

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB July 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (June)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted three (3) impromptu Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Facility Evaluations (FE). These evaluations were conducted at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the Advanced Mixed Waste Project in Idaho; and the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ohio. In addition, RWAP conducted a certification audit of EnergX in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- As of June 29, 2008, 669,845 ft³ of LLW in 769 shipments was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) during FY 2008.
- As of June 29, 2008, 30,206 ft³ of mixed LLW in 63 shipments was disposed at the NTS during FY 2008.
- LLW Operations has worked 386,543 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- On June 10-12, 2008, the Federal Waste Management Project Director attended the LLW Corporate Board Meeting in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The purpose of the meeting was to update the Board on LLW disposal issues.
- In June 12, 2008, the Nevada Test Site received a Portsmouth LLW container for waste disposal. During a routine inspection, a puncture in the container was found. On June 16, 2008 the waste container was returned to Portsmouth. As a result, the Nevada Site Office (NSO) temporarily suspended the Portsmouth Waste Certification Official (WCO) and Alternate WCO's signature authority to approve LLW shipments to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) and issued a Corrective Action Request. On June 24, 2008, Portsmouth opened the returned container at its site (the NSO Federal LLW Sub-Project Director and RWAP were present). Portsmouth determined (and the NSO concurred) the puncture occurred during loading operations at Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth WCO failed to identify the punctured container before shipping it to the NTS. As a result, the Portsmouth WCO and Alternate WCO were relieved of their WCO duties. Additionally, Portsmouth hired a replacement WCO from the Fernald Closure Project in Ohio. Portsmouth is still planning further corrective actions to ensure this issue will not reoccur. At this time, Portsmouth is unable to ship this waste stream to the NTS until RWAP lifts its Corrective Action Request.

Expectations (July)

- Expect to receive 175,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct two (2) RWAP Mixed Waste Verifications and one (1) impromptu surveillance. The Los Alamos audit schedule for July has been postponed until the first quarter in Fiscal Year 2009 (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 (June)

- Met with the Carlsbad Field Office on June 4, 2008 to ensure the repackaging process inside the VERB will comply with the Carlsbad Field Office guidance, and discuss a tentative schedule for shipment of remaining legacy TRU waste to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) consolidation site for certified characterization and shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). It is anticipated that TRU shipments will take place in November - December 2008 to INL.

- The Visual Examination Repackaging Building (VERB) Addendum to the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex Documented Safety Analysis and Technical Safety Requirements, which incorporates the oversized box size reduction activities, was approved by the Nevada Site Office on June 13, 2008.
- Area 5 Operations personnel began to train inside the VERB using supplied breathing air for size reduction and repackaging operations.



Expectations (July)

- Complete the Management Self Assessment (MSA) and the Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR) to ensure facilities readiness to begin size reduction and repackaging of TRU waste inside the VERB.

Industrial Sites:

Accomplishments (June)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 90, Area 2 Bitcutter Containment
 - Completed Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 92, Area 6 Decon Pond Facility
 - Completed Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 110, Area 3 Waste Management Disposal U-3ax/bl Crater
 - Completed Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches
 - Completed Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continued decontamination & decommissioning fieldwork
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Submitted the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for approval
- CAU 134, Aboveground Storage Tanks

- Received NDEP approval for the Final SAFER Plan
- CAU 234, Mud Pits, Cellars, and Mud Spills
 - Received NDEP approval for the Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report (CADD/CR)
- CAU 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
 - Began CADD/CR closure field work
- Submitted the Final Post-Closure Inspection Report for CAUs on the Tonopah Test Range to NDEP for approval

Planned (July)

- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continue the decontamination & decommissioning fieldwork
- CAU 130, Storage Tanks
 - Receive NDEP approval for the Final SAFER Plan
- CAU 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
 - Continue CADD/CR closure field work
- CAU 557, Spills and Tank Sites
 - Submit the Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) to NDEP for approval
- CAU 561, Waste Disposal Areas
 - Submit the Final CAIP to NDEP for approval
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Post-Closure Inspection Report for CAUs on the Tonopah Test Range

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed (June)

Frenchman Flat

Comment responses were initiated on the Draft Phase II Transport Model Report.
Classified source term modeling was initiated.

Pahute Mesa

Nothing new to report.

Yucca Flat

Installed electric submersible sampling pump in well UE-2ce (Nash) and began purging the well.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation was initiated.
The Modeling Approach Strategy Document was finalized on June 6.
Completed the monitoring report for ER-16-1.

Expectations (July)

Frenchman Flat

Lifecycle baseline planning will be complete and FY 2009 planning initiated.

Pahute Mesa

Begin land and ecological surveys of new well sites on Pahute Mesa.

Yucca Flat

Complete pumping and sampling of the UE-2ce well (Nash).

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

Sampling will be performed at Wells ER-12-3 and ER-12-4.
Complete camera runs in U-12n vent holes.

Soils:**Completed Activities (June)**

- Initiated the characterization work for CAU 370.
- Responded to comments from NNSA-ABQ and NDEP on CAU 107 Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan for the low impact soil sites. NNSA-ABQ comments have been resolved and the NDEP comments are in the resolution process.
- Continue the preliminary assessments of remaining soil sites.

Expectations (July)

- Resolve remaining comments on CAU 107 SAFER Plan for the low impact sites
- Submit the Final SAFER Plan for CAU 107, low impact sites.
- Complete the field characterization work for CAU 370, T-4 Atmospheric test sites.
- Continue the preliminary assessments of remaining soil sites.

Public Involvement:**Completed Activities (June)**

- Delivered and set-up the Groundwater Poster Display at Beatty Public Library, including fact sheets/brochures (approximate one month duration)
- Delivered and set-up the Transportation Poster Display and Transportation Drum Display at Amargosa Valley Public Library, including fact sheets/brochures (approximate one month duration)

Expectations (July)

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