

Transporting Radioactive Waste to the Nevada National Security Site

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Safety is paramount for the Environmental Management mission at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office. In fact, this commitment to safety is integrated into all work procedures at DOE sites that generate and transport low-level and mixed low-level waste to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).



Waste generators are responsible for ensuring that waste is packaged and transported in a safe and compliant manner. These generators and the contracted commercial carriers must comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria, and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations and requirements.

Routing Preferences

U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require carriers to select routes which minimize radiological risk. In addition, the NNSS Waste Acceptance Criteria requires low-level and mixed low-level waste shipments avoid the O'Callaghan-Tillman Memorial Bridge and Las Vegas.

In combination with these requirements, the Nevada Field Office has identified routes (see map on reverse side) and advises generators to conform to the following guidelines:

- Avoid heavily populated/congested areas in the state of Nevada (including the Las Vegas Beltway, I-215)
- Avoid Davis Dam (AZ-68 and NV-163)
- Use the northern route I-80 during summer months (May - October)

- Use southern routes during the winter months (November - April), but divide shipments between CA-127 and NV-160
- Direct carrier drivers to complete the mandatory driver questionnaire

The Nevada Field Office may suspend generator shipments if waste is not transported in compliance with the identified requirements and guidelines.

Emergency Response

A Nevada Field Office grant funds emergency preparedness activities and resources in counties near the NNSS. The grant is funded by charging a fifty-cent fee for every cubic foot of waste disposed at the NNSS. The Nevada Division of Emergency Management then administers the grant. Since 2000, more than \$11 million has been awarded to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties to enhance emergency response capabilities.



The Nevada Field Office also strives to accommodate a request by the State of California to limit the number of shipments that travel along California Highway CA-127 due to extremely limited and remote emergency response capabilities (see blackout dates on reverse).

Definitions

Carrier: The trucking company which transports radioactive waste from the generator site to the Nevada National Security Site.

Waste Generator: U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Defense sites that generate low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste.

U.S. Department of Transportation: The federal agency that regulates the packaging and transportation of radioactive materials in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49.

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Nevada Field Office low-level and mixed low-level waste transportation routes to the Nevada National Security Site

2015 Black-Out Dates for CA-127

Generators must advise their carriers to avoid transporting low-level and mixed low-level waste shipments along CA-127 on the following dates:

Jan. 1-5; Jan. 16-19; Feb. 13-17; Mar. 13-16; Mar. 27-31; Apr. 1-13; Apr. 23-27; May 9-12; May 22-26; May 29; July 2-7; July 28-30; Sept. 4-8; Oct. 9-13; Oct. 17; Oct. 30-Nov. 2; Nov. 5-15; Nov. 22-30; Dec. 20-31; Jan. 1-5, 2016



Permitted Shipments

In addition to any required hazardous material permits and prior to movement in Nevada and any neighboring state, overweight and/or oversized shipments must possess the appropriate state-issued permits. When applying for such permits, all carriers to the NNSA must declare that the load is radioactive material and specify intended routes. Annual permit holders carrying radioactive materials to the NNSA are also limited to specific routes. Approved routes, such as NV-160, may be further restricted due to bridge weight capacities, width/height limits, or work zone lane restrictions. Carriers should be aware of all current postings on:

www.nevadadot.com/business/trucker.

For more information, please contact:

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For information on all Nevada Field Office Environmental Management activities visit:

www.nv.energy.gov/emprograms

