Waste Disposal and Transportation


- Update from previous months’ reports - The Nevada Field Office (NFO) is in the process of applying for a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permit modification that would allow for the construction of a new mixed low-level waste (MLLW) cell at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The NFO submitted the permit modification request and associated permit documents to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). Public comments were accepted through January 28, 2017, and all comments received were forwarded to NDEP. The NFO is waiting for NDEP’s technical review comments. If the permit modification is approved, construction is planned to begin in 2017 and operational by late winter or early spring 2018. (please see December 2016 – February 2017 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

- Update from previous months’ reports – Erwin, TN, generator: The generator’s program has been suspended based on multiple Findings issued stemming from concerns first identified in March 2016. The NNSS continues to work with the generator to resolve the outstanding issues. There has been no change in status (please see July - February 2017 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

- Update from previous months’ reports – Portsmouth, OH, generator (second generator): The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. RWAP has reviewed the corrective action plan. The generator is currently undergoing a contract change, and the Waste Certification Official is working with the new manager to resolve the Finding. This is a new generator that has not shipped LLW/MLLW to the NNSS, and there is a hold in place on shipping waste until the Finding is resolved. There has been no change in status. (please see July – February 2017 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

- In February 2017, RWAP conducted the following facility evaluations:
  - Livermore, CA generator: The facility evaluation resulted in no Findings.
  - Amarillo, TX generator: The facility evaluation resulted in no Findings.

- In March 2017, RWAP will conduct two facility evaluations.

- In March 2017, approximately 142,950 cubic feet of LLW and MLLW is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.
Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat
In February 2017, well development, testing and sampling activities at ER-4-1 were conducted.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat
In February 2017, Frenchman Flat annual sampling began and will continue through March 2017.

Soils and Industrial Sites

Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites
The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include Corrective Action Sites (CASs) where post-closure inspections and maintenance are performed in accordance with closure requirements. Required repairs and maintenance identified in the annual inspections will be performed throughout fiscal year 2017.

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. The quarterly and semi-annual inspections will be performed in March 2017.
**CAU 413, Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion**
CAU 413 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. Preparation of the Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) continued in February 2017 and will continue in March 2017. The CADD is due to NDEP in June 2017.

**CAU 568, Area 3 Plutonium Dispersion Sites**
CAU 568 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Preparation of the Closure Report continued in February 2017 and will continue in March 2017. The Closure Report is due to NDEP in June 2017.

**CAU 573, Alpha Contaminated Sites**
CAU 573 comprises two CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Preparation of the Closure Report continued in February 2017 and will continue in March 2017. The Closure Report is due to NDEP in April 2017.

**CAU 575, Area 15 Miscellaneous Sites**
CAU 575 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In February 2017, development of the Closure Report continued and will continue in March 2017.

**CAU 576, Miscellaneous Radiological Sites and Debris**
CAU 576 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field investigation activities began in February 2017 and will continue in March 2017.

**External Affairs:**

- **Publications:**
  - Ongoing social media campaign – 19 original posts on Facebook, 6 original tweets on Twitter, and uploaded 48 photos onto Flickr
  - Published *New Advisory Board Intern Aims to Inform UNLV Students of NNSS History and Programs* article via GovDelivery and on NNSS.gov
- **Ongoing exhibits:**
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room in Las Vegas (updated display), Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah, Nevada, and Pahrump Valley Museum in Pahrump, Nevada
  - Environmental Management kiosk – located at National Atomic Testing Museum Public Reading Room in Las Vegas, Nevada
- **Outreach:**
  - Conducted Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum NNSS tour – February 9, 2017
  - Hosted *Operation Clean Desert* learning materials booth at Southern Nevada Science Teacher Association conference – February 10-11, 2017
    - Distributed 60 *Operation Clean Desert* Activity Books and 54 *Operation Clean Desert* Teacher’s Guides and met with more than 60 science teachers
    - Received requests for delivery of 1500 *Operation Clean Desert* Activity Books and 30 *Operation Clean Desert* Teacher’s Guides to schools throughout southern Nevada
Delivered 665 *Operation Clean Desert* Activity Books and 6 *Operation Clean Desert* Teacher’s Guides to University of Southern NV, Jerome D Mack Middle School, John C Fremont Middle School and Gene Ward Elementary School

Attended *Connecting Hands: Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures* (CHOLLA) educational group/Clark County School District workshop on Next Generation Science Standards – February 23, 2017

**Planned activities for March 2017:**

- Two NSSAB members to attend the 2017 Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, AZ – March 6 – 9, 2017
- NSSAB members to observe the internal peer reviews for Yucca Flat and Rainier Mesa
- Two NSSAB members to observe a Panacea pump in support of a work plan item – March 13-14, 2017
- NSSAB to host an educational session on *Roles and Responsibilities of the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection at the NNSS* in Las Vegas, Nevada – March 15, 2017
- NFO to conduct an intergovernmental meeting with NSSAB liaisons in Las Vegas, Nevada – March 15, 2017
- NSSAB to host a Full Board Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada – March 15, 2017
- Move kiosk to UNLV Lied Library for 3-month rotation
- Publish article about the transition of the Yucca Flat groundwater characterization area
- Publish article on *Operation Clean Desert* outreach at Southern Nevada Science Teacher Association conference
- Support Environmental Management HQ social media campaign for Groundwater Awareness Week – March 5-10, 2017
- Attend 2017 Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, AZ – March 6-9, 2017
- Host groundwater demonstration booth at Decker Elementary School Academy Night – March 15, 2017
- Attend *Connecting Hands: Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures* (CHOLLA) educational group meeting – March 15, 2017
- Support classroom visit for Staton Elementary School STEAM Fair – March 17, 2017
- Host groundwater demonstration and *Operation Clean Desert* learning materials booth at Staton Elementary School STEAM Fair – March 17, 2017