

## **Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB January 2009**

### **Low-Level Waste (LLW)**

#### **Completed Activities (December)**

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted one (1) Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) impromptu facility evaluation of the Paducah Site Office.
- The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, NSO and RWAP attended the PermaFix Users Meeting on December 15-19, 2008 in Nashville, TN. These organizations also presented their expectations/instructions to dispose LLW/MLLW at the NTS to the PermaFix users.
- As of December 30, 2008, the cumulative LLW volume received for FY 2009 is 374,273ft<sup>3</sup> in 369 shipments. The cumulative mixed LLW volume received for FY 2009 is 4,701 ft<sup>3</sup> in 13 shipments. LLW Operations has worked 429,899 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- Acceptance of new waste streams of mixed LLW for disposal is still under hiatus due to Letter from Nevada's Attorney General.

#### **Planned Activities (January)**

- Expect to receive over 87,000 ft<sup>3</sup> of LLW and mixed LLW for disposal during the month.
- The LLW Sub-Project expects to conduct one (1) RWAP Audit of the PermaFix' Northwest Facility in the state of Washington on January 12, 2009. Depending on the results of that Audit, the facility may be able to restart shipping to the NTS. Also, the Sub-Project may allow other PermaFix sites to resume their shipping campaigns.
- The LLW Sub-Project plans to conduct three (3) Impromptu Surveys of various NTS LLW/MLLW generators.
- The LLW Sub-Project will have its Semi-Annual Joint Oversight Meeting with the NDEP on February 4, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to keep the NDEP informed and updated of disposal activities and other waste issues that interest the NDEP.

### **Transuranic Waste (TRU)**

#### **Completed Activities (December)**

- Repackaging activities continued in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). As of December 31, 2008, 49 oversized boxes and 30 drums have been repackaged; 8 drums remain.
- NSO continued to work with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) to validate characterization data for the repackaged waste to ensure compliance with the CBFO's repackaging requirements.
- CBFO loaded 12 TRUPACT II containers (4 trailers) for shipment to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Consolidation Site.
- Completed four shipments to the INL Consolidation Site.
- In December 2008, 103.37 cubic meters of low-level waste (LLW) from the VERB repackaging operations was disposed at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (total LLW disposed since the start of VERB operations in August 2008, 201.82 cubic meters).
- NSO participated in weekly meetings with CBFO to discuss the Integrated Project Schedule and ongoing activities to ensure completion of TRU waste shipment to the INL Consolidation Site.

#### **Planned Activities (January)**

- Repackaging operation will be completed in the VERB. Eight (8) drums remain to be repacked and any Standard Waste Box's (SWB's) that do not pass CBFO's approval will be addressed.
- NSO will continue to work with the CBFO to validate characterization data for the remaining TRU waste.
- NSO and CBFO personnel will continue to load TRUPACT-II containers for shipment.
- Continue shipments to the INL Consolidation Site.

### **Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

#### **Completed Activities (December)**

- Frenchman Flat
  - The third long-term monitoring well network criteria meeting with the preemptive committee was held on December 11.
- Pahute Mesa
  - Preparation of the drilling criteria document was initiated.
  - The Phase II Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP), Rev. 0 document was forwarded to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on December 1.
- Yucca Flat
  - Potential wells to be included in the thermal investigations were identified.
  - A pre-emptive review committee meeting was held on December 9 to discuss status on the transport analysis and evaluation.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
  - No activities to report.

#### **Planned Activities (January)**

- Frenchman Flat
  - Monitoring criteria will be documented.
  - Alternative transport models will continue to be evaluated.
  - The risk evaluation will be initiated.
  - Continue support to FY 2009 fracture analysis task.
  - Conduct a fourth meeting to develop criteria for the long-term monitoring well network.
- Pahute Mesa
  - Revisions to the Phase II CAIP, Rev. 0 document will be initiated upon receipt of NDEP comments.
  - The Phase I Transport document will be submitted to DOE.
  - Continue compiling the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
  - Field stake locations for remaining Phase II drill holes.
  - Complete road and pad construction at the ER-20-7 site.
  - Begin road and pad construction at the ER-EC-11 site.
- Yucca Flat
  - Field work in support of the thermal investigations will be initiated.
  - A status briefing will be provided to DOE and NDEP on the transport analysis and evaluation.
  - Continue support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling efforts.
  - The source term document will be revised for final review.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
  - Continue support to flow and transport modeling.
  - Continue characterizing Rainier Mesa tunnel effluent ponds.

### **Soils:**

#### **Completed Activities (December)**

- Received approval with comments on Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 107: Low Impact Soil Sites, Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan.
- Addressed Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) comments on the CAU 107: Low Impact Soil Sites, SAFER Plan and transmitted to NDEP.
- Submitted the Draft Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for CAU 371: Area 18 Craters, to NDEP for review.
- Continue working on the Radionuclide Inventory Distribution Project (RIDP) Analysis and Validation Whitepaper

#### Planned Activities (January)

- Conduct Data Quality Objectives meeting for CAU 372: Area 20 Cabriole/Palanquin Unit Craters
- Submit RIDP and Validation Whitepaper to National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

### **Industrial Sites**

#### Completed Activities (December)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
  - Continued decontamination and decommissioning field work
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
  - Completed corrective action investigation field work
- CAU 134, Aboveground Storage Tanks
  - Completed closure field work
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
  - Continued closure field work
- CAU 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases
  - Submitted the Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for approval

#### Planned Activities (January)

- CAU 90, Area 2 Bitcutter Containment, CAU 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well, CAU 92, Area 6 Decon Pond Facility, CAU 110, Area 3 Waste Management Disposal U-3ax/bl Crater and CAU 112, Area 23 Hazardous waste Trenches
  - Submit Final Post-Closure Report to NDEP for approval
- CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
  - Continue decontamination and decommissioning field work
  - Submit the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Report, Revision 1, to NDEP for approval
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
  - Continue closure field work
- CAU 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases
  - Receive NDEP approval for the Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report

### **Public Involvement:**

#### Completed Activities (December)

- An Operation Clean Desert brochure mailing (contains information on Operation Clean Desert display, activity book, game CD and other displays) was distributed to approximately 200 elementary school principals (Clark County School District and Nye County School District).

- Finalized the Operation Clean Desert Lesson Plan for use by area elementary and middle school educators. Now ready for distribution and use with existing Operation Clean Desert materials.
- Finalized plans with Advanced Technologies Academy regarding Environmental Management Student Forum project, to take place January - May 2009.

#### Planned Activities (January)

- Participate in CHOLLA (Clasping Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures) meetings. This group is comprised of area organizations and businesses promoting field trips and other learning opportunities to the Clark County School District.
- Promote Operation Clean Desert and other Environmental Management outreach materials and information to area educators at the Southern Nevada Math and Science Teachers Conference (January 24, Rancho High School, Las Vegas).
- Set-up Operation Clean Desert Display and Waste Management Timeline Poster Display, Transportation Poster Display, Transportation Drum Display, and the Groundwater Poster Display (and distribute +150 Books & CDs) at Roy Martin Middle School (Las Vegas). Environmental Management Poster Displays will remain for 2 and ½ weeks.
- Participate in Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs meetings.