

Environmental Management Monthly Report to the NSSAB March 2013

**As of March 10, 2013, the Nevada Site Office (NSO)
will become the Nevada Field Office (NFO).**

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- In February, the Nevada Field Office (NFO), Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted a facility evaluation at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California. The evaluation resulted in two observations. LLNL is correcting the observations and is able to continue shipping low-level waste to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) for disposal.
- NFO postponed its scheduled audit of the Pantex generator in Amarillo, Texas due to inclement weather.
- In March, RWAP will conduct an impromptu surveillance of one generator and an audit of the Paducah, Kentucky generator.
- For March, the NNSS is forecasted to dispose approximately 160,000 cubic feet of low-level waste.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat

The flow and transport model document was completed and transmitted to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) review and approval.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat

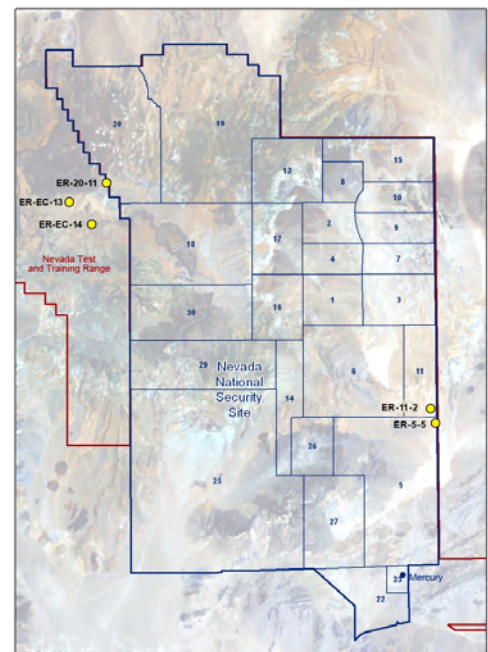
Well development and testing activities at the ER-11-2 site began in February and continue in March.

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-20-11 was finalized in February. The Well Completion Report for Well ER-EC-14 will be finalized in March. Work continues on the Phase II framework and conceptual models. Well development and testing activities at the ER-EC-13 continue in March. Also in March, well-pumping equipment will arrive at the PM-3 well.



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. Due to significant precipitation in August 2012, erosion repairs and construction of erosion prevention features at *Mullet* and *Player* began in February and will be completed in March. Review of closed Industrial Sites continues to determine if Use Restrictions can be removed; 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 will be performed in March.

Tonopah Test Range (TTR) Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The TTR Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include five CAUs where post-closure inspections and maintenance are performed annually in accordance with closure requirements. In February, the final annual TTR post-closure report was accepted by NDEP.

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 was approved by NDEP in November. In February, corrective actions, including removal and packaging of lead-sheathed cable, continued; and field work will be completed in March.

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 February, soil sampling and radiological surveys continued and will continue in March.

CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In February, preparation of the Corrective Action Plan continued. The Corrective Action Plan is an enforceable milestone under the *Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order*, and is due to NDEP in May 2013. Closure activities will begin in March.

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. Additional field activities will continue in March.

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 and corrective action alternatives (CAAs) continued in February. The CAAs are the various alternatives for closure of a CAU; one will be selected as the path forward and presented in the CADD. The CADD 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 February, analytical data, obtained from the field investigation, was reviewed and preparation of the CADD continued, and will continue in March.

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 will be held in March. 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 due to NDEP by August 2013.

Public Involvement:

- Ongoing exhibits:
 - o *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room, Las Vegas
 - o *Groundwater at the Nevada National Security Site* poster – Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, and Central Nevada Museum
 - o Environmental Management kiosks –Sahara West Library, Las Vegas and Beatty Historical Museum, Beatty
- Publications:
 - o Published four articles (*NNSS Cleanup Information is Just a Click Away*; *Operation Clean Desert Teams Up with the Nevada Science Bowl*; *Math and Science Conferences Help Shape Education in the Community*; and *Tomorrow's Leaders Get a Head Start Today*) in the February edition of [OneVoice](#)
- Outreach:
 - o Distributed 116 *Operation Clean Desert* Activity Books, and 115 *Operation Clean Desert* worksheets