



## Nevada Site Office News

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### **Mississippi's Historic Nuclear Testing Site Entering Long-Term Surveillance and Monitoring Phase**

Mississippi's historic nuclear testing site, the Salmon Site, will formally enter into the U.S. Department of Energy's long-term surveillance and monitoring phase on October 1, 2006. The site, located 21 miles southwest of Hattiesburg at the Tatum Salt Dome, was issued a Notice of Completion letter by the State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality indicating the characterization work was completed at the site.

Future surveillance and monitoring activities at the Salmon Site will be the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management. Previously, the site was remediated and monitored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management.

To ensure all citizens are aware of the inter-department transition and have the opportunity to meet with U.S. Department of Energy staff, the Office of Legacy Management and the Office of Environmental Management will host an Open House and Informational Meeting on March 29 at the City of Purvis Voting Precinct building located at 112 Shelby Speights Drive in Purvis, Miss.

The Open House will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and will provide citizens with the opportunity to speak one-on-one with U.S. Department of Energy staff as well as time to review and discuss informational exhibits. The U.S. Department of Energy's Legacy Management and Environmental Management Offices will provide briefings related to historic, remediation, and future Salmon Site activities during the Informational Meeting which will begin at 7:00 p.m. State of Mississippi staff will also be available during the Open House and Informational Meeting.

From 1964-1970 four tests were conducted at the Salmon Site as part of a U.S. government effort to improve the nation's ability to detect underground nuclear explosions. The first two tests utilized nuclear detonations and the final two involved conventional explosives. Salt domes were considered ideal locations for testing because salt is self-sealing, thus radioactivity from tests would remain inside the salt dome.

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