

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB August 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (July)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted two (2) mixed waste verifications at Permafrix Northwest in Washington and one (1) impromptu Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Facility Evaluations of Portsmouth, Ohio. The Portsmouth impromptu visit was to close out the June RWAP Corrective Action Request (see detail write-up of this impromptu visit below).
- As of July 27, 2008, 708,260 ft³ of LLW in 818 shipments was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) during FY 2008.
- As of July 27, 2008, 35,471 ft³ of mixed LLW in 78 shipments was disposed at the NTS during FY 2008.
- As of July 27, 2008, LLW Operations has worked 394,633 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- On July 15-16, 2008, the Federal LLW Sub-Project Director (FSPD) attended the NNSA/Complex Newly Generated Waste Workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The purpose of the meeting was to update the NNSA on waste (including LLW) generation, treatment, transportation, and disposal issues. Also the LLW presented the disposal capabilities of the NTS LLW Radioactive Waste Management Sites.
- Last month, the NSO suspended Portsmouth's LLW disposal program by temporarily suspending the signature authority of the Portsmouth Waste Certification Official (WCO) and Alternate WCO (AWCO). Also, the NSO issued Portsmouth a Corrective Action Request (CAR) suspending its scrap metal waste stream because the NTS discovered the waste stream punctured the bottom its cargo container.

Portsmouth, with the NSO concurrence hired a new WCO. On the week of July 21, with the exception of the scrap metal waste stream, Portsmouth resumed shipping LLW to the NTS using its newly hired WCO.

On July 22-24, RWAP personnel conducted an impromptu surveillance of Portsmouth and met with the AWCO and the new WCO to verify that the scrap metal CAR was completed. RWAP verified the CAR was ready for closure, re-verified the WCO is fully qualified for their responsibilities, and that the AWCO has been retrained and is fully qualified for their responsibilities. RWAP will close the CAR by July 31. Once RWAP closes the CAR, Portsmouth will resume shipping the scrap metal waste stream in early August.

On July 28, 2008, the NSO lifted its temporary suspension of the signature authority of the Portsmouth AWCO.

Expectations (August)

- Expect to receive 175,000 ft³ of LLW and mixed LLW for disposal.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct two (2) RWAP mixed waste verifications and one (1) impromptu surveillance. The Los Alamos audit scheduled for July may be rescheduled for mid August (note: Los Alamos's Nevada Test Site Waste Acceptance Criteria certification has been suspended since May 2007 and as a result cannot ship LLW to the NTS unless it uses another approved generators program).

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (July)

- On June 30, 2008, NSTec initiated the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB) Management Self Assessment (MSA). The MSA was conducted to determine if NSTec was ready to proceed with the Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR). On July 11, 2008, the MSA Team completed its work and submitted its final report. On July 21, 2008, NSTec issued a letter declaring that they were ready to proceed with the CORR. The CORR began on July 21, 2008. The CORR held its Exit Briefing for NSO Management on July 28, 2008.

Expectations (August)

- The Federal ORR is scheduled to begin on August 11, 2008.
- NSTec may begin opening Over Size Boxes in the VERB on August 27, 2008.

Industrial Sites:

Accomplishments (July)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continued the decontamination & decommissioning fieldwork
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Received Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approval for the Final Streamlined Approach For Environmental Restoration Plan (SAFER)
 - Begin investigation field work
- CAU 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases
 - The vent line was opened and sampled on 7/28/08. Decisions on further actions (i.e., grouting) will be made from the information received and the sample results.
- CAU 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
 - Completed Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report closure field work
- CAU 557, Spills and Tank Sites
 - Received NDEP approval for the Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP)
- CAU 561, Waste Disposal Areas
 - Submitted the Final CAIP to NDEP for approval
- Received NDEP approval for the Final Post-Closure Inspection Report for CAUs on the Tonopah Test Range

Planned (August)

- CAU 110, Area 3 WMD U-3ax/bl Crater
 - Submit the Final Post-Closure Report to NDEP for approval
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continue the decontamination & decommissioning fieldwork
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Begin SAFER Plan investigation field work
- CAU 561, Waste Disposal Areas
 - Receive NDEP approval for the final CAIP

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed (July)

Frenchman Flat

- Completed NSTec support of transport modeling efforts.
- Lifecycle baseline planning completed and FY 2009 planning initiated.

Pahute Mesa

- Completed NSTec support to development of Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) Addendum.

Yucca Flat

- Completed purging and sampling of well UE-2ce (Nash).
- Completed NSTec FY 2008 support to Flow Model.
- Submitted Simplified Source Term Document for DOE review.
- Completed lead analyses of UE-2ce groundwater.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Submitted Preliminary Data Report for Well ER-16-1 Groundwater Characterization Sampling.
- Completed NSTec work with Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop a reactive mineral model for N-Tunnel and vicinity.

Expectations (August)**Frenchman Flat**

- Prepare task plans for FY 2009.

Pahute Mesa

- Submit Phase II CAIP Addendum for DOE review.
- Begin land and ecological surveys of new well sites on Pahute Mesa.

Yucca Flat.

- Nothing new to report.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Complete camera runs and groundwater sampling of U-12n Vent Holes.
- Perform sampling at Wells ER-12-3 and ER-12-4.

Soils:Completed Activities (July)

- Completed several rounds of comment resolution on CAU 107 Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan for the low impact soil sites. A revised document will be submitted to NDEP by August 30th.
- Completed updates to the soils baseline
- Completed soil sampling for CAU 370 T-4 Atmospheric sites to support the Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP).

Expectations (August)

- Submit the revised draft CAU 107 SAFER Plan to NDEP by August 30th.
- Begin to initiate the development of a Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD) for CAU 370 T-4 Atmospheric sites.
- Begin radiological sampling for the CAU 370 field work.
- Initiate the development of CAU 371 CAIP and have a Data Quality Objectives meeting.
- Continue to work on the development of the soil Data Summaries.

Public Involvement:Completed Activities (July)

- Delivered, set up, and staffed the Environmental Management Operation Clean Desert Display and related materials (July 2) for two Community Advisory Board (CAB) committee meetings.
- Participated in the July 9, 2008 CAB Full Board meeting at 755 E. Flamingo Rd in Las Vegas, NV.

Expectations (August)

- Deliver and set-up the Transportation Poster Display and Transportation Drum Display (exchanging for Groundwater Poster Display) at Beatty Public Library, including fact sheets/brochures. Display will remain for approximately one month duration.
- Deliver and set-up the Groundwater Poster Display (exchanging for the Transportation Poster Display and Transportation Drum Display) at Amargosa Valley Public Library, including fact sheets/brochures. Display will remain for approximately one month duration.
- Deliver and set up Operation Clean Desert display, along with interactive game, activity book, and other informational materials, and staffing the display at the 3rd Annual Educator Appreciation Day, August 13.
- Staff a table and provide informational materials regarding educational and informational opportunities available to educators through the Environmental Management program, as part of the 2008-2009 New Licensed Personnel Orientation Event (Clark County School District), August 13.