

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

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

#### **Activities (September)**

- The LLW Sub-Project conducted a Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) Certification audit of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. A Nevada Division of Environmental Protection observer participated on the Audit. The team identified seven observations, and LANL was successful at closing four (4) during the audit. The RWAP Lead Auditor will be working with LANL to close out the remaining observations, which must be closed before the LLW Sub-Project will certify the LANL program. After LANL receives its certification, it will be an approved generator. LANL will then be placed on a regular surveillance/audit verification schedule.
- The LLW Sub-Project participated on a Construction Project Review (CPR) in Oak Ridge, TN. The Project will be down blending highly enriched uranium with depleted uranium for possible disposal at the Nevada Test Site. The Sub-Project's assignment on the review was to ensure that the down blended product would meet the Nevada Test Site's Waste Acceptance Criteria. At this early stage, the LLW Sub-Project provided guidance to help the Down Blending Project move toward its goal.
- As of September 27, 2009, the cumulative LLW volume received for FY 2009 is 1,153,787 ft<sup>3</sup> in 1,334 shipments. The cumulative mixed low-level waste (MLLW) volume received for FY 2009 is 72,997 ft<sup>3</sup> in 125 shipments.
- On July 27, 2009, while inspecting equipment at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Acceptance Complex (RWMC) site, a worker injured his knee. The worker was taken to on-site medical for evaluation of right knee on July 28. Later he was released without work restrictions, asked for a follow-up (scheduled by medical for August 4 and 11), and the case was classified as a first aid injury. After the follow up reevaluations NTS Occupation Medicine schedule a medical examination of his knee at an outside orthopedic center on September 15. That examination resulted in the worker receiving knee surgery on September 23. The surgery changed the initial reporting status from first aid with full work duty to a lost work day and a reportable injury. This is the first lost work day at the Area 5 RMWC since September 9, 2003.

#### **Planned Activities (October)**

- Expect to receive approximately 1,668,187 ft<sup>3</sup> (951,236 ft<sup>3</sup> will be ARRA funded) of LLW and MLLW for disposal in FY 2010.
- Expect to receive approximately 152,000 ft<sup>3</sup> (76,000 ft<sup>3</sup> will be ARRA funded) of LLW and MLLW for disposal during the month.
- During the week of October 19, 2009, the LLW Federal Sub-Project Director will be participating on the Radioactive Waste Federal Review Group meeting at the Savannah River Site. This meeting is to help standardize LLW disposal activities across the nation.
- During the week of October 26, 2009, the LLW Sub-Project will participate in the Fall Generators' Workshop in Albuquerque, NM.
- During the month of October, the LLW Sub-Project will conduct one (1) RWAP impromptu survey of a generator.
- The Sub-Project will conduct one (1) RWAP audit Battelle Energy Alliance in Idaho on the week of October 19, 2009. The NDEP will observe the audit.

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

#### **Activities (September)**

- Frenchman Flat
  - Completed support to FY 2009 fracture analysis task and other geologic databases.
- Pahute Mesa
  - Completed construction of the ER-20-8 #2 well at a total depth of 2,338 feet on September 2. (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
  - Tritium was seen in discrete sections of the Benham Aquifer. Highest activity seen was 142,000 pCi/L.
  - Completed mobilization to the ER-EC-11 well site on September 8 and began drilling the main hole on September 12, set 20 inch surface casing at 1,656 feet and currently drilling below 2,200 feet.
  - Completed the draft Well Completion Report for Well ER-20-7 and distributed copies for review.
  - Completed fracture analysis of image logs from wells ER-20-7 and ER-20-8 for incorporation into the Characterization Contractor's fracture database.
  - Completed the Phase II Transport document.
- Yucca Flat
  - Completed FY 2009 support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
  - Completed FY 2009 support to the Phase I flow and transport modeling.
  - Completed evaluation of the geometry of imbricate thrust faults beneath Rainier Mesa.
  - Completed compiling information about water seeps in Rainier Mesa tunnels.

#### Planned Activities (October)

- Frenchman Flat
  - Begin FY 2010 support to the monitoring well network, model documentation and the peer review.
- Pahute Mesa
  - Complete construction of the ER-EC-11 well and demobilize drilling and related equipment.
  - Begin well development, testing and characterization sampling of the ER-20-8 #2 well.
  - Begin construction of the access road, drill pad and sumps at the ER-EC-12 site.
  - Review and resolve comments and issue the final Well Completion Report for ER-20-7; continue working on the Well Completion Reports for ER-20-8, ER-20-8 #2 and ER-EC-11.
  - Begin support of modeling and documentation, and hydrogeology analysis and evaluation.
- Yucca Flat
  - Begin FY 2010 support to transport modeling and model documentation.
- Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain
  - Begin FY 2010 support of flow and transport modeling efforts.
  - Begin evaluation of water seep data compilation from Rainier Mesa.

#### **Industrial Sites:**

##### Activities (September)

- Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 91, Area 3 U-3fi Injection Well
  - Performed Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 92, Area 6 Decon Pond Facility
  - Performed Post-Closure Inspection
- CAU 110, Area 3 Waste Management Disposal U-3ax/bl Crater
  - Performed Post-Closure Inspection and subsidence survey
- CAU 112, Area 23 Hazardous Waste Trenches
  - Performed Post-Closure Inspection

- CAU 113, Area 25 R-MAD Facility
  - Performed housekeeping activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 114, Area 25 EMAD Facility
  - Disposed of low-level waste
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
  - Began housekeeping activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 166, Storage Yards and Contaminated Materials
  - Submitted Final Closure Report (CR) to NDEP
  - Received approval from NDEP for Final CR
- CAU 408, Bomblet Target Area (Tonopah Test Range)
  - Performed field remediation activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
  - Performed Waste Management activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 562, Waste Systems
  - Performed field remediation activities
  - Performed Waste Management activities
- CAU 563, Septic Systems
  - Began field remediation activities

Planned Activities (October)

- CAU 113, Area 25 R-MAD Facility
  - Begin site setup activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 117, Area 26 Pluto Disassembly Facility
  - Complete housekeeping activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 408, Bomblet Target Area (Tonopah Test Range)
  - Submit Final Streamlines Approach for Environmental Restoration Plan Rev. 1 to NDEP (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
  - Continue field remediation activities (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 563, Septic Systems
  - Complete field remediation activities

**Soils:**

Activities (September)

- CAU 367, Area 10 Sedan, Ess and Uncle Unit Craters
  - Conducted Data Quality Objectives (DQO) Meeting (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)

Planned Activities (October)

- CAU 372, Area 20 Cabriolet/Palanquin Unit Craters
  - Perform field remediation activities
- CAU 374, Area 20 Unit Schooner Crater
  - Conduct DQO Meeting (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 375, Area 30 Buggy Unit Craters

- Conduct DQO Meeting (Funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)
- CAU 411, Double Tracks Plutonium Dispersion (Nellis)
  - Conduct fence repair
- CAU 412, Clean Slate I Plutonium Dispersion (TTR)
  - Conduct fence repair
- CAU 413, Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion (TTR)
  - Conduct fence repair
- CAU 414, Clean Slate III Plutonium Dispersion (TTR)
  - Conduct fence repair

## **Public Involvement**

### **Activities (September)**

- Thirty-one (31) members of the public (including four representing media) attended the Open House in Pahrump on September 2, 2009 regarding the Nevada Site Office submittal of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit application for the construction and operation of a new mixed low-level waste disposal cell.
- The Nevada Site Office hosted several public scoping meetings regarding the development of a new Nevada Test Site Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS). These open house style meetings provided the public an opportunity to present comments, ask questions, and discuss issues with Nevada Site Office representatives regarding the SWEIS. Approximately 35 members of the public attended the two meetings held in Las Vegas on September 10 and a total of 45 attended the meetings held in Pahrump, Tonopah, and St. George on September 14, 16, and 18, respectively.
- The Operation Clean Desert (OCD) learning trio (display, activity book, and computer game) and the poster displays for Waste Management, Transportation, and Groundwater were promoted during the Clark County School District K-12 Social Studies Colloquium at Hyde Park Middle School on Thursday afternoon, September 24, 2009. During the hour-long event, 17 teachers were provided grade-tailored packets with options to include: Operation Clean Desert brochure, activity book, computer game, and lesson plan with worksheet; brochures on the poster displays; list of potentially applicable social studies objectives; maps of the Nevada Test Site, and; Public Outreach brochure with information on Speakers Bureau and available publications.
- Fifty (50) copies of the OCD activity book and computer game were provided to the Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office along with five (5) copies of the OCD brochure for distribution at the visitor center.
- One (1) OCD teacher packet (activity book, computer game, lesson plan, and brochure), the Public Outreach brochure, and the Environmental Management brochure were provided to the Northern New Mexico Community Advisory Board
- One (1) OCD teacher packet (activity book, computer game, and brochure) was provided to the Speech Therapist at Cartwright Elementary School in Las Vegas, NV.
- Supported the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs activities.

### **Planned Activities (October)**

- Environmental Management Public Involvement will be hosting a session/briefing on *Nevada Test Site Activities and Operation Clean Desert* at the Clark County School District Fall New Teacher Conference on October 24<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that 35 teachers will participate in the session which requires pre-registration.
- Support the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs activities.

