

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB February 2009

Low-Level Waste (LLW)

Activities (January)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted two Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) impromptu facility surveillances and one audit.
- A RWAP team member also conducted a waste verification at M&EC Oak Ridge.
- As of January 25, 2008, the cumulative LLW volume received for FY 2009 is 493,003ft³ in 438 shipments. The cumulative mixed LLW (MLLW) volume received for FY 2009 is 5,701 ft³ in 13 shipments. LLW Operations has worked 434,376 hours since its last lost-time accident (September 2003).
- Acceptance of new waste streams of MLLW for disposal is still under hiatus due to ongoing discussion with the State of Nevada Attorney General.

Planned Activities (February)

- Expect to receive over 76,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month.
- The LLW Sub-Project will conduct a RWAP Surveillance of the Perma-Fix Florida Facility.
- The LLW Sub-Project plans to conduct two Impromptu Surveillances and one audit of generators.
- The LLW Sub-Project will have its Semi-Annual Joint Oversight Meeting with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on February 4, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to keep the NDEP informed and updated on disposal activities and other waste issues that interest the NDEP.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Activities (January)

- Repackaging activities continued in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). Completed repackaging drums and began repackaging Standard Waste Boxes (SWB) that were rejected by Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO).
- A quarterly maintenance surveillance on the VERB Fire Suppression System was completed.
- NSO continued to work with the CBFO to validate characterization data for the repackaged waste to ensure compliance with the CBFO's repackaging requirements.
- CBFO loaded 21 TRUPACT II containers (seven trailers) for shipment to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Consolidation Site.
- Completed seven shipments to the INL Consolidation Site (total of 11 shipments have been made).
- In January 2009, 77.54 cubic meters of 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, 279.36 cubic meters).
- CBFO removed the Mobile Loading Unit from the Nevada Test Site. CBFO will continue to work with Nevada Site Office (NSO) to approve the remaining legacy TRU waste for shipment (23 Standard Waste Boxes and 27 drums). The Mobile Loading Unit is anticipated to return in April 2009.
- 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 (February)

- Repackaging operation will continue in the VERB. Any SWBs that did not pass CBFO's approval will be repackaged along with eight high radiation sources that require packaging guidance from CBFO.
- CBFO will send equipment to perform a gas generation test on eight drums. The gas generation test will be needed before the drums can be loaded into a TRUPACT II container.
- NSO will continue to work with the CBFO to validate characterization data for the remaining TRU waste.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Activities (January)

- Frenchman Flat
 - Alternative transport models continued to be evaluated.
 - The risk evaluation task was initiated with subcontracts awarded for risk expert support.
 - The third meeting was held to develop criteria for the long-term monitoring well network. Long-term monitoring criteria were documented.
 - Began comment resolution following review of the Phase II Corrective Action Unit (CAU) Transport model
- Pahute Mesa
 - Comments were received from NDEP on the Phase II Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP), Rev. 0, document and revisions were initiated.
 - Continued work on the Phase II drilling criteria document.
 - Completed construction of ER-20-7 access roads, drill pad and sumps
 - The Phase I Transport, Rev 1, document was submitted to the Department of Energy.
 - The Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report was initiated.
- Yucca Flat
 - Field work in support of the thermal investigations was delayed pending identification of funding requirements for Pahute Mesa drilling and testing.
 - A status briefing was provided to DOE and NDEP on January 14 on the transport analysis and evaluation.
 - Phase I flow and transport modeling analysis and evaluation efforts continued.
 - The simplified source term document was revised for final review.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
 - No activity

Planned Activities (February)

- Frenchman Flat
 - Alternative transport models will continue to be evaluated.
 - The risk evaluation task kickoff meeting will be held.
 - Complete comment resolution for the Phase II CAU Transport Model.
 - Continue support to FY 2009 fracture analysis task.
 - Conduct a fourth meeting to develop criteria for the long-term monitoring well network.
- Pahute Mesa
 - The Drilling Criteria document will be submitted for DOE review.
 - The Phase II CAIP, Rev 1, will be submitted for DOE and NDEP approval.
 - A public meeting will be held in Beatty, NV, on the status of the Pahute Mesa modeling and upcoming data collection tasks.
 - Continue compiling the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
 - Begin construction of the access road, drill pad and sumps at the ER-EC-11 well site
 - Begin construction of the conductor hole at the ER-20-7 well site
 - Stake remaining seven (7) new Phase II well site locations

- Yucca Flat
 - Phase I flow and transport modeling will continue.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
 - Continue support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling efforts.

Soils:

Activities (January)

- Continue working on the Radionuclide Inventory Distribution Project (RIDP) Analysis and Validation Whitepaper

Planned Activities (February)

- Submit RIDP and Validation Whitepaper to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).
- CAU 371, Johnnie Boy Crater and Pin Stripe
 - Submit the Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) to NDEP
- CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriolet/Palanquin Unit Craters
 - Conduct Data Quality Objectives meeting

Industrial Sites

Activities (January)

- Corrective Action Units (CAU) 90, 91, 92, 110 and 112
 - Received Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) approval for the Final Post-Closure Report
- CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
 - Submitted the Final Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan, Revision 1, to NDEP for approval
 - Continued closure field work
- CAU 117, Septic Systems
 - Continued closure field work
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
 - Continued closure field work
 - Submitted two Records of Technical Change, one for the Corrective Action Plan and one for the Corrective Action Decision Document, to NDEP and received NDEP approval
- CAU 168, Area 25 and 26 Contaminated Materials and Waste Dumps
 - Completed waste disposal activities
- CAU 546, Injection Well and Surface Releases
 - Received NDEP approval for the Final Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report
- CAU 560, Septic Systems
 - Completed drilling activities and support of Decision II sampling

Planned Activities (February)

- CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility
 - Begin closure field work
- CAU 116, Area 25 Test Cell C Facility
 - Receive NDEP approval for the Final SAFER Plan, Revision 1
 - Continue closure fieldwork
- CAU 117, Septic Systems
 - Continue closure field work

- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
 - Continue closure field work

Public Involvement:

Activities (January)

- Retrieved Operation Clean Desert display from Lied Discovery Children's Museum, after a three month exhibition. Distributed 291 books and 283 computer games
- Retrieved Environmental Management Poster Displays (Groundwater, Waste management, and Transportation) from UNLV Howard Hughes School of Engineering, after a six week exhibition.
- Promoted 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). Distributed over 40 Operation Clean Desert teacher packets, and distributed numerous Environmental Management poster display brochures.
- Participated in the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Nevada Test Site Programs Full Board meeting on January 28 and other CAB activities throughout the month.

Planned Activities (February)

- Conduct Nevada Test Site Groundwater Open House on February 18 in Beatty, Nevada.
- Operation Clean Desert event for Garehime Elementary School, February 19.
- Participate in CAB activities.
- Participate in the Waste Management Symposium in Phoenix, AZ.