Environmental Management (EM)
Nevada (NV) Program Activities
Monthly Report to the
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)
June 2022

External Affairs

- NSSAB:
  - Participated in EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Spring National Chairs Meeting via hybrid format in Paducah, KY (NSSAB Vice-Chair Anthony Graham attended virtually and presented Round Robin topics on behalf of the NSSAB) – May 3-4, 2022
    - EM Update article, *EM’s Robertson Highlights Cleanup Progress, Strengthened Engagement to Advisory Board Chairs*, can be accessed [here](#) – May 17, 2022
  - Hosted NSSAB Full Board Meeting via hybrid format including social media in Las Vegas, NV – May 18, 2022
  - Hosted NSSAB Vice-Chair Anthony Graham and Member Gary Elgort to observe post-closure monitoring activities (groundwater sampling) at WW-C-1 (Water Well C-1) on Yucca Flat at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in support of work plan item #4 – May 25, 2022

- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - Hosted Waste Generator Workshop for generators (federal and contractor employees) that dispose waste at the NNSS via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV – May 2-5, 2022
  - Conducted groundwater demonstration for the “May the Science Be with You” family-friendly community event sponsored by the Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival and Desert Research Institute at the National Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas, NV – May 4, 2022 (see article on page 4)
  - Hosted Low-Level Waste Stakeholders Forum via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB representative attended) – May 12, 2022
  - Hosted EM Nevada Program Intergovernmental Meeting via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB leadership attended) – May 18, 2022
  - Hosted a field visit of the NNSS and training sessions in the 15th floor conference room at the Molasky Corporate Center for Nicole Nelson-Jean, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations for the Office of EM (EM-3) and staff via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV – May 23-24, 2022

- Publications:
  - The current *EM Strategic Vision: 2022-2032* can be accessed [here](#). NNSS is featured on pages 37-39. (standing item)

- NNSS tours:
  - Per National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO), all public site tours have been cancelled until further notice. NNSS Protocol Office and Tour Program is conducting NNSS field visits to a backlog of cancellations due to the pandemic [http://www.nnss.gov/pages/PublicAffairsOutreach/NNSStours.html](http://www.nnss.gov/pages/PublicAffairsOutreach/NNSStours.html)
Planned activities for June 2022:
  o Host a field visit of the NNSS for Jay Mullis, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs for the Office of EM (EM-4) – June 7, 2022
  o Host a field visit of the NNSS and meetings in the 15th floor conference room at the Molasky Corporate Center for EM Communications Staff from across the DOE Complex via hybrid format in Las Vegas, NV – June 8-10, 2022
  o Present and attend the RadWaste Summit in Las Vegas, NV (NSSAB Chair Bonesteel and Member Korner to attend) – June 8-9, 2022
  o Host NSSAB Vice-Chair Anthony Graham and Member Gary Elgort to observe post-closure monitoring activities at Soils and Industrial Sites on the NNSS in support of work plan item #4 – June 22, 2022

Waste Disposal and Transportation

- Update from previous reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator: In December 2020, the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) issued a Finding for a waste stream shipped to the NNSS that exceeded the Radioactive Waste Permit limits (i.e., worker protection limits) for that shipment. In February 2022, RWAP observed a packaging activity of the waste stream during a visual verification, during which the generator self-identified issues resulting in unreadiness and discontinued the waste packaging activity. In May 2022, the generator submitted a revised waste profile that is undergoing review by the RWAP and the EM Nevada Program. The generator cannot ship this specific waste stream for disposal until the Finding is closed. (please see March, June – July, October – December 2021, and February – March 2022 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

- Update from previous report- Oak Ridge, TN generator. In April 2022, a routine real-time radiography (RTR) of a waste shipment contained suspected prohibited items (batteries and circuit boards). The EM Nevada Program required that the generator retrieve and return the waste to its site and suspended the profile pending results of opening the suspected waste. In April 2022, the RWAP observed the generator breach and unpack the waste at the generator site. The waste container mistakenly contained valuable equipment discovered during RTR. In May 2022, RWAP issued a Finding that the generator has 30 days to respond. (please see May 2022 Monthly Report for more information)

- In May 2022, the RWAP conducted three facility evaluations:
  o Idaho Falls, ID generator: A facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding that the generator has 30 days to respond
  o Oak Ridge, TN generator: A facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings
  o Erwin, TN generator: A facility evaluation that resulted in one Finding that the generator has 30 days to respond

- In June 2022, the RWAP will conduct three facility evaluations.

- In June 2022, approximately 68,318 cubic feet of low-level waste (LLW), mixed (MLLW), and classified waste is forecasted for disposal at the NNSS.
Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 101/102, Pahute Mesa
In May 2022, the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) completed its review of the Pahute Mesa Phase II Flow and Transport Model Report, and the resolution of comments began.

Industrial Sites

CAU 114, Area 25 Engine Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly (EMAD) Facility
CAU 114 comprises three Corrective Action Sites (CASs) in Area 25 of the NNSS. The Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan was approved by NDEP in June 2021. In May 2022, site characterization and hazard reduction activities were conducted and will continue in June 2022.

CAU 572, Test Cell C Ancillary Building and Structures
CAU 572 comprises five CASs in Area 25 of the NNSS. The SAFER Plan was approved by NDEP in April 2021. In May 2022, site characterization and hazard reduction activities were conducted and will continue in June 2022, as access allows.

CAU 577, Area 5 Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells
CAU 577 comprises five CASs located at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). Preparation of the Addendum to the Closure Report for CAU 577 continued in May 2022. The Addendum will include information about the closure of CAS 05-21-05 Waste Disposal Cell 20 and is due to NDEP in September 2022.

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 performed in accordance with closure requirements. In December 2021, annual inspections for the calendar year were completed; maintenance and repairs identified during the 2021 annual inspections will continue throughout the 2022 calendar year. Annual inspections for 2022 are scheduled to begin in June 2022 and will continue throughout the calendar year.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites
The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. The quarterly inspections for the third quarter of fiscal year 2022 will be conducted in June 2022.

Groundwater Post-Closure Monitoring
In May 2022, resolution of NDEP comments on the Frenchman Flat Five-Year Evaluation Letter Report was completed. Groundwater sampling of WW-C-1 in Yucca Flat was completed in May 2022 (NSSAB Members in attendance to observe in support of work plan item #4).
EM Nevada Helps Bring Kids to the “Light Side” of STEM Knowledge

The Desert Research Institute and National Atomic Testing Museum hosted the annual “May the Science Be With You” event on May 4,th and the Department of Energy Environmental Management Nevada Program was once again a proud participant. Over 200 children, their families, and museum staff played the part in creating a fun carnival setting, donning various Star Wars themed costumes. The event featured science-based activities including interactive demos with Museum experts, photo ops, lightsaber training with Star Wars entertainers, food trucks, and numerous community partner booths.

EM’s resident “geology-Jedi,” Jeffrey Wurst shared his mastery of groundwater and its movements with families. On top of showing a video related to groundwater, Jeff captivated young padawans with the “Ant Farm” exhibit, designed to simulate the behavior of groundwater. The Ant Farm allows children to see a simulation of how groundwater behaves and how experts sample and test it. This year he was assisted at the EM booth by EM Geochemist Dr. Irene Farnham, who worked with children to create an “aquifer in a cup.”

Part of the Las Vegas Science and Technology Festival, the long-running event remains one of the museum’s most widely attended Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics events. Based on the children’s intuitive questions and engagement, it is clear that the Force is Strong in Las Vegas.