

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB January 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (December)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted two (1) Facility Evaluation. The facility evaluated was PermaFix Northwest. Also the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) participated in the 7th Annual Mixed and Low Level Waste Management Forum in Nashville, TN during the week of December 11, 2007.
- Received 219,064 ft³ of LLW in 294 shipments for disposal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), as of December 21, 2007.
- LLW Operations has worked 353,627 hours since last lost-time accident (September 2003).

Expectations (January)

- Expect to receive 80,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal.
- Expect to conduct one (1) unannounced RWAP Facility Inspection of the generator sites and one Mixed Waste Verification.

Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW):

Completed Activities (December)

- Received 4,927 ft³ in 10 shipments for disposal at the NTS, as of December 21, 2007.
- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Cease order has been lifted for Foster-Wheeler MLLW program. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Cease order is still in effect for Portsmouth's MLLW program. This is a result of the NDEP issuing a Cease Order to Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) generators from Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (TN), Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Ohio) and M&EC Permafix (TN). This is a result of NDEP's concerns that some MLLW generators that ship to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) are not demonstrating enough rigor and vigilance in implementing their waste certification programs.
- Secretary of Energy Bodman received a letter dated Dec. 20, 2007, from the Nevada Attorney General (AG). In this letter, the AG informs the Secretary that a proposal to accept a mixed low-level waste from the Savannah River Site constitutes a violation of law. The AG's concern date back to a 1997 Settlement Agreement between the State of Nevada and Department of Energy. A copy of the Dec. 20th letter and similar letters sent in 2007 from the State of Nevada are contained in your monthly packet.

MLLW Expectations (January)

- MLLW disposal is included in the LLW section for January.
- Planned facility evaluations are included in the LLW portion of this report.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Completed Activities (December)

- Modifications to the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB) for the oversized box size-reduction and segregation continued and are planned to be completed in March 2008.
- Assessments were conducted on the technology to be used to vent the 12 remaining oversized boxes to ensure worker safety issues have been adequately addressed prior to the start of operations.

- Radioactive sources that were found in waste drums during repackaging in the glovebox have been kept in holding containers. These sources require special packaging, shipment and disposal through the Off-Site Source Recovery Program (OSRP) based out of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Representatives from the OSRP were at the NTS in early December but were unable to package the remaining sources for off-site shipment. A return visit is required but is not scheduled.
- Final characterization data for the remaining TRU drums that do not require repackaging in the VERB was submitted to the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) for review and concurrence that all activities that can be done by the Nevada Site Office have been completed. The CBFO identified some minor data needed in addition to what was submitted. The data will be collected with completion expected in March 2008.

Expectations (January)

- Modification activities on the VERB for oversized box size-reduction and waste segregation will continue with completion scheduled for March 2008.
- Many items that were procured for the VERB modification are scheduled to arrive in January 2008.
- The remaining 12 oversized boxes will be vented.
- Collect information to complete data packages for the remaining TRU waste drums to ship off-site for characterization and shipment to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Industrial Sites:

Completed Activities (December)

- Continued corrective action fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks.
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for CAU 190, Contaminated Waste Sites.
- Completed investigation fieldwork for CAU 565, Stored Samples.
- Continued Decontamination & Decommissioning (D&D) fieldwork for CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility.
- Continued corrective action fieldwork for CAU 151, Septic Systems and Discharge Area.
- Submitted and received Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approval for Final Corrective Action Decision Document (CADD)/Closure Report (CR) and the Errata for CAU 565, Stored Samples.

Planned (January)

- Complete corrective action fieldwork for CAU 151, Septic Systems and Discharge Area.
- Continue D&D fieldwork for CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility.
- Continue corrective action fieldwork for CAU 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks.
- Submit Final Closure Report for CAU 124, Storage Tanks, to NDEP for approval.
- Submit Final Closure Report for CAU 543, Liquid Disposal Units, to NDEP for approval.
- Submit Final Post Closure Inspection and Monitoring Report for CAU 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches, to NDEP for approval.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed Activities (December)

- Work continued on the UGTA Data Management Work (DMS) Package

Frenchman Flat

- Continued Phase II Transport Model Draft report development. The report underwent internal reviews and revisions.

Pahute Mesa

- Continued Phase I Transport Model Draft report development. Draft sections were developed.
- The preemptive review committee held a meeting to discuss development of the Phase II CAIP. A schedule for completion of the Plan is being prepared.
- Continued support of CAIP Addendum efforts.

Yucca Flat

- Completed demobilization from the BILBY Site, U-3cn PS #2.
- Continued to prepare plans for the collection of groundwater samples at the DALHART site, U-4u PS #2A.
- The ER-8-1 Data Report Addendum underwent internal review and revision. This document is expected to be distributed to NNSA/NSO and project participants in early January.
- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Completed Phase I Transport Parameter Data document development. Report submitted to NNSA/NSO on December 20, 2007.
- Completed Phase I Hydrology Data Document development. Report distributed to NNSA/NSO on December 13, 2007.
- Continued Phase I Model Approach and Strategy Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Expectations (January)

Frenchman Flat

- Continue Phase II Transport Model Draft report development.

Pahute Mesa

- Continue Phase I Transport Model Draft report development.

Yucca Flat

- Complete groundwater sampling activities at the DALHART site, U-4u PS #2A.
- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Complete Phase I Model Approach and Strategy Analysis and Evaluation.
- Begin review of the Phase I Hydrology Draft Data document.
- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Soils

Completed Activities (December)

- Continued the development of the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) and Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) documents for selected Soils sites.
- Conducted two Data Quality Objectives meetings with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in support of the SAFER Plan and CAIP.
- Continued conducting preliminary assessments for remaining Soil sites.
- Toured a Soils site in Area 18 with Nevada Site Office and NDEP personnel.

- Provided NDEP with a map of the soils sites and aerial radiological survey data.

Expectations (January)

- Continue the development of the SAFER Plan for low impact Soils sites.
- Continue the development CAIP for selected Soils sites.
- Continue the preliminary assessments of remaining Soils sites.

Public Involvement:

Completed Activities (December)

- Held Environmental Management EM Student Forum meeting with participating students from Advanced Technologies Academy (Las Vegas, NV); project concept was outlined and discussed. Group will meet weekly when school schedule resumes in January 2008.
- Mailed one Operation Clean Desert interactive game CD to an individual in response to a phone inquiry.

Expectations (January)

- Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs full board meeting on January 10 in Pahrump, Nev.
- Participate in a Nevada Site Office emergency exercise.