

**Environmental Management's (EM)  
Monthly Report to the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board  
February 2012**

**Waste Management**

- Waste disposal volumes will be updated at the end of the second quarter.
- Investigation into the 17 waste shipments from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) 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 third draft Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was submitted to the Nevada Site Office (NSO) in early December but rejected due to numerous comments, including failure to identify a root cause. The generator has suspended all further waste shipments until a CAP has been approved by the NSO and implemented.
- The Nevada Site Office's Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) conducted an impromptu surveillance of the General Atomic generator in California. Two minor observations were made: lack of a planned inspection process for waste container receipts; and procedural inconsistencies when identifying waste types during profiling. The surveillance report will be sent to General Atomic in February and they will have 30 days to respond.
- RWAP began an impromptu surveillance at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee on January 30. Results of this facility evaluation will be included in the next monthly report.
- Two impromptu surveillances will be conducted in the month of February.

**Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

***Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat***

Additional analyses on the flow and transport model continues.

***CAU 98, Frenchman Flat***

The current plan for Frenchman Flat calls for drilling two model evaluation wells (ER-5-5 and ER-11-2) with the main hole construction starting in the July 2012 timeframe. In January, the installation of the conductor hole (the very first hole drilled at a well site to accommodate the conductor casing) at the ER-5-5 site was completed. In February, comment resolution will be completed following review of the Frenchman Flat Model Evaluation Drilling Criteria draft document and construction of the conductor hole at the ER-11-2 site will be completed.

***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 and development of the hydrostratigraphic framework model continues. Also in January, installation of the conductor hole at the ER-20-11 site was completed. Current plans for Pahute Mesa call for two additional Phase II 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) 111, Areas 5 WMD Retired Mixed Waste Pits***

In February, the final Closure Report (CR) for CAU 111 will be submitted to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). The CR is an enforceable milestone under the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO), and details the actions taken for closure of the site. Closure activities included construction of an engineered evapotranspiration cover, installation of use restriction signs and monuments, and establishing vegetation on the cover. NDEP's response is expected in March; if approved, the CAU will be considered to be closed in place, with post-closure monitoring requirements.

### ***CAU 547, Miscellaneous Contaminated Waste Sites***

Closure activities continue at CAU 547. CAU 547 consists of radioactively-contaminated gas sampling assemblies at three different historic testing locations: Mullet, Tejon/Bernalillo, and Player. Closure work consists of closure in place by capping expansion joints with grouted metal casings and installing soil covers over exposed piping. The Mullet and Tejon/Bernalillo site work is complete. In January, closure work began at Player, including construction of the access road into the York crater and benches to the piping on the crater slope, utility surveys, debris removal, and concrete pad construction for placement of casings. Closure activities at Player are expected to be complete by April.

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

CAU 548 consists of 20 housekeeping sites, including drums, waste piles, and batteries. Closure field work associated with CAU 548 is complete. In January, the low-level waste soil associated with CAU 548 were transported and disposed at the Ares 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site. The remaining mixed low-level waste associated with CAU 548 is expected to be disposed in April.

### ***CAU 562, Waste Systems***

CAU 562 consists of 13 Corrective Action Sites (CASs), including items such as septic tanks, drains, and outfalls. In January, closure activities continued, including demolition and disposal of a shed; removal of paint from building pads and additional lead and steel shot; excavation and disposal of impacted piping and soil, two distribution boxes, and a mud trap; and collection of verification samples. Hazardous waste was transported off site for disposal. Closure activities at CAU 562 are expected to be completed in February.

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

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include 119 CASs in 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 in October, November, and December. Inspections were completed in December and sign replacements were required at a total of 36 CASs. These sign replacements began in January and will continue through approximately June.

### ***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 quarterly/semi-annual inspections were completed in December. The inspections indicated that maintenance (backfilling of

animal burrows, vegetation removal; and sign replacement). In January, the area of concentrated animal burrowing at CAU 110 was backfilled with the remaining maintenance to be performed in February.

## **Soils**

### ***Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 104, Area 7 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

Field investigation activities to determine the nature and extent of contamination continued at CAU 104. CAU 104 comprises 15 CASs. In January, soil sampling began and retrieval of thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) was completed. Soil sampling will continue in February.

### ***CAU 366, Area 11 Plutonium Valley Dispersion Sites***

CAU 366 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In January, demobilization activities related to the field investigation were completed. Preliminary analytical data was received and reviewed, and TLD retrieval was completed. In February, analytical data will continue to be analyzed.

### ***CAU 465, Hydronuclear***

In January, sampling was completed and preliminary analytical results were received and reviewed for the four CASs comprising CAU 465. In February, boreholes associated with the CAU will be grouted.

### ***CAU 550, Smoky Contamination Area***

The development of the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) continues. The DQO process is a seven-step approach to plan investigation activities ensuring 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 Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO). CAU 550 comprises 19 CASs.

### ***CAU 569, Area 3 Yucca Flat Atmospheric Test Sites***

Development of the CAIP for CAU 569 continues. 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 and is due to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) by March.

### ***CAU 574, Neptune***

CAU 574 comprises two CASs. Data analysis and development of the Closure Report continues. The Closure Report is due to NDEP in May.

## **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: *Biologists Re-vegetate Historical Disposal Area at the Nevada National Security Site*
- Outreach:
  - Distributed a total of 150 Operation Clean Desert activity books and computer games

- Support:
  - Membership Committee meeting (January 9)
  - Full Board meeting (January 18)
  - Soils Committee meeting (January 25)