



U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office

EM NEWS FLASH



Open House Attendees Gain Insight on NNSS Low-Level Waste Disposal

Dozens of community members recently gathered in Pahrump to learn more about the low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste disposal program at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

On June 19, 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NSO) hosted a Waste Management Open House to provide information on the [NSO waste management program](#) as well as talk one-on-one with attendees.



NSO health physicist, Kathryn Knapp, talks to a community member about radiation basics.

Approximately 65 people from various communities near the NNSS, including Pahrump, Las Vegas, Amargosa Valley, and Alamo, attended the event, held at the Bob Ruud Community Center. Attendees browsed various [posters](#) on topics such as waste acceptance criteria, transportation, regulations, monitoring, and safety at the NNSS. Waste management experts were available to discuss background information, maps, and related studies while answering questions.

“We were pleased with the level of community interest,” said NSO Public Affairs Specialist, Kelly Snyder. “Attendees seemed appreciative to get instant feedback on their questions, many of which centered on how low-level and mixed low-level waste is generated, how transportation routes are selected, and why the NNSS is a suitable location for low-level waste disposal.”

The NNSS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS), which has been operating for more than 50 years, was a focus of interest as well. Community members viewed images of the RWMS’ network of excavated cells used for the disposal of [low-level radioactive waste](#) and learned about the rigorous safety and monitoring practices that govern disposal activities. In addition, they received information on the RWMS’ [mixed low-level waste](#) facility, which is permitted to accept waste containing both low-level radioactive and hazardous components.

Open house attendees interested in seeing the Area 5 RWMS in person were invited to take part in an NNSS tour on July 17, 2012. The tour, which is available via reservation until July 4, 2012 (limited to 50 people), will include a lengthy stop at the RWMS as well as visits to the Mercury Fire Station and the historic Sedan crater.

“Our goal is to get information about NNSS waste disposal operations out to the public and provide answers to all related questions,” said Snyder.

To view all open house posters, visit this [link](#). For more information on the tour, call 702-295-3521 or e-mail envmgt@nv.doe.gov.