



## Nevada Site Office News

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### **For Immediate Release:**

February 9, 2004

### **NNSA Releases Environmental Monitoring Report**

Recently, the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) released the *Nevada Test Site Annual Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 2002*. According to the report neither airborne nor groundwater radioactivity from the Nevada Test Site was detected offsite. The report, published in October 2003, includes monitoring conducted by Bechtel Nevada, the management and operations contractor at the Nevada Test Site for the NNSA, and the Community Environmental Monitoring Program under direction of the Desert Research Institute of the University and College System of Nevada.

Bruce Hurley, Nevada Site Office environmental monitoring program manager, noted the environmental monitoring results are evidence that activities at the Nevada Test Site are being conducted in a manner that safeguards the environment.

Bechtel Nevada oversees the onsite environmental surveillance on the Nevada Test Site covering areas from past nuclear testing to current operational activities. During calendar year 2002, 160 air monitoring samples were collected and analyzed for radioactive particulates by gamma spectroscopy. All radionuclides detected by the gamma spectroscopy were naturally-occurring in the environment, except for one sample in which a minimum concentration of Cesium-37 was detected. Monitoring also included water samples from onsite supply wells, drinking water distribution systems, and selected off-site water sources analyzed for radioactivity and found to be in conformance with standards in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (40 CFR 141) and the Energy Department Order 5400.5.

Off-site monitoring is conducted by the Community Environmental Monitoring Program composed of 25 monitoring stations surrounding the Nevada Test Site monitoring airborne radioactivity and weather conditions. Each station is operated by local citizens, including science teachers, farmers, and ranchers, trained to independently verify the results of the environmental monitoring. The monitors are knowledgeable spokespersons on subjects ranging from radiation detection to identification of environmental concerns of people in their communities. For more information about the monitoring program, visit the web site at <http://www.cemp.dri.edu/cemp.html>.

The report is available in the NNSA's Public Reading Facility located at 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV, as well as the Nevada Site Office website at <http://www.nv.doe.gov>.