



Nevada Site Office News

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National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Releases Environmental Monitoring Report

No airborne or groundwater radioactivity from current Nevada Test Site (NTS) operations was detected off-site in calendar year 2006. This is the assessment of the *Nevada Test Site Annual Site Environmental Report 2006*, released by the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO). The report includes monitoring conducted by National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), the management and operations contractor at NTS, and the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) under the direction of the Desert Research Institute of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Off-site groundwater monitoring is conducted by NSTec and CEMP. NSTec monitored 16 off-site groundwater wells and 7 off-site springs, and CEMP monitored 20 wells, 4 springs, and 3 surface water locations in 2006.

Bruce Hurley, NSO environmental monitoring program manager, noted "The environmental monitoring results once again confirmed that activities on the NTS are being conducted in a manner that safeguards workers, the environment, and the public." Mr. Hurley added, "In addition to radiological results, air and water quality samples confirm that no hazardous constituents were released off the NTS."

Off-site air monitoring is conducted by the CEMP which is composed of 29 air sampling stations surrounding the NTS. Two new stations, one in Duckwater, Nevada and one between Shoshone and Tecopa, California, were added in 2006. The emphasis of the program is to monitor airborne radioactivity and weather conditions and make the results available to the public. Each station is operated by local citizens, including science teachers, farmers, and ranchers, who are trained to independently verify monitoring results. These individuals are knowledgeable on subjects ranging from radiation detection to identifying environmental concerns for people in their communities. Visit <http://www.cemp.dri.edu/cemp.html> for more information on the monitoring program.

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