

# Environmental Management Monthly Report to the NSSAB April 2013

## Waste Disposal and Transportation

- As of March 31, 2013, the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) has disposed 332,324 cubic feet of low-level waste (LLW) and 55,647 cubic feet of mixed LLW during FY 2013. These numbers are preliminary until internal quality checks are completed.
- In March 2013, the Nevada Field Office, Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program conducted a facility evaluation of the Perma-Fix generator in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This impromptu surveillance resulted in two observations. The generator is correcting the observations and is able to continue shipping LLW to the NNSS for disposal.
- The Nevada Field Office conducted a mixed waste verification of the Duratek generator in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. No concerns were discovered regarding waste treatment operations.
- The audit of the Paducah, Kentucky generator has been rescheduled for April 2013.
- During April 2013, the NNSS is forecasted to dispose approximately 150,000 cubic feet of LLW.

## Underground Test Area (UGTA)

### *Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat*

The flow and transport model document is in review by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). NDEP's comments are expected in August 2013.

### *CAU 98, Frenchman Flat*

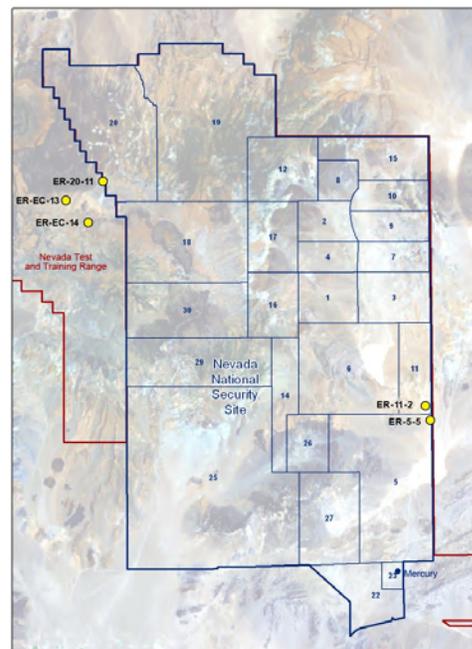
Well development and testing activities (WD&T) at Well ER-11-2 and Well ER-5-5 sites are expected to begin in April 2013. Equipment failure at ER-EC-13 delayed WD&T activities at Well ER-11-2.

### *CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain*

Compilation of the flow and transport model document continues.

### *CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa*

The Well Completion Report for Well ER-EC-14 was finalized in March 2013. Work continues on the Phase II framework and conceptual models. WD&T activities at Well ER-EC-13 continued in March 2013. Well-pumping equipment was delayed and is projected to arrive at the PM-3 well in April 2013.



## **Industrial Sites**

### ***Non-Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include 128 Corrective Action Sites (CASs) where post-closure inspections and maintenance are performed in accordance with closure requirements. In March 2013, repair and maintenance activities identified during the annual inspections were performed. Due to significant precipitation in August 2012, erosion repairs and construction of erosion prevention features at *Mullet* and *Player* were completed in March 2013. A review of closed Industrial Sites to determine whether use restrictions can be removed continued in March 2013 and will continue in April 2013; removing the use restrictions would reduce the post-closure monitoring costs.

### ***RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance are performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Post-closure inspections at these CAUs are required either quarterly or semi-annually and were performed in March 2013.

## **Soils**

### ***CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

CAU 104 comprises 15 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. The Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) /Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was approved by NDEP in November 2012. In March 2013, corrective actions, including removal and packaging of lead-sheathed cable, were completed. Waste generated during closure work will be disposed in April 2013. Preparation of the Closure Report continued in March 2013 and will continue in April 2013. The Closure Report is an enforceable milestone under the *Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (FFACO) and is due to NDEP in December 2013.

### ***CAU 105, Area 2 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

CAU 105 comprises five CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites consists of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. In March 2013, soil sampling and radiological surveys continued and will continue in April 2013.

### ***CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites***

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In March 2013, preparation of the CAP continued. The CAP is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO and is due to NDEP in May 2013. Closure activities began in March 2013 and will continue in April 2013.

### ***CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area***

CAU 550 comprises 19 CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites consists of radiological surveys, soil sampling, and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. In March 2013, field activities, including the removal of potential source material such as lead bricks, batteries, drums, etc., continued. Removal of additional potential source material and confirmation sampling will be conducted in April 2013.

### ***CAU 569, Area 3 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

CAU 569 comprises nine CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation of these sites consists of soil sampling and thermoluminescent dosimeter measurements. Development of the CADD continued in March 2013. The CADD is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO and is due to NDEP in May 2013.

### ***CAU 570, Area 9 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

CAU 570 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In March 2013, analytical data, obtained from the field investigation, was reviewed and preparation of the CADD continued and will continue in April 2013.

### ***CAU 571, Area 9 Yucca Flat Plutonium Dispersion Sites***

CAU 571 comprises five CASs related to historical nuclear testing. A Data Quality Objectives (DQO) meeting was held in March 2013. The DQO process is a seven-step approach to plan investigation activities ensuring the data collected will provide sufficient information to recommend corrective actions for CAU 571. The DQOs will be included in the Corrective Action Investigation Plan for CAU 571, which is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO and due to NDEP by August 2013.

## **Public Involvement:**

- Ongoing exhibits:
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room, Las Vegas
  - *Groundwater at the Nevada National Security Site* poster – Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, and Central Nevada Museum
- Environmental Management kiosks –Sahara West Library, Las Vegas
- Publications:
  - Published two (2) EM News Flash articles (*Operation Clean Desert Continues to Make an Impact after 10 Years*; and *On Your Mark, Get Set...TORTOISE!*) and two (2) articles (*NFO Releases Final NNSS Environmental Impact Statement*; and *Nevada Attends Waste Management Symposium in Phoenix*) in the March edition of [OneVoice](#)
  - Published two (2) photos (*Clean Slate III Rocket*; and *EM-2 NNSS tour*) to the NNSS Facebook page
- Outreach:
  - Distributed 16 *Operation Clean Desert* Learning Materials CDs, six *Operation Clean Desert* Teacher's Guides, 176 *Operation Clean Desert* Activity Books, 403 *Operation Clean Desert* Groundwater packets, 755 *Operation Clean Desert* worksheets, and 50 fact sheets
  - Attended two (2) Career Day fairs (Lomie Heard Elementary School and Somerset Academy)
  - Initiated *Great Tortoise Derby* Facebook poll to engage stakeholders regarding the status of the translocated juvenile tortoises