

**Environmental Management (EM)  
Nevada Program Activities  
Monthly Report to the  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)  
March 2019**

**Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- Update from previous months' reports - In October 2017, the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) issued a Finding of Alleged Violation to the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration as a result of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) accepting 93 containers of waste from a generator and disposing as low-level waste (LLW) when the containers should have been disposed as mixed LLW (MLLW). A final report to NDEP documenting the completion of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) items was transmitted to NDEP in January 2019. There has been no change in status. (please see November 2017 – February 2019 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports - In November 2018, in accordance with the overweight permit issued by the State of Nevada, a waste shipment from an Oak Ridge, TN generator traveled across the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge destined for the NNSS. After traveling across the bridge, the remainder of the transport was made on an NNSS-approved route. Upon arrival at the NNSS, the driver self-identified that he traversed the bridge. As this is a violation of the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria, a Finding was issued and the generator submitted a CAP in December 2018 that was accepted by the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) in January 2019. The EM Nevada Program formally closed the Finding in February 2019. (please see December 2018 – February 2019 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator: In November 2018, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. In January 2019, the generator submitted its CAP to RWAP. In January and February 2019, RWAP reviewed the CAP and provided comments that the generator is addressing. (please see December 2018 – February 2019 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information.)
- In February 2019, RWAP conducted two facility evaluations:
  - San Diego, CA generator: The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding that was addressed by the generator and closed by RWAP while onsite. There is no further action required.
  - Las Vegas, NV generator: The facility evaluation resulted in no Findings.
- In March 2019, RWAP will conduct two facility evaluations.
- In March 2019, approximately 142,418 cubic feet of LLW, MLLW, and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.

## **Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

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

The Model Evaluation Report development continued in February 2019 and will continue in March 2019. The Model Evaluation Report is due to NDEP in June 2019.

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

In September 2018, responses to the comments on the Rainier Mesa External Peer Review report were transmitted to NDEP. Development of an Addendum to the Flow and Transport Model Report continued with a draft submitted to NDEP in February 2019; comments are expected in March 2019

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

Groundwater sampling for fiscal year 2019 began in October 2018 and will continue through the fiscal year. Preparation of the closure strategy path forward continued in February 2019 and will continue in March 2019.

## **Post-Closure Monitoring**

### ***Non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (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. Maintenance identified by the annual inspections in September 2018 will continue through the fiscal year.

### ***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. In February 2019, irrigation of the CAU 111 revegetation test plots continued, as well as monthly inspections of the plots. Both activities will continue in March 2019. Quarterly inspections of post-closure RCRA will occur in March 2019.

### ***CAU 98, Frenchman Flat***

Post-closure monitoring sampling was completed at Frenchman Flat wells in February 2019. Preparation of the Calendar Year 2018 Annual Closure Monitoring Report continued in February 2019 and will continue in March 2019. The Annual Closure Monitoring Report is due to NDEP in June 2019.

## **Soils**

### ***CAU 414, Clean Slate III Plutonium Dispersion***

CAU 414 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) was approved by NDEP in January 2018. Field work began in August 2018 that consists of removal and disposal of contaminated soil and debris above action levels. At the end of February 2019, 381 bags of contaminated soil have been filled. The shipping campaign to the NNSS began in October 2018, and 175 shipments of 350 bags have been shipped and disposed at the Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site and Area 5

Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) as of February 28, 2019. Due to weather delays and equipment issues, no bags were loaded and no shipments were made in February 2019.

### ***CAU 576, Miscellaneous Radiological Sites and Debris***

CAU 576 comprises six CASSs related to historical nuclear testing. The final CADD/Closure Report (CR) was approved by NDEP in February 2019. With the approval of the CADD/CR, CAU 576 is now closed.

## **External Affairs**

- Publications:
  - Ongoing social media campaign – 16 posts on Facebook and 15 original tweets on Twitter
- Ongoing exhibits:
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room in Las Vegas, Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah, NV, and Pahrump Valley Museum in Pahrump, NV
  - EM kiosk – located at National Atomic Testing Museum Public Reading Room
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - Provided platinum sponsorship to the NNSS Nevada Science Bowl – Feb. 2, 2019
- NNSS Tours:
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for US Air Force personnel – February 5, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Sandia Weapons Interns – February 5, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Heske Research, UNLV – February 7, 2019
  - Hosted public tour of the NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC – February 19, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Inspector General staff – February 20, 2019
  - Hosted public tour of the NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC – February 26, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for B61 Stockpile Flight Test Program – February 27, 2019
- Planned activities for March 2019:
  - Participate in 2019 Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, AZ – March 4-7, 2019
    - Host EM Nevada booth – March 4-7, 2019
    - Participate in *The LLW Disposal Facility Federal Review Group Review Process* panel – March 6, 2019
    - Participate in *DOE Waste Management – Energy Facilities Contractor Operating Group* roundtable – March 7, 2019
    - Present *Alternative Modeling Strategy for Closure of the Rainier Mesa CAU at the NNSS* – March 7, 2019
  - Conduct an intergovernmental meeting with NSSAB liaisons and NSSAB leadership in Amargosa Valley, NV – March 20, 2019
  - Host an NSSAB Full Board Meeting in Amargosa Valley, NV – March 20, 2019
  - Participate in Career Day at Mojave High School in Las Vegas, NV – Mar. 26, 2019
  - Participate in Environmental Festival at Palo Verde High School in Las Vegas, NV – March 30, 2019