

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

**External Affairs**

- NSSAB:
  - Observed a Low-Level Waste Visual Verification of Los Alamos National Laboratory generator (two NSSAB members) – August 21, 2019
- Publications:
  - Ongoing social media campaign – 17 posts on Facebook and 16 original tweets on Twitter
  - Published *EM Nevada Program Introduces New Teachers to ‘Operation Clean Desert’* article via EM Update newsletter
- 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
- Outreach
  - Participated in 2019 Clark County School District New Teacher Onboarding event in Las Vegas, NV – July 31-August 1, 2019
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - Participated in Nye County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting in Pahrump, NV – August 7, 2019
  - Hosted Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum in Pahrump, NV (NSSAB representative attended) – August 7, 2019
  - Hosted Underground Test Area Technical Information Exchange Posters Session and Celebration Event for Yucca Flat and Rainier Mesa Closures in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB members attended) – August 29, 2019
- Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Tours:
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) for Nevada Governor Sisolak and senior staff, Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry and other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) senior staff – August 1, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for New York City College personnel – August 1, 2019
  - Hosted public tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Headquarters Procurement Management Team – August 5, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for United States Air Force personnel – August 8, 2019
  - Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for Discover Nevada Spring Mountain Youth Camp – August 14, 2019
  - Hosted public tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC – August 20, 2019

- Hosted tour of NNSS that included Area 5 RWMC for personnel from the Office of Congresswoman Rosen – August 22, 2019
- Planned activities for September 2019:
  - Attend RadWaste Summit 2019 in Henderson, NV (two NSSAB members to attend) – September 3-5, 2019
  - Participate in EM National Cleanup Workshop in Alexandria, VA (NSSAB Chair to attend) – September 10-12, 2019
  - Host an NSSAB Full Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV – September 18, 2019
  - Conduct an intergovernmental meeting with intergovernmental liaisons and NSSAB leadership in Las Vegas, NV – September 18, 2019
  - Publish EM Nevada Soils Completion article in special edition EM 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary EM Update

## **Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- The Transportation Report for third quarter (April – June 2019) for fiscal year 2019 is available at <http://www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/RWM/Reports.html>
- Update from previous months' reports – Y-12 National Security Complex (Oak Ridge, TN generator): In March 2019, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator is completing its corrective actions associated with the facility evaluation. As a result of a new Finding unrelated to the facility evaluation, the generator is suspended from disposing of waste at the NNSS due to waste being shipped that was not in compliance with the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria.

New Finding: On July 3, 2019, the DOE notified stakeholders that classified waste disposed at the NNSS originating from NNSA's Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee may have been mischaracterized as low-level radioactive waste. In accordance with commitments made to Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak, the Department has performed a fact-finding investigation and root-cause analysis, and a corrective action plan is forthcoming. The full investigation report has now been submitted to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

As a result of its characterization review of the materials shipped to NNSS, Y-12 has determined that the materials are appropriately characterized as low-level waste. While the shipments were conservatively characterized as potentially mixed low-level waste at the outset, this determination means that this incident does not represent a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) violation. The full investigation report, including the characterization review, was reviewed by field office and headquarters components of the NNSA and the Department's Office of Environmental Management.

During the Y-12 investigation, one additional ST-90 shipping container was found to have been shipped to NNSS. This additional shipment means that Y-12 completed a total of 10 shipments totaling 33 containers, versus the previously reported 9 shipments totaling 32 containers. The one additional container had been included in a shipment with other ST-90 waste packages of a different waste type, under a different tracking code. (please see April – May, July-August 2019 NSSAB Monthly Reports and email from Kelly Snyder, NSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer, dated August 26, 2019 for more information)

- Update from previous month's report – Oak Ridge, TN generator #2: In April 2019, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator has submitted the corrective action plan that is under Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) review. (please see May 2019 NSSAB Monthly Report for more information)
- In August 2019, RWAP conducted two facility evaluations:
  - Chicago, IL generator: The facility evaluation resulted in no Findings.
  - Los Alamos, NM generator: The facility evaluation resulted in two Findings. The generator has 30 days to respond after RWAP issues its report.
- In September 2019, RWAP will conduct three facility evaluations.
- In September 2019, approximately 163,722 cubic feet of low-level waste (LLW), mixed LLW, and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.

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

For all UGTA CAUs, the calendar year 2018 Annual Sampling Report was submitted to NDEP for comment in August 2019. In September 2019, NDEP's comments will be addressed with the completion of the final report expected in September 2019.

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

Groundwater sampling for fiscal year 2019 will continue through the fiscal year. Work began on revising the CAU regulatory and use restriction boundaries in August 2019 and will continue in September 2019.

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

The Closure Report was submitted to NDEP in August 2019 with a response expected in September 2019.

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

Groundwater sampling for fiscal year 2019 will continue through the fiscal year. The documentation of closure strategy path forward was under review in August 2019.

## **Soils**

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

CAU 414 comprises one Corrective Action Site (CAS) on the Nevada Test and Training Range. As of August 30, 2019, 916 containers of contaminated soil and metal debris have been filled. As of August 30, 2019, 457 shipments have been shipped and disposed at the Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site and Area 5 RWMC. This completes the remediation of contaminated soil at Clean Slate III. The final Closure Report is due to NDEP in December 2019.

## **Industrial Sites**

### ***CAU 577, Area 5 Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells***

CAU 577 comprises five CASs located at the Area 5 RWMC. A draft Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan is due to NDEP in September 2019.

## **Post-Closure Monitoring**

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

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance are performed in accordance with closure requirements. The annual inspections will continue through the calendar 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 August 2019, irrigation and monthly inspections of the CAU 111 revegetation test plots continued and will continue in September 2019. Quarterly inspections of the RCRA sites will be conducted in September 2019.