NNSS was detonated on  
July 17, 1962



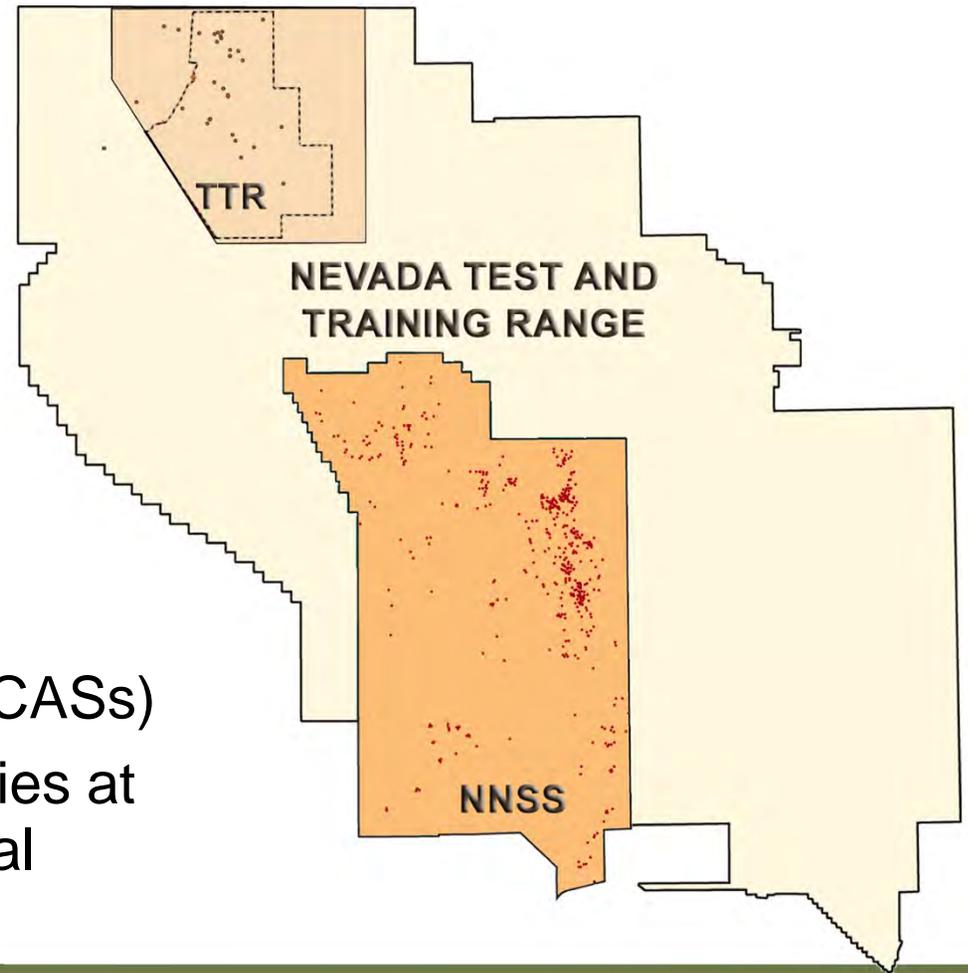
**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Industrial Sites

- Industrial Sites are facilities and land used in direct support of historic nuclear testing which resulted in environmental contamination
  - Sites include leach fields, sumps, disposal wells, tanks, contaminated waste piles, ordnance sites, etc.
- 1,126\* Corrective Action Sites (CASs)
  - Completed remediation activities at 1,124\* sites with state approval

\* Does not include Defense Program funded sites



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Use Restrictions

- Use restrictions consist of contaminant boundaries that are entered into the site-wide geographic information system (GIS)
- Use restrictions are put in place to warn site workers of the presence of contamination at levels of potential concern



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Use Restrictions

(continued)

- FFACO use restrictions are implemented where dose could exceed 25 millirem/year (mrem/yr) based on current and projected land use – these require a higher level of control to include warning signs
- Administrative use restrictions are implemented where dose could exceed 25 mrem/yr if the site were to be used for industrial activities – this is a lower level of control and do not require signage
- Both use restriction types are controlled administratively



*EM* Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC)

- Low-level radioactive waste disposal began in 1961
- DOE and Department of Defense waste generator sites across the complex ship packaged low-level and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) for disposal
- In addition to disposal, MLLW may be stored at the RWMC in accordance with a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit



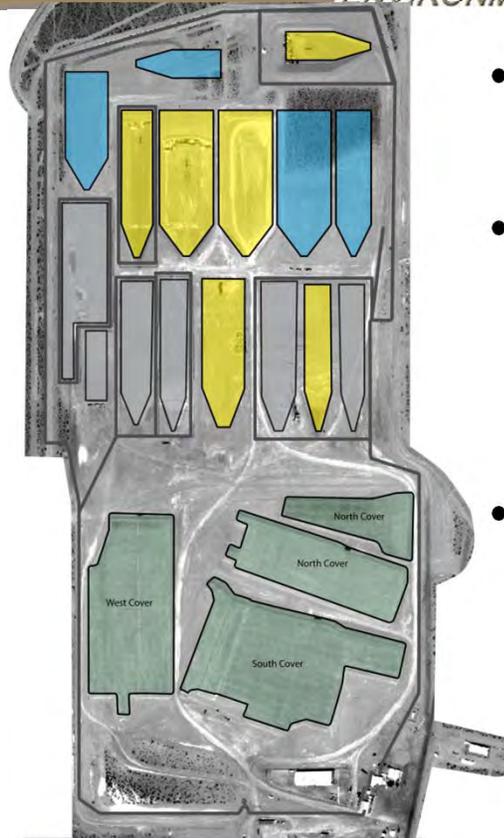
**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Area 5 RWMC

(continued)

- Total disposed volume since inception is more than 26 million cubic feet (ft<sup>3</sup>)
- Available capacity in existing cells is greater than 3 million (ft<sup>3</sup>)
- Disposal Cell 22 is being constructed in fiscal year (FY) 2015 and will provide ~ 2.5 million (ft<sup>3</sup>) of disposal capacity



Yellow = active cells  
 Blue = future cells  
 Gray = operationally closed cells  
 Green = 92 acre is permanently closed

- Six (6) active disposal cells (yellow)
- Six (6) operationally closed disposal cells and 26 permanently closed cells
- Permanent cover completed in 2012; however vegetation died. Test plots were reseeded in October 2013. Based on results, remaining cover will be reseeded with best performing test process in FY 2015.



**EM Environmental Management**

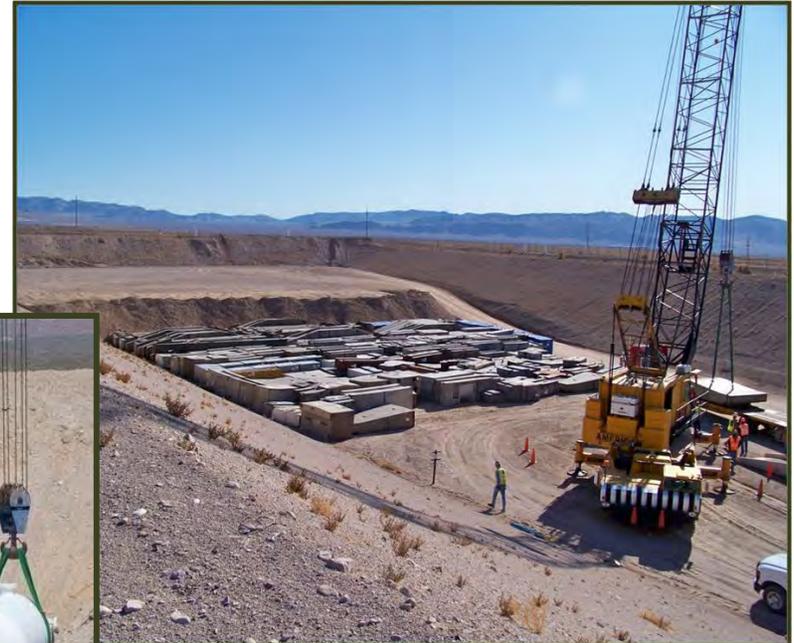
safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Area 5 RWMC

(continued)

## Monitoring Locations

- Air (3)
- Groundwater (3)
- Meteorology (1)
- Radon Flux (1)
- Evapotranspiration(2)
- Soil Moisture (6)
- Soil Temperature (7)
- Thermoluminescent Dosimeters (12)



Depth to groundwater  
is over 770 feet



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW)

- Per DOE Order 435.1, MLLW is low-level waste determined to contain a radioactive component subject to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and a hazardous component subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Generators must meet the following criteria in order to ship MLLW to the NNSS for disposal:
  - Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations land disposal restrictions (including treated waste)
  - NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria (including Performance Assessment requirements)

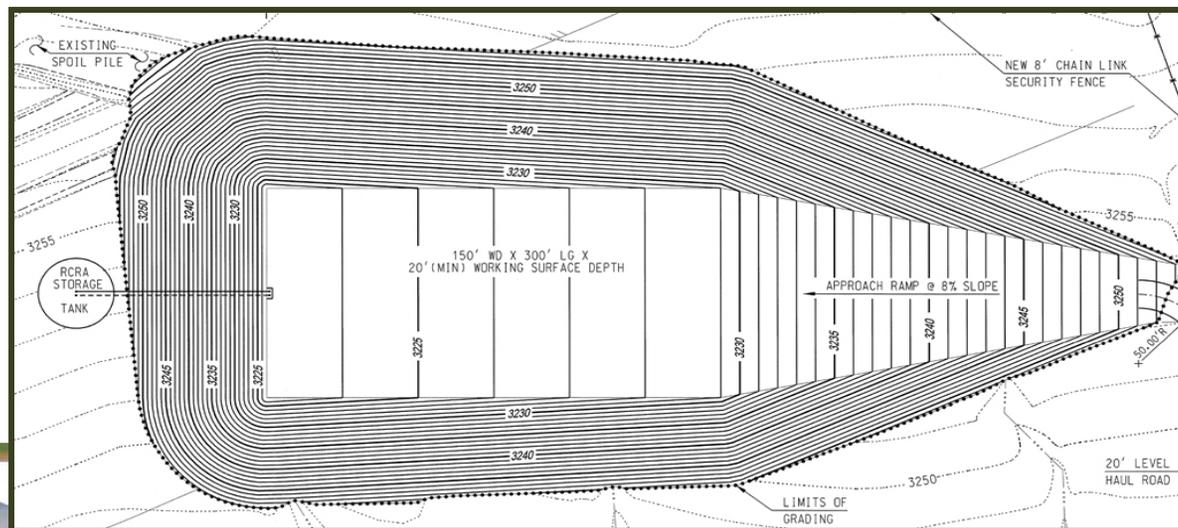


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# MLLW Cell 18 Background

- Public meetings held 2010
- Final RCRA permit approval issued July 2010
- Constructed from August through December 2010
- Construction quality assurance certification issued January 2011
- Final State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) acceptance in February 2011



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# MLLW Cell 18 Background (continued)

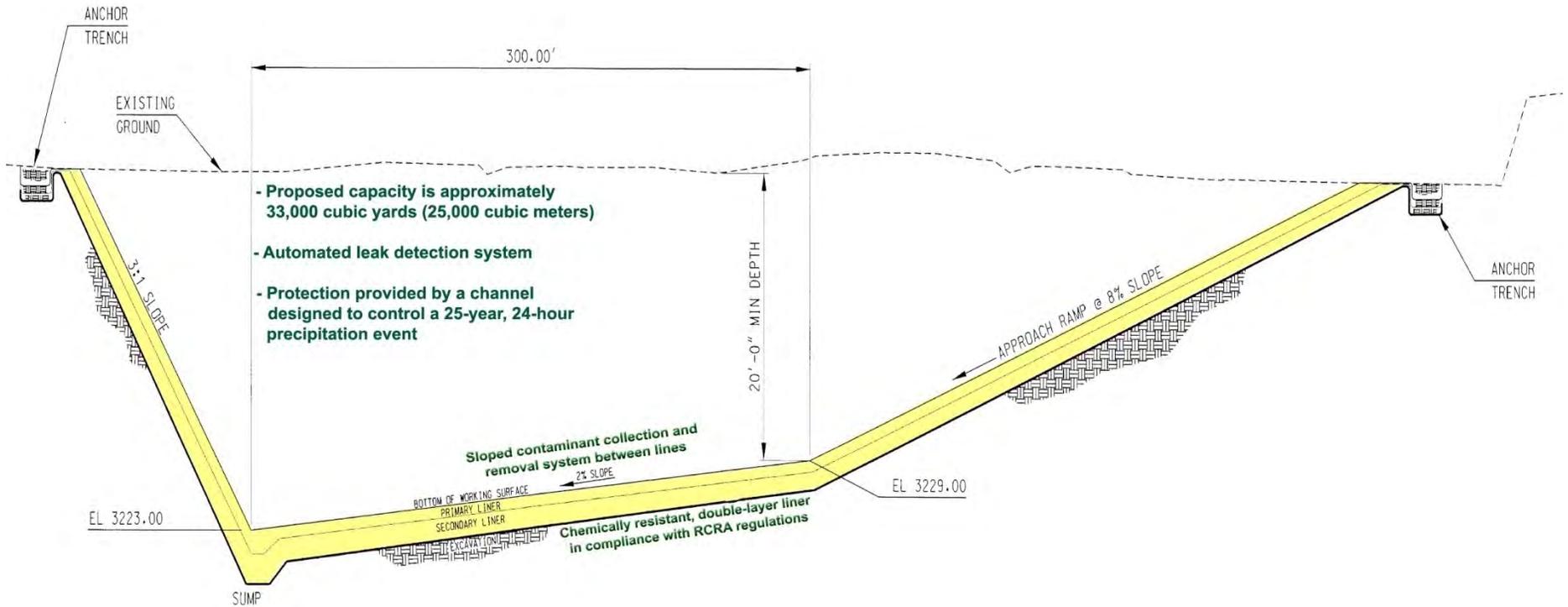
- Cell capacity of 25,485 cubic meters
- Double liner system consisting of five layers
- Liner system is covered with native alluvial soil, graded and compacted



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

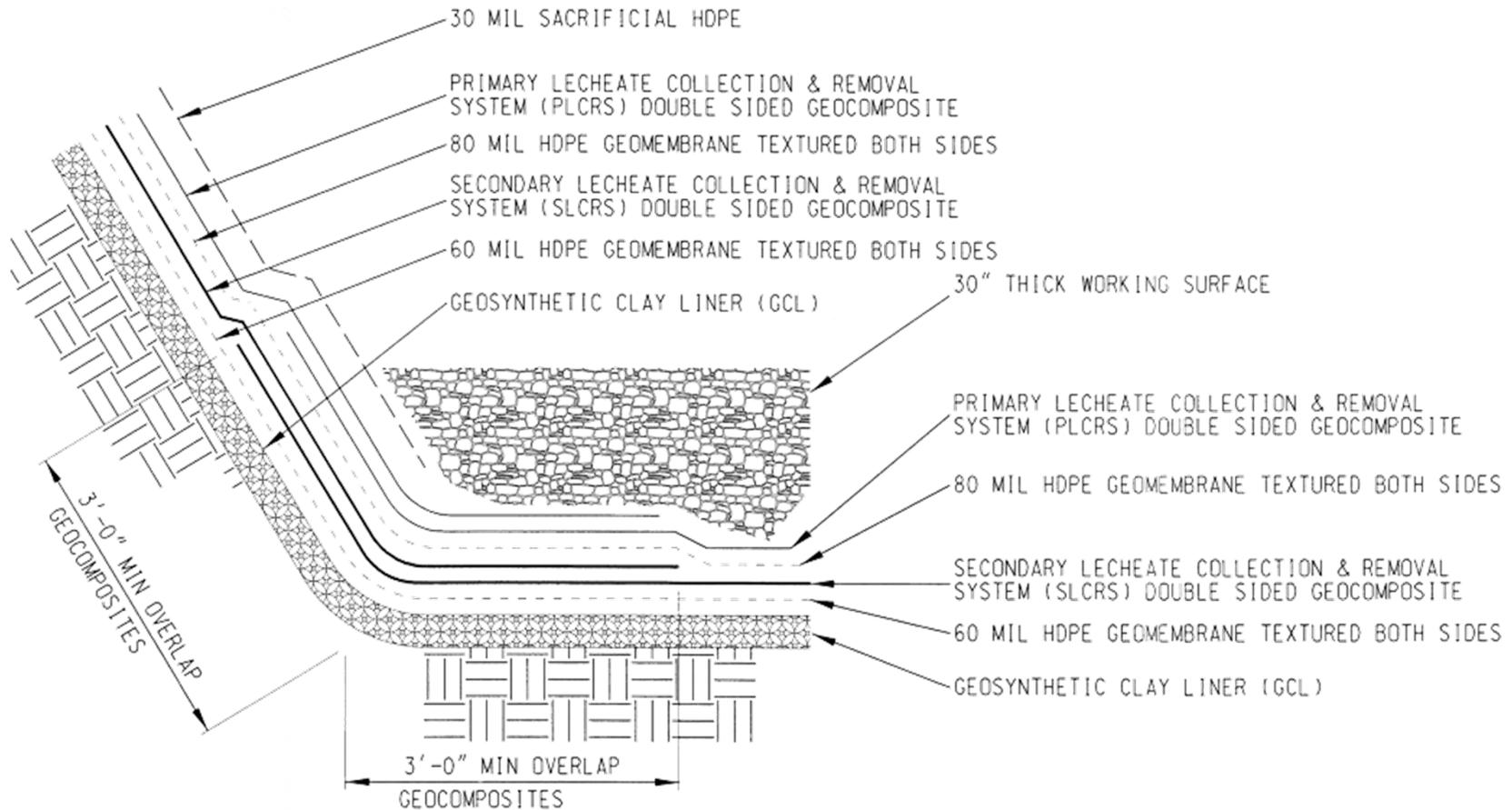
# MLLW Cell 18 Design



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# MLLW Cell 18 Design (continued)



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# MLLW Temporary Storage Locations

- Four temporary storage locations at Area 5 RWMC:
  - Transuranic (TRU) Waste Pad Cover Building and storage pad **(1)**
  - Sprung Instant Structure Building **(2)**
  - Visual Examination and Repackaging Building **(3)**
  - Drum Holding Pad **(4)**
- Combined storage capacity limited to 18,426 cubic meters
- MLLW storage at NNSS is permitted by NDEP



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# MLLW Cell 18 Path Forward

- MLLW Cell 18 will be filled to permitted capacity (25,485 cubic meters) in the future
- Lifecycle of existing MLLW Cell 18 changes with new waste streams being generated throughout DOE Complex and with unforeseen changes at other disposal sites
- Planning, funding, design, permitting and construction of new Resource Conservation and Recovery Act facilities is a multi-year process
- From a community perspective, NSSAB will provide a recommendation on a path forward for mixed waste disposal at the NNSS

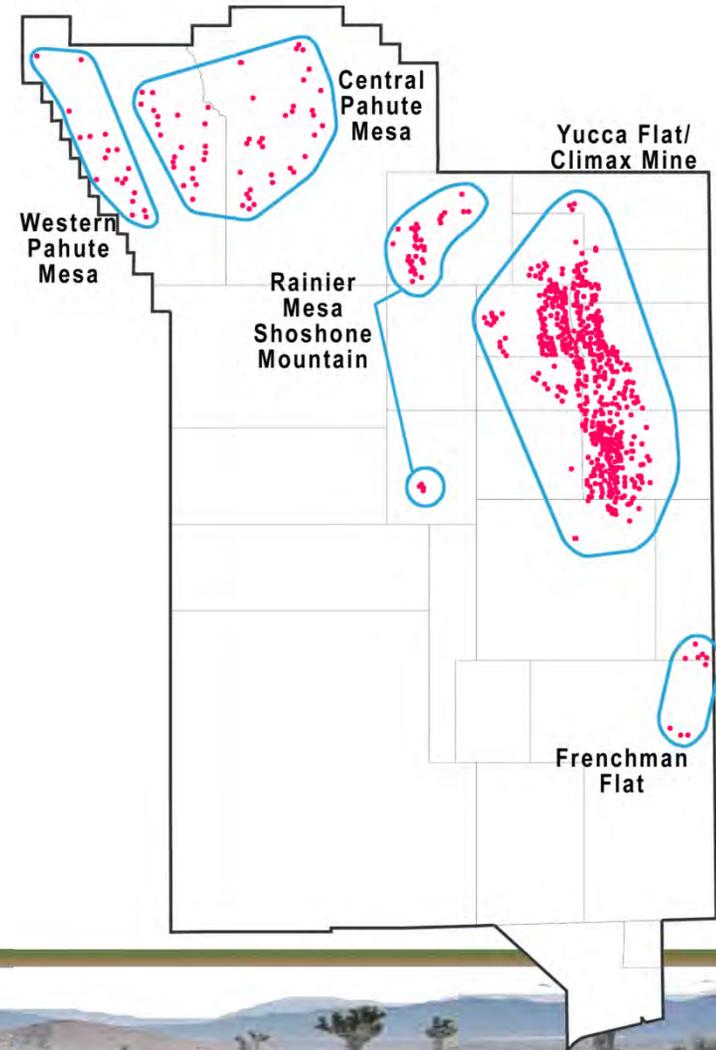


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Underground Test Area (UGTA)

- 828 underground nuclear tests conducted at depths ranging from approximately 100 to 4,800 feet below the ground surface
- About one-third of tests occurred in, near, or below the water table, which resulted in some groundwater contamination



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Underground Testing at the NNSS

- First underground nuclear test was *Uncle* on November 29, 1951
- Last underground nuclear test, *Divider*, detonated on September 23, 1992

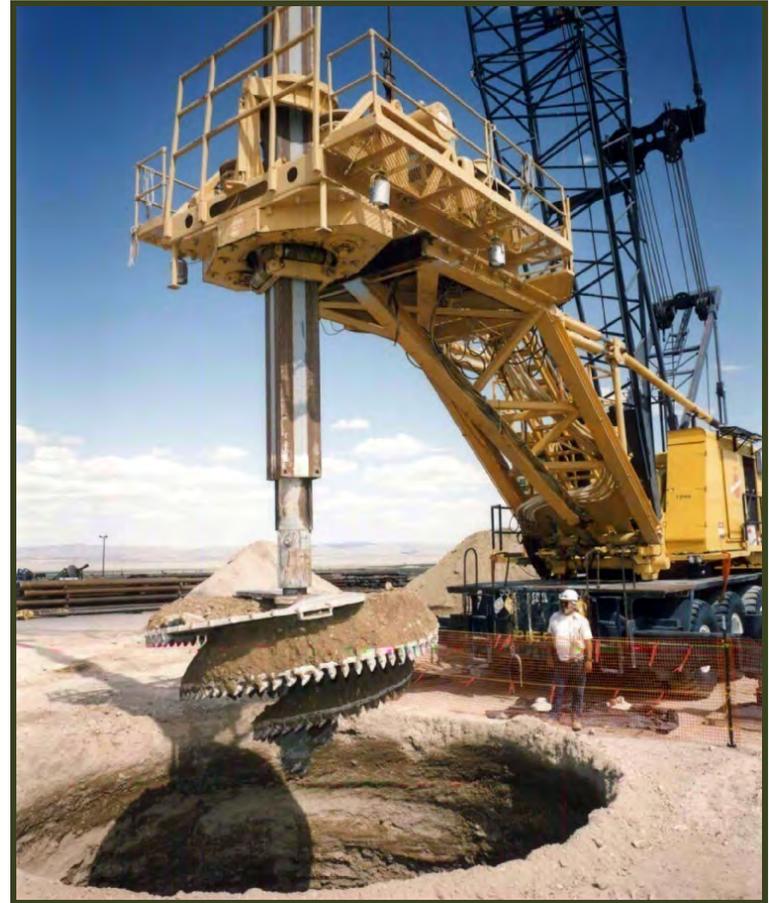


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Underground Testing at the NNSS (continued)

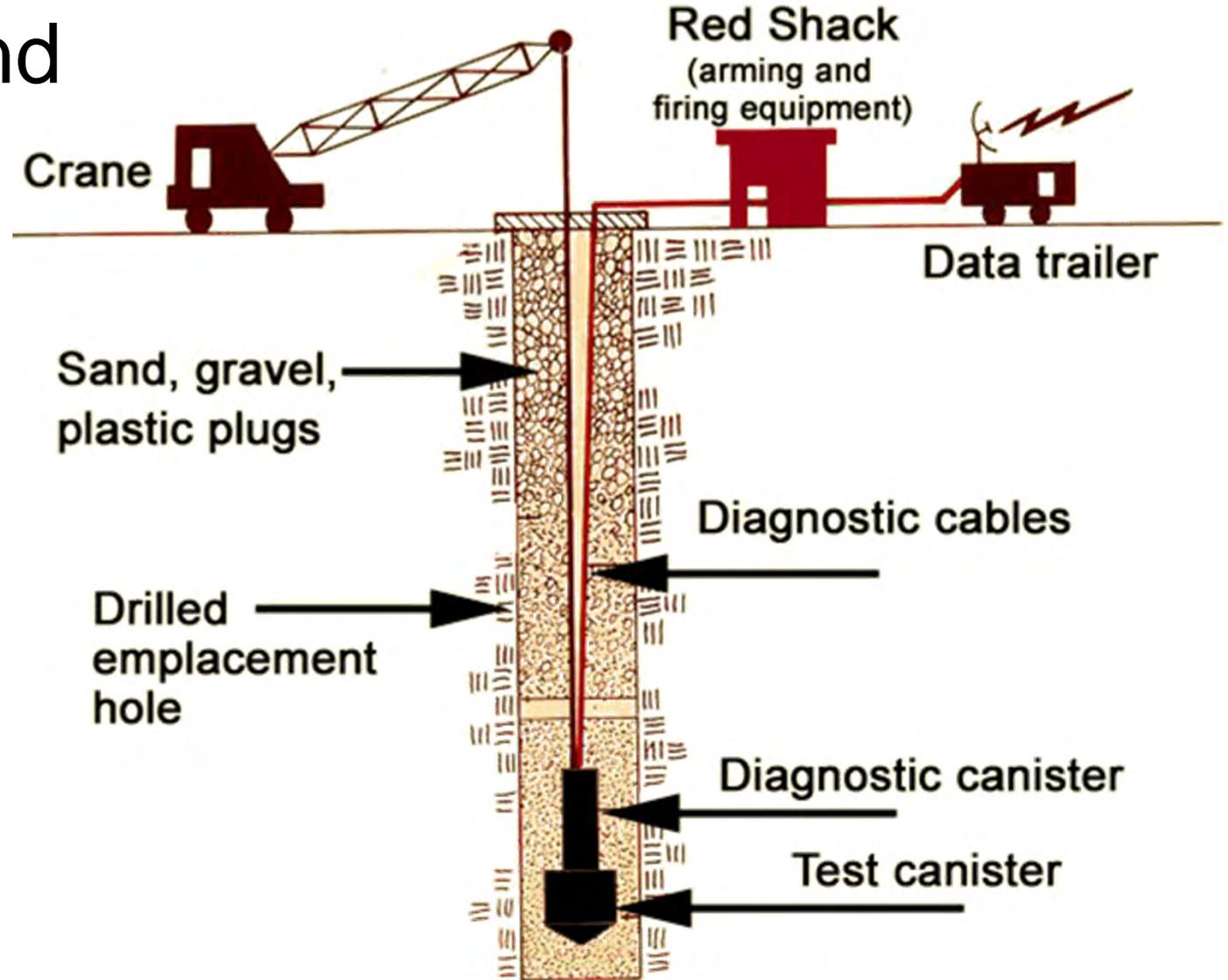
- Holes were three to 12 feet in diameter
- A large hole required the removal of more than 4,280 cubic yards of soil
- If the depths of holes drilled for underground nuclear tests since 1961 were combined, it would total about 280 miles
- Drilling techniques developed at the NNSS continue to be used throughout the world



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

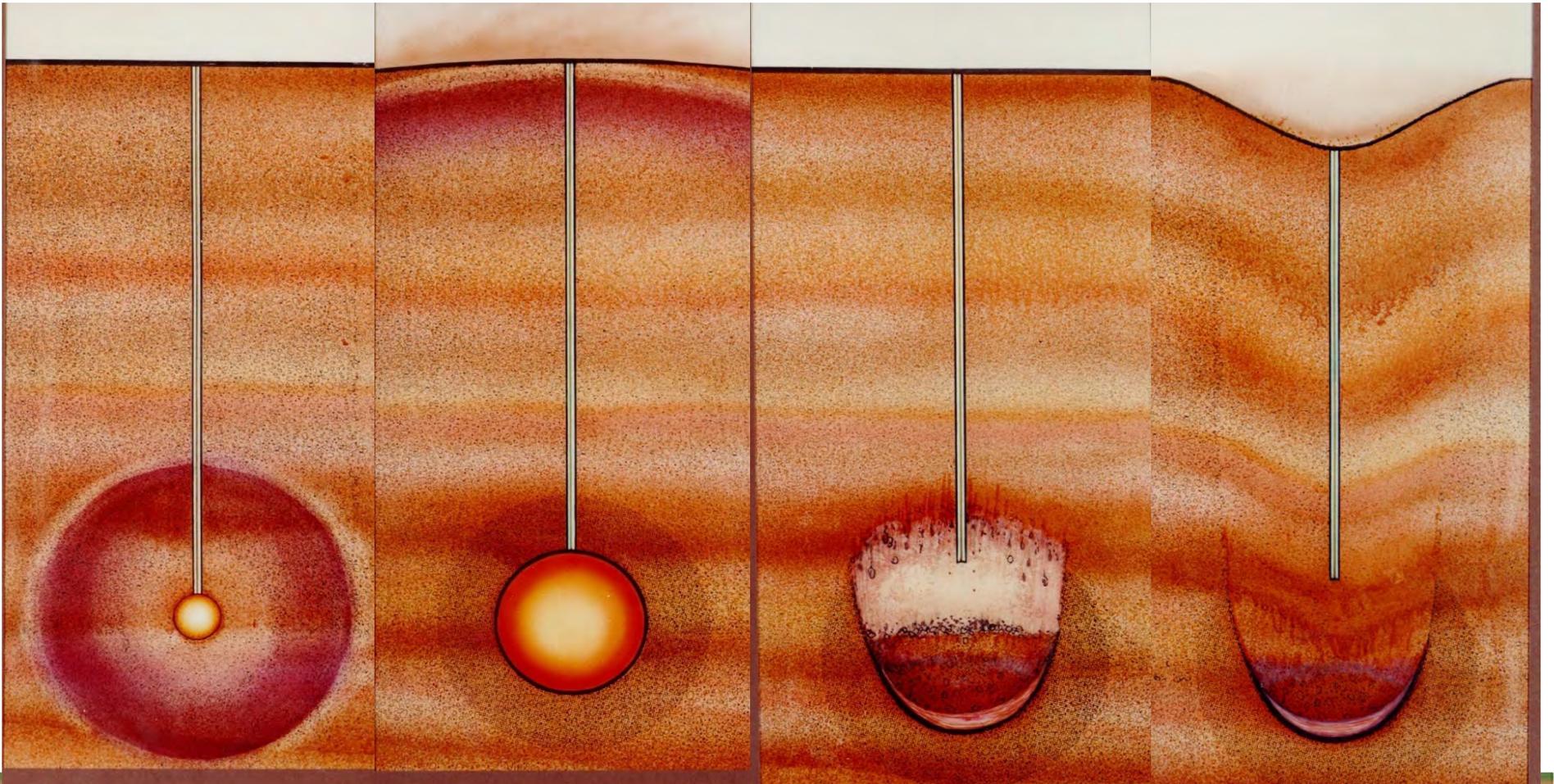
# Underground Test



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Underground Testing at the NNSS – Subsidence Crater Formation

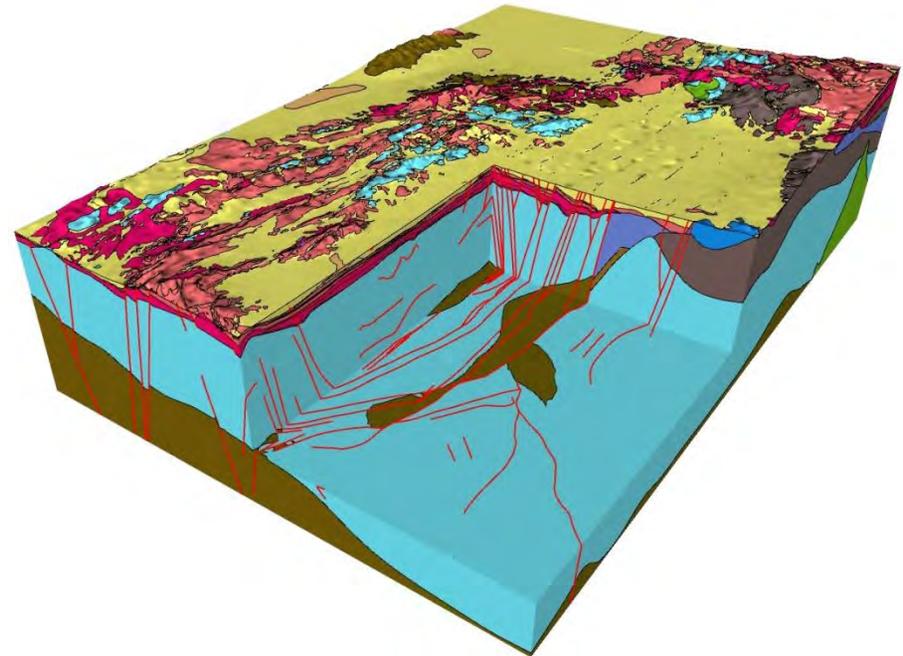


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# UGTA Groundwater Characterization

- UGTA evaluates historic testing impacts on groundwater resources and studies the extent of contaminant migration
- Groundwater characterization scope includes collection of multiple sources of field data in order to create 3-D computer models
  - Models include groundwater, flow and transport parameters
- Models will be used to aid in the selection of monitoring well locations

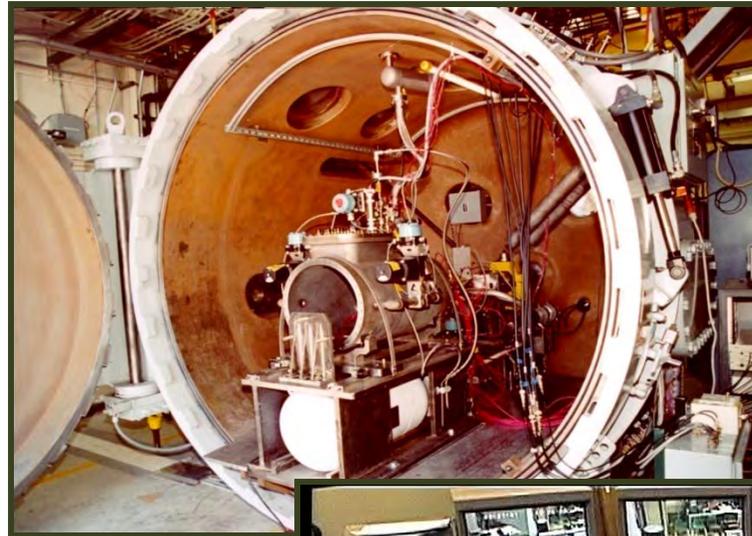


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER)

- Study properties and responses of special nuclear materials under high pressure
- 124 shots to date (53 plutonium [Pu] shots)\*
  - First shot: JAS001  
March 19, 2001
  - First Pu shot: JAS021  
July 8, 2003



\*as of October 8, 2014



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Homeland Security Increasing Activity at the NNSS



- Radiological / Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex
  - National test bed for radiation detectors/sensors
  - Realistic operational environment allows use of significant quantities of nuclear material
- Advanced Spectroscopic Portal (ASP monitoring)
- Aerial radiological surveys



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Device Assembly Facility (DAF)

- 100,000 square-foot facility
- Assembly cells designed to withstand effects of explosions
- Glovebox for JASPER and U1a target assembly
- Current location for National Criticality Experiments Research Center



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Control Point-1 (CP-1)

- Command post used for conducting nuclear tests



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# News Nob



Soldiers pose by News Nob, a vantage point for atmospheric tests established for the media



Journalists set up on News Nob to witness an atmospheric test in March 1953

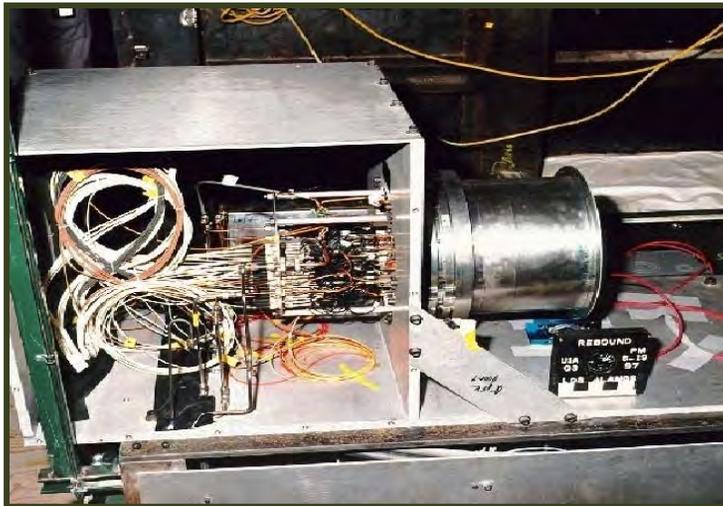


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# U1a

- Underground laboratory for subcritical experiments
- Data for National Laboratories
- Safety and reliability of stockpile



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Huron King Test Chamber

- Visual line of sight underground nuclear test (yield less than 20 kilotons) conducted June 24, 1980
- Tested effects of a system generated electromagnetic pulse on a full-scale operating military Defense Satellite Communications System

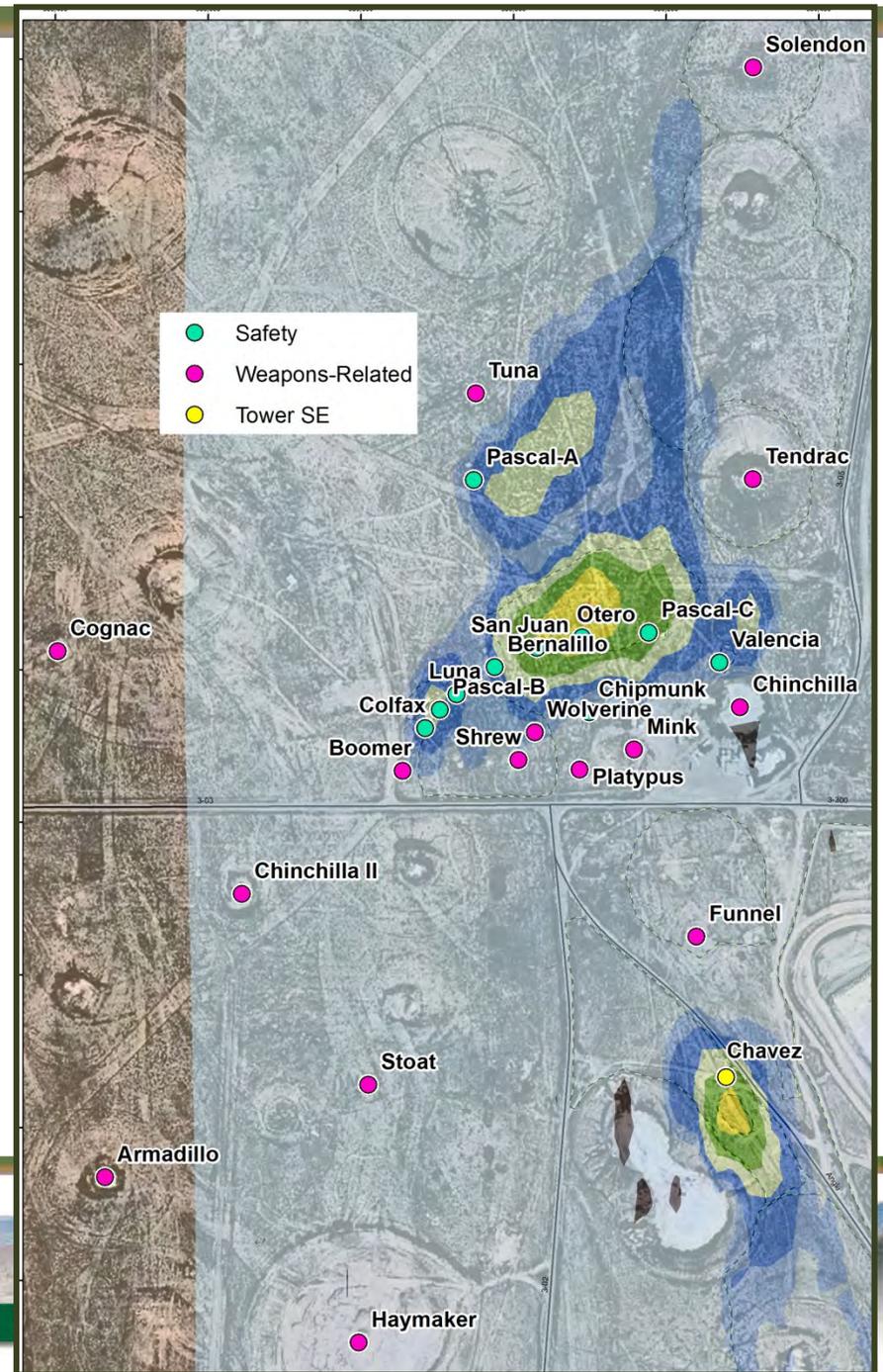


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 568 Overview

- 15 weapons-related tests conducted between 1961 and 1967
- 11 safety experiments conducted between 1958 and 1962
- Lead items, transformer, soil and debris piles, radiologically-contaminated metallic debris present



Log No. 2014 202



# CAU 568 Overview (continued)



Transformer (non-PCB)



One of the soil and debris piles



Radiologically-contaminated well head cover



# CAU 568 Field Activities

- Field Activities
  - Sampling and radiological dose measurements conducted intermittently between May and September 2014 including:
    - Soil Sampling (chemical and radiological)
    - Terrestrial radiological surveys
    - Characterization and limited removal of potential source material



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# CAU 568 Results

- Preliminary sampling and field investigation completed
- Soil samples results pending (in lab for analysis)
- Thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) results received October 2014
- Corrective Action Decision Document due late Summer 2015



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Icecap Ground Zero

- Location for underground nuclear test scheduled for Spring 1993
  - Moratorium on nuclear weapons testing on September 23, 1992
- Planned test range was 20 - 150 kilotons and would have been conducted 1,550 feet underground
- Tower is 157-feet tall
- Inside is a 300,000 pound diagnostic canister suspended from the top of the tower



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Big Explosive Experimental Facility (BEEF)



- Non-nuclear high-explosive tests
- Capable of 70,000 pounds of explosives



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Tower Test Example



*Smoky* – tower soars 700 feet into the air above Yucca Flat at the NNSS; first atomic tower test of this height (*Smoky* detonation below)



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Balloon Test Examples



Balloon used in the detonation of *Charleston* on September 28, 1957

Fireball of *Charleston* lights Yucca Flat at the NNSS; 12-kiloton device was suspended by a balloon at a height of 1,500 feet



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Sedan Crater

- Excavation experiment using a 104-kiloton thermonuclear device (part of the Plowshare Program)
- Conducted July 6, 1962
- Detonated 635 feet underground
- Displaced 12 million tons of earth
- Crater is 1,280 feet in diameter and 320 feet deep
- Released seismic energy equivalent to a 4.75 magnitude earthquake



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Sedan Crater

(continued)

- Listed on the National Register for Historic Places on April 1, 1994
- Completion of remediation activities and implementation of a closure in place with a use restriction and posting, approved by the State in July 2011



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# EPA Farm

- Operated 16 years
- Studied radionuclide uptake in cows, horses, pigs, goats, chickens and crops
- Closed in December 1981



AEC had its own brand



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

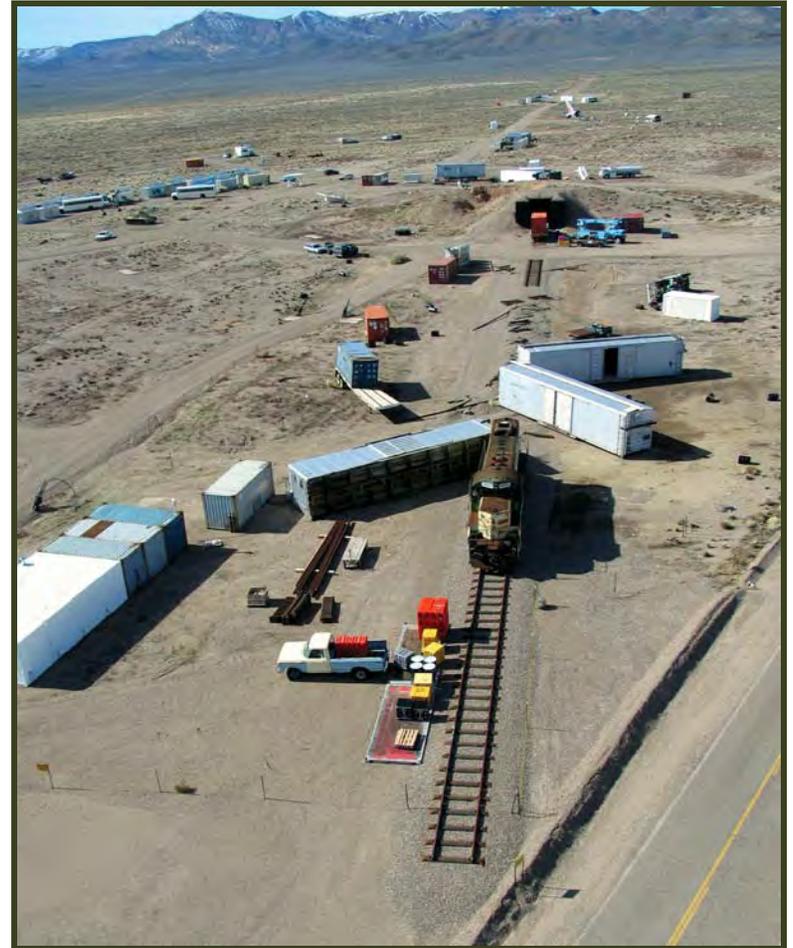


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# T-1 Training Area

- Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS)/Center for Radiological Nuclear Training
- Includes more than 10 acres with more than 20 separate training venues
- First responder training to take action in preventing or mitigating terrorist use of radiological or nuclear devices
- More than 150,000 (as of mid-2014) first responders trained since 1999



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Apple II Houses

- 29-kiloton test was detonated from a 500-ft tower on May 5, 1955
- 7,800 ft to the east of the tower are the remains of a wooden two-story house
- Part of a Civil Defense exercise



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Located 7,800 feet from *Apple-2* ground zero, this existing two-story wooden house was one of two identical structures erected for civil effects tests; the other one, located 5,500 feet from ground zero, was severely damaged



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Located 10,500 feet from *Apple-2* ground zero, this existing two-story brick house was one of two identical structures erected for civil effects tests; the other house located 4,700 feet from ground zero was demolished beyond repair

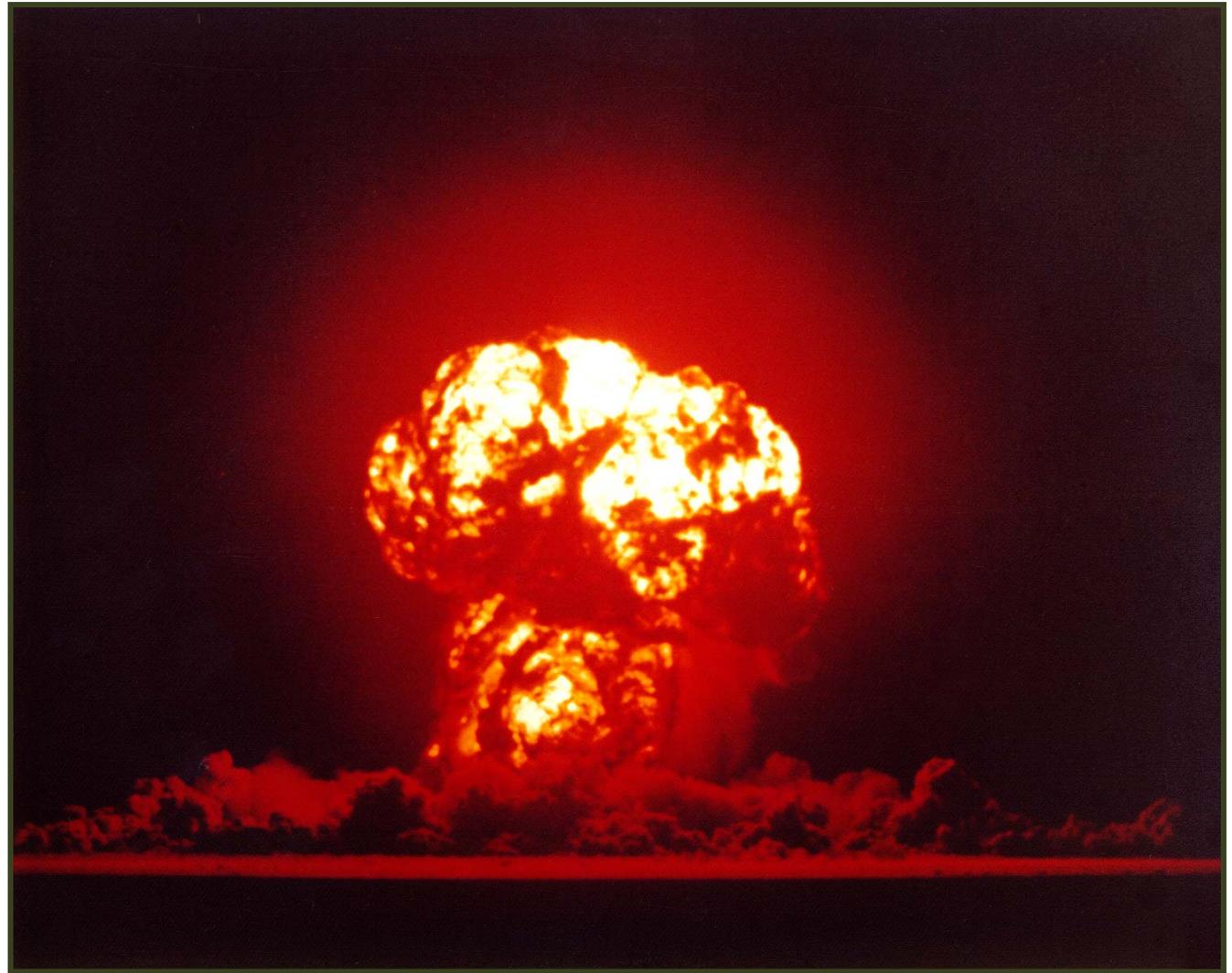


**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

*Apple-2* – 29-kiloton nuclear test detonated from the top of a 500-foot tower at the NNSS on May 5, 1955

65 associated experiments conducted at various distances from ground zero, including 48 civil effects tests on different types of typical American homes



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

Two colonial,  
two-story  
homes were  
erected at  
3,500 feet and  
7,500 feet  
from *Annie*  
ground zero

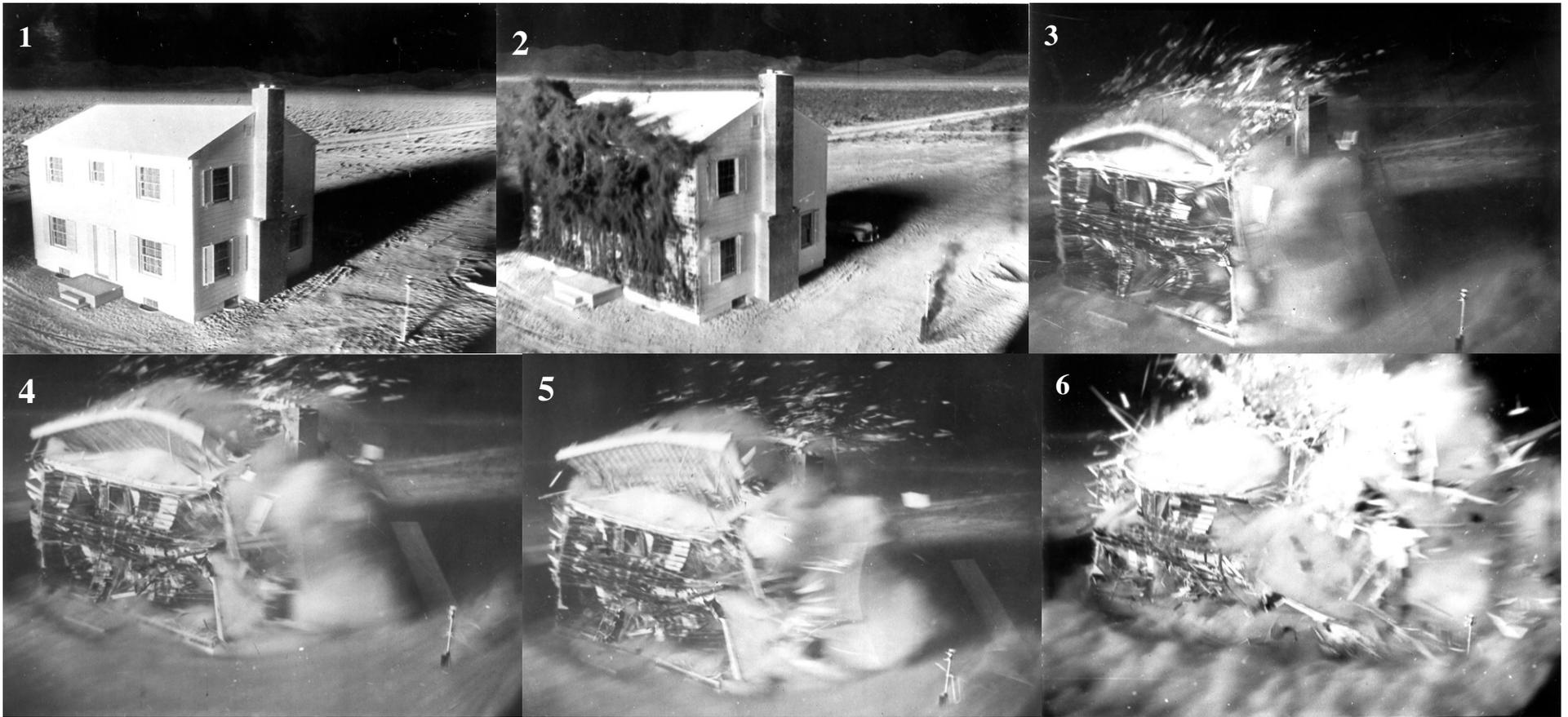
House at  
3,500 feet was  
completely  
destroyed

House at  
7,500 feet was  
badly  
damaged



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Sequential photos show the complete destruction of the colonial style house located 3,500 feet from *Annie* ground zero

# Nuclear Rocket Development at the NNSS – Project Rover

- U.S. launched nuclear rocket development program in 1955
- Ground tests conducted at facilities in southwest corner of NNSS
- Four basic segments:
  - KIWI tested non-flyable nuclear test reactors
  - PHOEBUS Extension of KIWI, designed to produce higher power levels and longer duration operations than KIWI reactors



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Nuclear Rocket Development at the NNSS – Project Rover

(continued)



PHOEBUS 2A was the most powerful, non-flyable nuclear rocket reactor ever built. Reactor operated for about 32 minutes; 12 minutes at power levels more than a million watts



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Nuclear Rocket Development at the NNSS – Project Rover

(continued)

- NERVA (Nuclear Engine for Rocket Vehicle Applications) developed the first nuclear rocket engine suitable for space flight; and
- RIFT (Reactor In-Flight Test) objectives were to design, develop, and flight-test a NERVA-powered vehicle as an upper stage for a Saturn V launch vehicle

Project Rover, a technical success, terminated in 1973 as a result of the cancellation of Saturn V launch vehicle program in 1969



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

March 1963

President Kennedy visits Nuclear  
Rocket Development Station in  
Area 25

Engine Test Stand 1



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Nuclear Rocket Development at the NNSS – Project Pluto

- Code name for the project to develop a nuclear powered ramjet for a Supersonic Low-Altitude Missile (SLAM)
- Principle was to draw in air at the front of the vehicle under ram (great pressure), heat it to make it expand, and then exhaust it out the back, providing thrust
- Reactor designed for experiment named *Tory* and was capable of 35,000 pounds of thrust
- Testing conducted at the Pluto Facility in NNSS Area 26



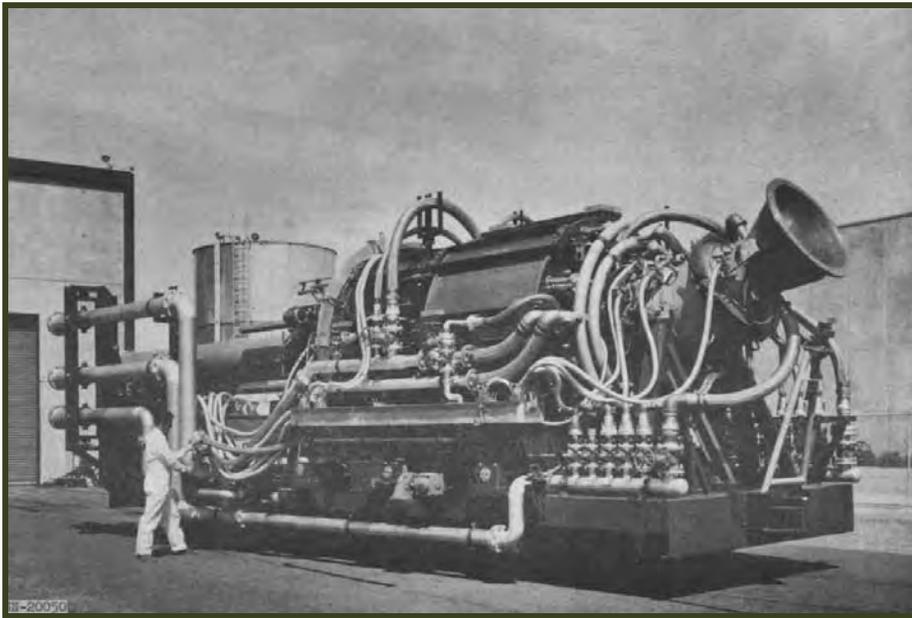
**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

On May 14, 1961, the world's first nuclear ramjet engine, Tory II-A, mounted on a railroad car, roared to life for just a few seconds



Three years later, Tory II-C was tested for 5 minutes. Despite its success, the Pentagon and Pluto sponsors had second thoughts about the project and on July 1, 1964, seven years after its inception, Project Pluto was cancelled.



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# Homeland Security and Defense



- Train responders in prevention/ response to terrorist radiological/ nuclear material
- Unique NNS training complexes and capabilities simulate realistic scenarios in radiation and chemical environment



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NNSS Plays Central Role in National Emergency Response



- Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) provides technologies, equipment, and national response teams to search for improvised nuclear devices and radiation dispersal devices (“dirty bombs”)
  - RSL-Andrews provides the national capital region response
  - RSL-Nellis provides other national response
- Also provides consequence management teams if a device were to detonate
- Provides support during other emergencies including response to the Nuclear Power Plant disaster in Fukushima, Japan



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NSSAB FY 2015 Work Plan

<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b>Waste Management Symposia Presentation Review</b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	January 2015
	Description:	<p>In January 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide to the NSSAB draft presentations that will be presented at the Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, AZ in March 2015.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations on how the briefings could be enhanced.</p>

<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b>Corrective Action Alternatives for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites</b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	March 2015
	Description:	<p>In March 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing to the NSSAB that outlines the nature and extent of the contamination, the potential risk to human health and the environmental, and an overview of the Corrective Action Alternatives.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation on which Corrective Action Alternative should be presented to the State of Nevada for final approval.</p>



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NSSAB FY 2015 Work Plan

## (continued)

<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b><i>Revision to the Risk-Based Corrective Action Evaluation Process document</i></b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	July 2015
	Description:	<p>In June 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide a copy of the report to the NSSAB for review. In July 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing explaining the document.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations on ways the document could be improved or enhanced.</p>

<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b><i>Soils Quality Assurance Plan</i></b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	May 2015
	Description:	<p>In April 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide a copy of the report to the NSSAB for review. In May 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing explaining the document.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendations on ways the document could be improved or enhanced.</p>



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NSSAB FY 2015 Work Plan (continued)

Item 5	Work Plan Item:	<i>Annual Nevada National Security Site Environmental Report</i>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	January 2015
	Description:	<p>In November 2014, the Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing that explains the <i>Annual Nevada National Security Site Environmental Report</i> and provide copies of the 2013 summary of this report and sections of similar reports by other DOE sites.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation on how the document could be enhanced (i.e., readability, presentation of information, likes and dislikes between NNSER and other DOE sites Annual Site Environmental Reports).</p>

Item 6	Work Plan Item:	<i>Low-Level Waste Transportation Routing</i>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	September 2015
	Description:	<p>In July 2015, the Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing outlining current transportation routes and the history of those routes. Counties near the NNSS that waste travels through will be asked to provide briefings on their perspective/concerns.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation or preferences regarding transportation.</p>



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NSSAB FY 2015 Work Plan (continued)

<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b><i>FY 2017 Baseline Prioritization</i></b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	March 2015
	Description:	<p>The Nevada Field Office will provide briefings on planned FY 2017 activities during the March 2015 Full Board meeting.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation ranking the activities.</p>

<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b><i>Assessment of the UGTA Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) Implementation</i></b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	February 2015
	Description:	<p>In November 2014, The Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing on the QAP and assessment process. There may be an opportunity for one-two NSSAB members will be invited to observe an assessment.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation on possible improvements to the assessment process and/or the UGTA QAP.</p>



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# NSSAB FY 2015 Work Plan (continued)

<b>Item 9</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b><i>Potential New RCRA Part B Permitted Mixed Waste Disposal Unit</i></b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	January 2015
	Description:	In November 2014, the Nevada Field Office will provide a briefing on the current status and anticipated need for future mixed waste disposal capabilities at the NNSS.  From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide a recommendation on a path forward for mixed waste disposal at the NNSS.

<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Work Plan Item:</b>	<b><i>Communication Improvement Opportunities</i></b>
	Deadline for Recommendation:	September 2015
	Description:	From a community perspective, the NSSAB will provide recommendation(s) at each Full Board meeting on ways that DOE can improve/enhance communication to the public (i.e. presentations, open houses, documents, fact sheets). These interim recommendations would be documented in the official minutes of each Full Board meeting with a final recommendation letter submitted to DOE at the end of the fiscal year.



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

# For More Information

For more information on  
U.S. Department of Energy,  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Nevada Field Office programs and activities:  
visit our website at [www.nv.energy.gov](http://www.nv.energy.gov)  
or call the  
Office of Public Affairs at  
(702) 295-3521



**EM** Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure