

Environmental Management's Monthly Report to the CAB March 2009

Low-Level Waste (LLW)

Activities (February)

- The Nevada Site Office (NSO) conducted one Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) facility audit of PermaFix Florida. The audit discovered two (2) observations that PermaFix immediately closed. PermaFix Florida restarted shipping LLW/mixed LLW (MLLW) to the NTS on February 19, 2009
- An RWAP audit scheduled for this month of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) was postponed at the generator's request. LANL is not an approved generator and cannot ship LLW to the NTS as a generator under its own program until it is approved by the NSO.
- As of February 22, 2008, the cumulative LLW volume received for FY 2009 is 508,025 ft³ in 510 shipments. The cumulative MLLW volume received for FY 2009 is 5,701 ft³ in 13 shipments. LLW Operations has worked 439,178 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.
- The LLW Sub-Project conducted its Semi-Annual Joint Oversight Meeting with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on February 4, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to keep the NDEP informed and updated on disposal activities and other waste issues that interest the NDEP.

Planned Activities (March)

- Expect to receive over 115,000 ft³ of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month.
- The LLW Sub-Project plans to conduct two Impromptu Surveillances of generators.

Transuranic Waste (TRU)

Activities (February)

- Repackaging activities continued in the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB). Completed rework of Standard Waste Boxes (SWB) that were rejected by Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). Three SWBs remain that require CBFO guidance for rework if necessary.
- NSO continued to work with CBFO to validate characterization data for the repackaged waste to ensure compliance with the CBFO's repackaging requirements.
- In February 2009, no additional LLW from the VERB repackaging operations was disposed at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (total LLW disposed since the start of VERB operation in August 2008, 279.36 cubic meters).
- Received the Macropack Controller and commenced treatment of MLLW Oversized Boxes (OSB) debris in 11 containers.
- Dispositioned 3 MLLW OSBs for treatment with verification of no prohibited items or repackaging into standard Macropack boxes.
- CBFO will continue to work with NSO to approve the remaining legacy TRU waste for shipment (23 SWBs and 27 drums). The Mobile Loading Unit is anticipated to return in April 2009.
- NSO completed facility modifications and procedures in support of gas generation testing. The gas generation test is needed on eight drums prior to shipment in TRUPACT II container. CBFO will provide the test canisters and their final procedure.
- 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 (March)

- Repacking operation will continue in the VERB if necessary. Any rework SWBs that do not pass CBFO's approval will be repackaged along with eight high radiation sources that require packing guidance from CBFO.
- Gas generation testing of eight TRU waste drums will commence.
- Complete macroencapsulation of eleven boxes for disposal as MLLW. Received final four custom Macropack boxes to complete the final MLLW disposal.
- NSO will continue to work with the CBFO to validate characterization data for the remaining TRU waste.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

Activities (February)

- Frenchman Flat
 - Alternative transport models continued to be evaluated.
 - The risk evaluation task kickoff meeting was held on February 19, 2009.
 - Completed comment resolution for the Phase II Corrective Action Unit (CAU) Transport model document.
- Pahute Mesa
 - Continued work on the Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
 - Completed comment resolution for the Phase I Transport, Rev 1, document.
 - Obtained badges and NTTR EOD training for all NSTec personnel scheduled to work on ER-EC-11 drill site construction.
 - Participated in NNSA/NSO sponsored open house in Beatty, NV.
 - Provided input and cost estimates for proposed new work at the ER-EC-1 and ER-EC-6 sites and for drilling and completion work scope changes at the ER-20-7 and ER-EC-11 sites.
 - Continued support to acquisition of subcontracts for new well drilling and related services.
 - The Phase II CAIP, Rev 1, was submitted for DOE and NDEP approval on February 27, 2009.
 - A public meeting was held in Beatty, NV, on February 18, 2009, to present the status of the Pahute Mesa modeling and upcoming data collection tasks.
 - The Fluid Management and Waste Management plans were in development.
- Yucca Flat
 - Phase I flow and transport modeling continued.
 - The Unclassified Source Term and Radionuclide Data document was submitted on February 25, 2009.

Planned Activities (March)

- Frenchman Flat
 - The risk evaluation team will develop recommendations for further work.
 - Continue support to FY 2009 fracture analysis task and other geologic databases.
- Pahute Mesa
 - Complete the draft Phase II Well Drilling Criteria Report.
 - Stake remaining seven (7) new Phase II well site locations
 - Begin construction of 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
 - Sample ER-EC-1 and ER-EC-6 wells.
 - Continue support to acquisition of subcontracts for new well drilling and related services.
 - Revisions to field instructions will be completed.
 - The Fluid Management and Waste Management plans will be completed.
- 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.

Industrial Sites

Activities (February)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility
 - Completed closure strategy presentation
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Continued closure field work
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
 - Continued closure field work

Planned Activities (March)

- CAUs 5, 113, 115, 118, 127, 137, 140, 143, 145, 151, 165, 168, 204, 254, 261, 262, 309, 322, 339, 357, 383, 476, 477, 478, 482, 528, 529, 542, 543, 545, 551, 552, 554, and 559
 - Submit Final Post-Closure Inspection Letter Report to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). The letter report covers above-listed CAUs, which include contaminated waste sites, decontamination and decommissioning sites, inactive tanks, disposal wells, bunkers, drains and sumps, septic tanks and lagoons, inactive ponds and tunnel muckpiles, and spill sites.
- CAU 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well; CAU 92, Area 6 Decon Pond Facility; CAU 110, Area 3 WMD U-3ax/bl Crater; and CAU 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches
 - Perform Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
 - Complete closure field work
- CAU 139, Waste Disposal Sites
 - Complete closure field work
- CAUs 143, 165, 261, 262 & 528
 - Perform post-closure repairs
- CAU 166, Storage Yards and Contaminated Materials
 - Begin closure field work
- CAUs 400, 404, 407, 423, 424, 426, 427, 453, 484 & 487
 - Submit Final Post-Closure Inspection Report to NDEP
- CAU 563, Septic Systems
 - Submit Final Corrective Action Plan to NDEP

Soils:

Activities (February)

- CAU 107, Low Impact Soil Sites
 - Began closure field work
- CAU 371, Johnnie Boy Crater and Pin Stripe
 - Submitted the Final Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) to NDEP
- CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriole/Palanquin Unit Craters
 - Conducted Data Quality Objectives meeting

Planned Activities (March)

- CAU 370, T-4 Atmospheric Test Site
 - Submit Draft Corrective Action Decision Document/Closure Report to NDEP
- CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriole/Palanquin Unit Craters

- Submit Draft CAIP to NDEP

Public Involvement:

Activities (February)

- Supported and participated in the Nevada Test Site Groundwater Open House meeting in Beatty, Nevada (February 18). Approximately 40 members of the public attended, and the overall response from the public was positive. Newspaper reporters from the Pahrump Valley Times and Pahrump Mirror attended the event and plan to write an article.
- Held an Operation Clean Desert event at Garehime Elementary School in Las Vegas (February 19). The Operation Clean Desert display was presented, along with a PowerPoint presentation and question & answer period with nine class sessions. Distributed 253 activity books and 242 game CDs.
- Follow-up contact to the 40 area educators who attended the Southern Nevada Math and Science Teachers Conference (January 24, Rancho High School, Las Vegas).

Planned Activities (March)

- Attend CHOLLA (Clasping Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures) meeting (March 10). This group is comprised of area organizations and businesses promoting field trips and other learning opportunities to the Clark County School District.
- Set up Waste Management Timeline Poster Display, Transportation Poster Display, Transportation Drum Display, and the Groundwater Poster Display at the Clark County Offices for two-week duration (March 13-27).
- Public Involvement provided planning, presentation, and logistical support to, and will host a booth during the Waste Management Symposium 2009 (Phoenix, Arizona), March 1 - 5.