

**Environmental Management's (EM)
Monthly Report to the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
December 2011**

Waste Management

- Cumulative waste volumes will now be reported on a quarterly basis. The numbers reported will be preliminary pending audit. Audits are conducted approximately six months later.
- The investigation into the shipment from Batelle Energy Alliance (BEA) containing several wooden boxes with leaking absorbent material continues. No leakage of radioactive material was detected. A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been submitted to and approved by the Nevada Site Office (NSO). The NSO Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) will conduct an on-site facility evaluation of BEA to verify BEA implementation of their CAP. This evaluation is scheduled for the week of December 12.
- Investigation into the 17 waste shipments from Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico), with contaminated trailer beds in excess of Department of Energy release limits continues. No radioactive contamination was found on any packages and no containers were found to be leaking. The generator has suspended all further waste shipments until a CAP has been submitted to and approved by the NSO, and implemented.
- The NSO's Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted an impromptu surveillance of the UCOR generator on the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee. One minor observation was made concerning the need for additional clarification of the generator procedures regarding LLW contaminated with polychlorinated-biphenyls (a special case waste stream which UCOR has not previously disposed at the Nevada National Security Site). UCOR responded to the observations included in the surveillance report and NSO closed the issue.
- The NSO RWAP conducted an impromptu surveillance of the West Valley generator in New York. Four minor observations were discovered. The surveillance report will be sent to West Valley by mid December. West Valley will have 30 days from the date of receipt to respond.
- The NSO conducted an RWAP Audit of the Brookhaven National Laboratory generator and one minor observation regarding their outside supplier evaluation processes was identified. Brookhaven will have 30 days to respond.
- Per the holiday schedule, the Nevada National Security Site will not accept Low Level Waste during the last two weeks of December.
- The NSO continues to host the Transportation Working Group meetings to discuss transportation topics related to the draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement. Members of the group are made up of State, county, local and advisory board representatives.

Underground Test Area (UGTA)

CAU 97, Yucca Flat

UGTA continues to conduct additional analyses on the flow and transport model.

CAU 98, Frenchman Flat

Model results for ER-11-2 construction on the conductor hole (the first hole drilled at a well site to accommodate the surface casing) at the ER-11-2 site scheduled for November has been postponed until

January to take advantage of favorable weather for work at Pahute Mesa. The current plan calls for drilling two model evaluation wells with the main hole construction starting in the June/July 2012 time frame.

CAU 99, Rainier Mesa/Shoshone Mountain

Flow and transport modeling analyses and evaluation continues.

CAUs 101/102, Pahute Mesa

Well development and testing of Well ER-EC-12 will continue through December. Access road, drill pad, and sump construction at the ER-20-11 well site was completed in November. This work is partially funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Installation of the conductor hole at ER-20-11 will be completed in December. Current plans call for two additional Phase I investigation wells (ER-EC-14 and ER-20-11) to be drilled in the September/October 2012 time frame.

Industrial Sites

Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites

Closure activities continued at CAU 547 in November. CAU 547 consists of radioactively-contaminated gas sampling assemblies at three different historic testing locations: Mullet, Tejon/Bernallilo, and Player. Closure work for these assemblies consists of closure in place by capping the assemblies with a grouted metal casing and installing a soil cover on exposed piping. In November, waste disposal from Mullet, casing fabrication for the Tejon/Bernallilo, and Player sites (funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act [ARRA]), and placement of monuments, use restriction signs, and fencing at Tejon/Bernallilo was completed. In December, waste disposal from Tejon will be performed.

CAU 548, Areas 9, 10, 18, 19, and 20 Housekeeping Sites

In November, Phase II closure activities were completed at CAU 548. CAU 548 consists of 20 Corrective Action Sites (CASs), including items such as drums or spills. The closure activities included excavation of stained soil, debris removal, and verification and characterization sample collection. Preliminary results from samples collected in mid-October were received, and additional remediation will be required at the Area 9 stained soil area. In December, Phase III closure activities are expected to be completed where verification samples showed remaining contamination, and batteries located near E-Tunnel will be removed for disposal. Excavations that are clean will be backfilled and some waste will be disposed or moved to Area 5 for storage prior to disposal.

CAU 562, Waste Systems

CAU 562 consists of 13 CASs, including items such as septic tanks, drains, and outfalls. In November, closure activities continued, including collecting waste characterization samples, septic tank pumping, staging of clean soil for backfill, and clean up of asbestos tiles and lead shot. Closure activities at CAU 562 will continue in December.

CAU 566, Engine Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly (EMAD) Compound

Repair of the damaged wall of the EMAD building was completed in November.

Non- Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Post Closure Monitoring Sites

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites are 59 CAUs where post-closure monitoring and maintenance is required in accordance with the closure requirements. Post-closure monitoring at these

sites is required annually and is conducted during October, November and December. In November, inspections began and a use restriction sign was replaced at CAU 370 (T-4 Atmospheric Test Site); inspections will be completed in December.

RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites are five CAUs where post-closure monitoring and maintenance is required in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Post-closure monitoring at these CAUs is required either quarterly or semi-annually. The September inspections for the sites indicated that maintenance (removal of animal burrows, vegetation and debris; sign replacement; and fence repair) was required. This maintenance was performed in November. Quarterly/semi-annual inspections will be completed in December.

Soils

CAU 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

Field investigation activities to determine the nature and extent of contamination began at CAU 104 in November. CAU 104 comprises 15 Corrective Action Sites (CASs). Field investigation of these sites will consist of soil sampling and thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) measurements. These activities will continue in December.

CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites

Field investigation activities at CAU 366 continued in November and consisted of soil sampling and TLD measurements to determine the nature and extent of contamination. CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Field activities will continue in December.

CAU 465, Hydronuclear

On November 7, the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) Plan for CAU 465 was submitted to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) with NDEP approval of the SAFER received on November 15. The SAFER Plan is an enforceable milestone under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO) and details the investigation and planned closure activities conducted at the CAU. The CAU 465 SAFER Plan was funded by ARRA. With the approval of the SAFER Plan, soil sampling will begin in December.

CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area

In November, walkover surveys were conducted at CAU 550 to support the development of the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs). The DQO process is a seven-step approach to plan investigation activities. The DQOs ensure that the data collected will provide sufficient information to recommend corrective actions for CAU 550. The DQOs will be included in the Corrective Action Investigation Plan (CAIP) for CAU 550, which is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO. CAU 550 comprises 19 CASs.

CAU 569, Area 3 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites

Development of the CAIP for CAU 569 began in November. The CAIP is an enforceable milestone under the FFACO and outlines the plan to characterize the nine sites comprising the CAU. CAIP development will continue in December. The CAIP is due to NDEP by March.

CAU 574, Neptune

CAU 574 comprises two CASs. In November, data analysis began on TLDs retrieved from CAU 574 to measure external dose. In December, data analysis and development of the Closure Report will

continue.

Public Involvement:

- Ongoing exhibits:
 - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room, Las Vegas
 - *Groundwater at the Nevada National Security Site* poster – Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, and Central Nevada Museum
- Publications:
 - Environmental Management (EM) News Flash: *Radiation Levels in Real Time? There's an app for that!*
- Outreach Activities:
 - Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) presentation, November 10th to the California Energy Board
 - November 9 Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board Membership Committee meeting