

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB March 2008

Low-Level Waste (LLW):

Completed Activities (February)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted one (1) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Audit of the Portsmouth facility and one (1) Impromptu Facility Evaluation of Idaho National Laboratory.
- As of February 24, 2008, 337,037 ft³ of LLW in 415 shipments was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).
- LLW Operations has worked 361,100 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- On February 11-14, 2008, Environmental Management /Headquarters (EM/HQ) conducted a walkthrough of the RWAP during the Audit of Portsmouth. EM/HQ did not have any Findings or Opportunities for Improvement about the RWAP team.
- On February 20, 2008, the LLW Sub-Project briefed the CAB Budget Committee on its planned activities for FY 2009 and FY 2010

Expectations (March)

- Expect to receive 91,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) RWAP Audit of Argonne, and two (2) Impromptu Facility Inspections of the generator sites.

Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW):

Completed Activities (February)

- Received 5,891 ft³ in 16 shipments for disposal at the NTS, as of February 24, 2008.
- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Cease order is still in effect for Portsmouth's MLLW program. EM/HQ closed out its Assessment of Portsmouth and asked NSO EM to request the NDEP to lift the Cease Order. The request was hand delivered to the NDEP on February 21, 2008. The NDEP is reviewing the request.

Background:

Last July, the NDEP issued a Cease Order to the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (TN), Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Ohio) and M&EC Permafix (TN) Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) generators, because the NDEP felt that these MLLW generators did not demonstrate enough rigor and vigilance in implementing their waste certification programs. Since then, M&EC and Foster-Wheeler have improved their MLLW programs to have the NDEP lift the Cease Order.

MLLW Expectations (March)

- 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 (February)

- 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 April 2008.
- Attended the Federal Facility Compliance Act (FFCA) meeting with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on February 6, 2008. NDEP was supportive of TRU activities and no issues were identified.

- Continued to work with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) to complete data packages for the remaining TRU waste drums for shipment to another DOE facility for certified characterization and shipment to WIPP to meet Site Treatment Plan milestones.

Expectations (March)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) and CBFO will complete the data packages for the remaining TRU waste drums to identify drums that are ready for shipment and drums that will need to be repackaged inside the VERB prior to shipment to meet Site Treatment Plan milestones.
- Continue modifications to the VERB for the oversized box size-reduction and segregation which is planned to be complete in April 2008.

Industrial Sites:

Accomplishments (February)

- Began corrective action investigation fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
- Completed corrective action fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 151, Septic Systems and Discharge Area
- Continued Decontamination & Decommissioning fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continued waste disposal activities for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks
- Received NDEP approval for Final Post Closure Inspection Letter Report for Corrective Action Unit 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well, to NDEP for approval
- Received NDEP approval for Final Post Closure Inspection Letter Report Corrective Action Unit 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches
- Submitted Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks, to the NDEP for approval
- Submitted Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 145, Wells and Storage Holes, to the NDEP for approval
- Submitted Final Corrective Action Decision Document for Corrective Action Unit 563, Septic Systems, to the NDEP for approval
- Submitted Final Recommendations and Justifications for Modifications for Use Restrictions Established under the U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office, Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) to the NDEP for approval
- Submitted Final Supplemental Investigation Plan for FFACO Use Restrictions, Nevada Test Site Office, Nevada, to the NDEP for approval

Planned (March)

- Continue Decontamination & Decommissioning fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
- Continue waste disposal activities for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks
- Complete corrective action investigation fieldwork for Corrective Action Unit 556, Dry Wells and Surface Release Points
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 127, Areas 25 and 26 Storage Tanks
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 145, Wells and Storage Holes

- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Corrective Action Decision Document for Corrective Action Unit 563, Septic Systems
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Recommendations and Justifications for Modifications for Use Restrictions Established under the U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office, Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO)
- Receive NDEP approval for the Final Supplemental Investigation Plan for FFACO Use Restrictions, Nevada Test Site Office, Nevada
- Submit Final Post-Closure Inspection Report for Corrective Action Unit 92, Area 6 Decon Pond Facility, to the NDEP for approval
- Submit Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report for Corrective Action Unit 190, Contaminated Waste Sites, to NDEP for approval
- Submit Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan for Corrective Action Unit 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases, to the NDEP for approval

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Completed (February)

Frenchman Flat

- Submitted Phase II Transport Model Draft report on February 28 for DOE review.
- Completed pumping and sampling of the U-4u PS #2A (DALHART site).

Pahute Mesa

- Submitted Phase II Transport Model Draft report on February 4 for DOE review.
- The preemptive review committee held a third meeting to discuss development of the Phase II Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP).

Yucca Flat

- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Began finalizing the Phase I Transport Parameter Data document following reviews.
- Began finalizing the Phase I Hydrology Data document following reviews.
- Continued Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continued Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Submitted Draft Phase I Mode Approach Strategy on February 1 for DOE review.
- The preemptive review committee for modeling approach and strategy conducted its initial meeting.

Expectations (March)

Frenchman Flat

- Continue Phase II Transport Model Draft report development
- Mobilize to the UE-2ce (NASH) site, pull existing tubing and install an electric submersible pump.

Pahute Mesa

- Continue Phase I Transport Model Draft report development.
- Continue CAIP Addendum initiative.

Yucca Flat

- Continue Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Transport Model Analysis and Evaluation.

Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

- Submit the Phase I Hydrology Data document for final reviews.
- Submit the Phase I Transport Parameters Data document for final reviews.

- Complete Phase I Flow Model Analysis and Evaluation.
- Continue Phase I Source Term Analysis and Evaluation.
- Complete groundwater sampling at ER-16-1.

Soils

Completed Activities (February)

- Completed a modification to Appendix II of the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO). This modification establishes Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 107, currently being closed under the following Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) process; and, CAU 370, currently being closed under a Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP)
- Continued the development of the CAU 107 SAFER plan. With NDEP concurrence, additional low impact sites will be added to this SAFER pending Data Quality Objectives review.
- Completed the Draft CAU 370 CAIP and submitted for external review and comment.
- Continued the preliminary assessment of Soil Sites.

Expectations (March)

- Complete the development of the draft SAFER Plan for low impact Soils Sites for internal review. The SAFER Plan represents the first set of Soils Sites that will be on a defined Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order closure path since the inception of the Soils Project in 1994.
- Conduct reviews and comment response to the CAU 370.
- Continue the preliminary assessments of remaining Soils Sites.

Public Involvement:

Completed Activities (February)

- The Operation Clean Desert learning trio (comprised of an interactive computer game, activity book, and mobile exhibit that convey information about the Environmental Management efforts taking place at the Nevada Test Site in a manner appropriate to elementary-school age children) was on display February 9 at Spring Valley High School (Las Vegas, Nev.) for the Nevada State Science Teachers Association 2008 Math & Science Conference. Twenty-five (25) Operation Clean Desert teacher packets, 15 activity books, and 5 interactive games were distributed; an additional 60 books and 60 game CDs were delivered to William E. Ferron Elementary School as a result of the conference. A science instructor from Rosemary Clarke Middle School (Nye County) requested a visit by EM Public Involvement with the learning trio materials for an upcoming month.
- A presentation on the Operation Clean Desert learning trio was made to six teachers attending the Regional Professional Development Program held February 11 at William E. Snyder Elementary School, and six Operation Clean Desert teacher packets were distributed.
- Met with the Environmental Management Student Forum (a group of high school students from Advanced Technologies in Las Vegas, NV) to continue development of an interactive Nevada Test Site Environmental Management timeline. This is a weekly meeting.
- Provided information to a Clark County School District (CCSD) elementary teacher on the Operation Clean Desert learning trio in response to a listing in the CCSD newsletter "Hotline."
- Hosted a Nevada Test Site Waste Management booth at the Waste Management Symposium (professional conference) in Phoenix, AZ.

Expectations (March)

- Meet with the Environmental Management Student Forum (a group of high school students from Advanced Technologies in Las Vegas, NV) four times (once a week) to development of an interactive Nevada Test Site Environmental Management timeline.
- Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs full board meeting on March 11 in Beatty, Nev.