



EM UPDATE

Working Today To Protect Your Future

Winter 2006

AMEM Corner

by Stephen Mellington.....Page 2

Legacy TRU Shipment Finale

by Michelle Meade.....Page 3

Independent Study Finds Amchitka Marine Environment Safe

by Angela Ramsey.....Page 4

Environmental Management Partner: Los Alamos National Laboratory

by Rosemary Rehfeldt.....Page 5-6

Michael Giblin Retires

by Nick Duhe.....Page 7

Low-Level Waste Shipments Continue to Decline

by Dona Merritt.....Page 8

Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal Update

by Dona Merritt.....Page 9

Environmental Management Puts Project Management to the Test

by Angela Ramsey.....Page 10

Environmental Management Activities at Project Shoal Area

by Nick Duhe.....Page 11

Project Shoal in the Lime(stone) Light

by Michelle Meade.....Page 12

Congratulations to Public Involvement Staff for Achieving IAP2 Certification

by Rosemary Rehfeldt.....Page 13

In Remembrance

.....Page 14

Nevada Test Site Public Tours

.....Page 15

Contact Information

.....Page 16

Information Request

.....Page 17

AMEM Corner

by Stephen Mellington

As fiscal year 2006 enters its second quarter, the success of our Environmental Management (EM) mission becomes much more evident. The contributions of the Nevada Site Office (NSO) Waste Management Project have played a significant role in this success through the completion of the Nevada Test Site legacy transuranic waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and by providing a safe and cost-effective facility for the disposal of low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste.

In addition to its vast Waste Management contributions, the NSO EM Program is matching that success in the Environmental Restoration Project. NSO EM is moving forward to complete nearly 100 Industrial Sites and Offsites restoration activities in FY 2006 which include removing downed trees and other debris left by Hurricane Katrina at the Salmon Site location in Mississippi.

Accomplishing these restoration activities is a priority which could not be fulfilled without the hard work and dedication of the entire NSO EM team. This year, a member of our team retired and I would like to take a moment and extend my appreciation to Michael Giblin. One of his many achievements, and a direct result of his perseverance, is the recent acceptance of off-site generated mixed low-level radioactive waste for disposal at the Nevada Test Site. I wish Michael the best in all future endeavors!

In addition to the invaluable support of the men and women like Michael, management of the NSO EM program requires open communications and cooperation between EM and national security missions at the Nevada Test Site. As reported in the Spring 2004 issue of EM Update, it was planned that EM programs operating at National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sites, such as the NSO, would incorporate their work under NNSA's purview. NNSA operates under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a semi-autonomous agency and is charged, in part, with maintaining and enhancing the safety, reliability, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, including the ability to design, produce, and test, in order to meet national security requirements. However, Secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman, decided not to pursue Congressional approval of this transfer and instead formulated an agreement to address EM activities occurring at NNSA sites. This agreement streamlines reporting requirements between DOE and NNSA and identifies the budget authority and cleanup policy guidance. It is a solid foundation for EM to continue conducting activities in pursuit of its mission. Here at the NSO, on the surface it means business as usual for the EM Program and the Community Advisory Board.



Stephen Mellington,
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management
(AMEM)

Legacy TRU Shipment Finale

by Michelle Meade

The Nevada Site Office (NSO) is proud of the significant accomplishment the Transuranic (TRU) Project has achieved by completing the Nevada Test Site's (NTS) legacy TRU waste drum shipping campaign, which began in January 2004 and was completed on November 9, 2005.

Marked by three shipments that departed from the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) on November 8 and the final three on November 9, a total of forty-eight (48) TRU waste shipments or 1,860 drums were shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) with no incidents. As well as being a major success for the NSO and U.S. Department of Energy, this milestone was executed with the utmost safety and security.

Since the 1970s, these legacy waste drums have been in storage at the NTS in 55-gallon drums and 85-gallon overpack drums and were destined for permanent disposal at WIPP near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Most of the waste was generated by weapons research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and has been stored at the RWMC in a steel-framed, fabric-covered structure known as the TRU Pad Cover Building. All the waste in this campaign has undergone characterization prior to shipment, which was performed by Bechtel Nevada (the management and operating contractor for the NTS) and WIPP's Central Characterization Project (CCP).

In addition to the legacy drums, the project shipped the classified TRU waste drums generated from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado, which have been stored at the NTS since the 1980s.

Joanne F. Norton, Acting Sub-Project Director of the TRU Project expresses gratitude to the many contributors, "We have many parties to thank for achieving this milestone. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the NTS Community Advisory Board for their support of the project, the California Highway Patrol, Nevada Highway Patrol, and the Nevada State Health Division for performing inspections and escorting duties for the shipments, and from the field Bechtel Nevada and the CCP for diligently working towards getting every drum to WIPP. We could not have done it without the hard work and support of the DOE Environmental Management headquarters staff and the Carlsbad Field Office staff not to mention the essential teamwork that was exhibited at the Nevada Site Office."

Although the shipping campaign of the drums is complete, the TRU Project looks forward to a new challenge - reducing the physical size and repackaging legacy waste currently found in 58 oversized boxes that remain in storage in the TRU Pad Cover Building. The TRU Project is currently pursuing a contractor to head this effort with the expectation that disposal of remaining mixed-TRU waste is to be completed in fiscal year 2007 which will mark another milestone for the TRU Project.

Please visit http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/factsheets/DOENV_787_Rev1.pdf for more information on the Transuranic Waste Project at the Nevada Test Site.



Escorted by Carlsbad fire and rescue, the final shipment with two TRUPACT II containers enters WIPP.

Independent Study Finds Amchitka Marine Environment Safe

by Angela Ramsey

An independent team of scientists recently studied Amchitka Island's marine life and found no evidence that radionuclides from past nuclear tests have compromised the area's fish and wildlife. The Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation, or CRESP, performed the comprehensive study over the course of three separate expeditions in the summer of 2004. Their findings were released in August, 2005.

The governor of the state of Alaska made a request for the independent assessment in a letter to the Secretary of Energy after Aleutian communities expressed concern over the safety of their food sources. Radionuclides were released into the Amchitka subsurface environment during a series of underground nuclear tests from 1965 to 1971. Since then, questions have been raised over whether these radionuclides could migrate into the sea and affect wildlife.

The remote island of Amchitka is located in the Aleutian Island chain between the Bering Sea and the North Pacific. The island is one of 129 DOE sites requiring long-term stewardship.

This most recent research effort set out to look at this question and to provide valuable insight into future monitoring and stewardship options. CRESP's approach involved collecting a large number of samples and then measuring the samples' radionuclide content. Researchers sampled biota from seabirds, marine algae, invertebrates and fish throughout the island. Results concluded that radionuclide levels were within the range of biota found in other marine environments in the Northern Hemisphere. In fact, all levels of radionuclides measured "far below" any human health food safety standard.

In interviews, CRESP participants have said the findings should provide assurance to those in the region who depend upon the fish and other wildlife for subsistence food. But they also stress the importance of using their findings as a baseline for future data gathering and monitoring. To learn more about CRESP, or to view the Amchitka report in its entirety, visit: <http://www.cresp.org>.

CRESP is an interdisciplinary, multi-university research body that performs independent risk evaluations for U.S.

Department of Energy (DOE) sites facing cleanup or long-term stewardship. Though independent, CRESP works in concert with other entities. For the Amchitka study, CRESP's approach was reviewed by the State of Alaska, DOE, the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Stakeholders, such as residents of Unalaska, Nikolski, Atka, and Adak, also played a vital role in the design and refinement of CRESP's research plan.

EM Partner: Los Alamos National Laboratory

by Rosemary Rehfeldt

Located on the Pajarito Plateau in northern New Mexico's Jemez Mountains, Los Alamos National Laboratory was created in early 1943. Under the U.S. Army's Special Engineer Detachment, scientists secretly gathered at this remote location for a single purpose: to design and build an atomic bomb. That mission, code-named "The Manhattan Project," resulted in a swift end to World War II and ushered in the atomic age.

Subsequently, the United States government began its nuclear testing program. From 1951 to 1992, the Nevada Test Site (NTS) hosted more than 900 nuclear tests. Of these, 828 were underground nuclear tests. These tests ranged in depth from approximately 90 to 4,800 feet below the ground surface. About one-third of the tests occurred near or below the water table, resulting in some contamination of the area's groundwater. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began preliminary hydrologic research in the 1970s, but a more intensive groundwater studies program was launched in 1989 with the formation of the Underground Test Area (UGTA) Project at the Nevada Site Office (NSO).

Scientists from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), one of the organizations among other national laboratories and DOE environmental engineering contractors, are working on the UGTA Project to assess the nature and degree of contamination at these testing areas, and develop appropriate corrective action strategies.

Faced with the reality that no proven, cost-effective method currently exists for remediating deep, extensive groundwater contamination, LANL, along with the UGTA project team, is working to develop an effective, long-term monitoring system. This network is being designed to identify radiological risks to help ensure the safety of off-site populations. Scientists are developing computer models to effectively position monitoring wells along this monitoring network.

The LANL contribution to the UGTA strategy is a three-pronged approach of field activities, field and laboratory experiments, and groundwater modeling. As part of UGTA's field activities, LANL participates in sampling a monitoring network of wells on the NTS. Samples of water and sediment are collected and analyzed for various radionuclides. This provides data on how contaminated groundwater is moving through the rock, as well as the rates and concentrations of radionuclides. Samples are collected annually and a database of information is built around information gathered and tested during field activities.

Second, laboratory and field experiments are performed to determine what takes place between the water, rock, and radionuclides. For example, experiments are conducted to see how water flows through the matrix or "fabric" of rock, and how radionuclides interact with the rock. Experiments determine parameters essential to an accurate representation of phenomena such as the sorption of radionuclides to immobile subsurface rocks, the migration of radionuclides in fractures where flow velocities can be quite high, and the importance of colloids, which are small, mobile particles to which otherwise immobile radionuclides may attach and consequently enhance their mobility. For this, geologic characterization of lithology, mineralogy, petrology, structural geology, and geophysics aid in creating a hydrogeologic framework model of the system.

Continued on page 7



What is a contaminant boundary?

One of UTGA's primary objectives is to establish a contaminant boundary for each Corrective Action Unit (CAU). This boundary will distinguish where water is considered safe and not safe for domestic and municipal use. Groundwater data is collected and evaluated for each CAU and incorporated into predictive groundwater flow and contaminant transport models. This permits the estimation of three-dimensional contaminant migration to predict the contaminant boundary, which defines the extent of groundwater contaminated with radionuclides that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standards in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The computer models predict the location of the contaminant boundary over a 1000-year regulatory time period, with a 95% confidence level.

EM Partner: Los Alamos National Laboratory

(continued from page 6)

LANL scientist also work to accurately upscale the laboratory experiments - in essence, going from the rock and water in a laboratory setting to hundreds of square miles on the NTS. The upscaling process leads to parameters suitable for the large-scale computer models used to estimate the contaminant boundary. The complex geology and hydrology, and the great depth to the water table at the NTS, make these determinations challenging in understanding groundwater flow and the movement of contaminants.

Third, groundwater flow and transport computer models are developed and implemented to help determine the contaminant boundaries for different Corrective Action Units (CAUs). The flow and transport models incorporate detailed radiochemistry, chemistry, and hydrogeologic studies to characterize the contamination, the groundwater, and the rock. LANL modelers, working together with DOE's UGTA teaming partners, are developing and refining complex, three-dimensional models aimed at representing groundwater flow and radionuclide transport in the complex hydrogeologic environment at the NTS. In order to complete the groundwater computer models, the NSO will continue sampling and characterization activities until the year 2022.

From its origins as a secret Manhattan Project laboratory, LANL has attracted world-class scientists and applied their energy and creativity to solving the nation's and the world's most challenging problems. The laboratory stands out as one of the world's leading research institutions, and is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's premier multi-program, multi-disciplinary research laboratories.

Michael Giblin Retires

by Nick Duhe

After many years of dedicated service to the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Michael Giblin, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Program Manager and Mixed Low-Level Waste Sub-Project Director, retired on January 3, 2006.

In his almost 30 years of service with the federal government, Mr. Giblin worked on many projects ranging from the California Land Use Plan for the California Desert Conservation Area, which was his first job with the Bureau of Land Management in 1977, to his present job with DOE Environmental Management. Sandwiched between was time spent at headquarters in Washington D.C., where he worked on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Coal Leasing Program, Hazardous Materials Program and DOE's New Production Reactors Project.

Mr. Giblin's career at the DOE Headquarters began with the New Production Reactor program followed by his transfer to the Environmental Management program where he was the Division Director for Waste Management Operations at Oak Ridge and Chicago. Since moving to Las Vegas in 1996, Mike has had a variety of assignments leading up to his current position including the Ten-Year Plan, a transportation study and environmental analysis, and task lead for surface remediation of Amchitka Island, Alaska.

When reflecting back on all the jobs and places he worked, Mr. Giblin is most proud of the remediation work performed on Amchitka Island in Alaska where he was the task manager. Mr. Giblin recalls what a harsh and remote location Amchitka was and all the logistical problems it presented. "It was like running a small town for 120 people, it needed to be kept supplied with all the necessities like shelter, food, and medical equipment. Communication and transportation logistics were also needed, because Amchitka is 1,300 miles away from Anchorage."

Thinking back on this time in Amchitka also reminded him of a funny moment when he almost became part of a closure cap after he slipped while helping to pull a heavy liner into place. "All I could remember was seeing the liner being pulled over top my head so I crawled as fast as I could to get out from beneath it, because I didn't know if anyone would notice I was gone."

Mr. Giblin is now a resident of Wisconsin. As far as any future plans, he is not sure yet what he wants to do, but he is sure it will only be part time.

From everyone at EM, we want to wish Mike good luck in the future!



Michael Giblin retired after almost 30 years of dedicated service with the federal government.

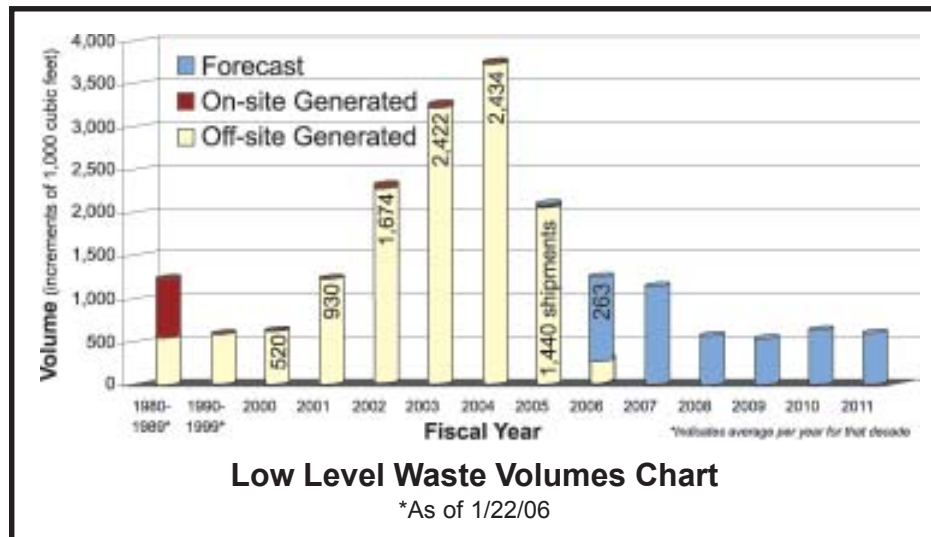
Low-Level Waste Shipments Continue to Decline

by Dona Merritt

Nevada Test Site radioactive waste disposal operations experienced a more than 40 percent drop in low-level waste shipments and total volume during fiscal year 2005. This is good news for residents along low-level radioactive waste transportation routes and for the entire United States since it is indicative of the closures occurring at several U.S. Department of Energy sites.

Shipments (or trucks) traveling to the Nevada Test Site declined by nearly 1,000 for the total disposed volume of approximately 2 million cubic feet during fiscal year 2005. It is expected that volumes will continue to decrease by an additional 900,000 cubic feet at the end of fiscal year 2006 since three approved generators completed their shipping campaigns at the end of 2005. Over the operating lifetime of the Nevada Test Site Radioactive Waste Management Sites, these three generators contributed nearly 12 million cubic feet of radioactive waste to the total disposed volume of 33.5 million cubic feet. The remaining 30 approved generators will continue toward their cleanup goals, with at least one generator planning for completion in fiscal year 2006.

According to long-range (through fiscal year 2011) volume forecasts submitted by these approved generators, the decline in radioactive waste disposal at the Nevada Test Site is expected to continue (see chart below). Although several new generators have been approved, volumes are not expected to reach the peak amount (approximately 3.7 million cubic feet) of radioactive waste disposed in fiscal year 2004.



Nevada Test Site disposal operations personnel prepare to bury a package of off-site generated low-level waste in a disposal cell at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site

During the course of its cleanup activities, the Rocky Flats site in Colorado shipped nearly 10 million cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site for disposal prior to terminating its approved generator status in October 2005.

Leading up to closure, Rocky Flats shipments routinely traveled along Interstate 70 through Colorado and Utah before connecting to U.S. Highway 6/50 which traversed through Ely, Nevada. In fiscal year 2005 alone, 519 shipments of Rocky Flats radioactive waste traveled to the Nevada Test Site.

Visit <http://www.nv.doe.gov/emprograms/environment/wastemanagement/quarterlyreports.aspx> to view quarterly reports of radioactive waste shipment routing to the Nevada Test Site. Additional information on Transporting Low-Level Waste to the Nevada Test Site can be viewed or downloaded from http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/factsheets/DOENV_990.pdf.

Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal Update

by Dona Merritt

After a 15-year hiatus, the disposal of off-site generated mixed low-level radioactive waste has resumed at the Nevada Test Site. This essential service provides the vehicle for many U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites across the complex to reach closure.

Off-site generated mixed low-level radioactive waste is disposed in the Area 5 Mixed Waste Disposal Unit (MWDU) on the Nevada Test Site. The MWDU operates under interim status by the conditions outlined in the Nevada Test Site Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit issued by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) on December 1, 2005.

The issuance of this permit is a monumental achievement and came about after years of dialogue between NDEP and DOE. Ultimately, DOE and NDEP negotiated and signed letters of commitment that stipulated NDEP would continue to regulate the MWDU under interim status but with the off-site generated prohibition lifted. For its part, DOE committed to limiting additional mixed low-level radioactive waste disposal to 20,000 cubic meters and to permanently close the facility in five years or less if the volume capacity is reached prior to that time.

Another condition that led NDEP to approve off-site generated mixed low-level waste acceptance and disposal at the Nevada Test Site was the installation of real-time radiography equipment (RTR) at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex. RTR provides Nevada Test Site Disposal Operations the ability to verify waste package contents to ensure generators are strictly adhering to the Nevada Test Site Waste Acceptance Criteria. This provides an extra measure of assurance in addition to the other verification steps already conducted at the generator sites. Once the MWDU closes, the RTR equipment will continue to be used for low-level waste verification.

Permanent closure of the MWDU is a "win-win situation for the State of Nevada and the Nevada Test Site," said Ken Small, Acting Mixed Low-Level Waste Sub-project Director. It seems the public would agree since no comments of opposition to the issuance of the RCRA permit were filed with the NDEP during the public comment period conducted September 29 through November 14, 2005.



Nevada Site Office Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program personnel perform an inspection of Perma-Fix mixed low-level radioactive waste characterization operations and procedures during a certification audit.

The Nevada Test Site Mixed Waste Disposal Unit, also known as Pit 3, was constructed in 1985 at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site. Between 1985 and 1990, Nevada Test Site Operations disposed more than 27,000 cubic meters of low-level waste in Pit 3 along with mixed low-level radioactive waste generated by DOE sites outside the State of Nevada. During this time, the Rocky Flats site in Colorado shipped more than 8,000 cubic meters of mixed low-level radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site for disposal in Pit 3. The availability of Nevada Test Site disposal facilities was an enormous contribution to the successful closure of the Rocky Flats site in 2005.

EM Puts Project Management to the Test

by Angela Ramsey

Environmental Management (EM) has been a leader when it comes to finding innovative ways to strengthen its management practices. EM has joined the ranks, in fact, of many successful private-sector companies by offering Project Management Professionals (PMP®) training to its project managers.

The PMP certification is the credential of choice for a large number of professions that depend on successful project management. Trainees were given the opportunity to participate in a rigorous one-week boot camp during which they learn a wide array of management skills, such as: project initiation, planning, and execution; project control; and professional and social responsibility.

"This certification goes a long way in providing EM the tools necessary to run successful projects," says Program Integration Team Lead and recent PMP graduate, Cindy Lockwood. The training is particularly useful to EM, Lockwood added, because it teaches a management philosophy similar to that found in DOE Order 413's Management Practices and Principles.

Completing the week-long training is not the only hurdle. After boot camp, participants must pass an intensive computer-based exam. Those who pass the test must then renew their certification every three years to maintain the PMP status.

The following Environmental Management employees have successfully completed the training program: Janet Appenzeller-Wing, Kevin Cabbie, Jhon Carilli, Sabine Curtis, Frank DiSanza, John Jones, Cindy Lockwood, Joni Norton, Ken Small, Bruce Stolte and Bill Wilborn.

"The training is challenging," according to Lockwood, "but the more qualifications we have the better for EM... the better for National Nuclear Security Administration."

The training was provided by the professional organization, Project Management Institute or PMI (<http://www.pmi.org>). With 200,000 members in more than 150 countries, PMI works to advance the realm of project management by conducting research and education, providing training and certification programs, and offering professional networking and exchange.

Environmental Management Activities at Project Shoal Area

by Nick Duhe

This spring, Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture (SNJV), a contractor to the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, will begin drilling three new monitoring wells ranging in depths between 1,640 ft and 1,990 ft at the Project Shoal Area, located approximately 30 miles southeast of Fallon, Nevada.

Currently, there are eight monitoring wells at Project Shoal, four were put in place in 1996 with additional four wells drilled in 1999. Based on data collected by the existing monitoring wells, two corrective action objectives have been identified: 1) to prevent or reduce exposure to groundwater contaminants of concern at concentrations exceeding regulatory maximum contamination levels or risk-based levels; and 2) to reduce the risk to human health and the environment to a feasible extent.

With these two objectives in mind, SNJV will be drilling an additional three monitoring wells to be placed down gradient from where the nuclear test took place. These wells will monitor for potential movement of contamination to make sure that it does not go past set boundaries called compliance boundary. The distance between the monitoring wells and the boundary will take into account the need to provide early warning to allow time for reaction in the event of unanticipated contaminant migration.

The long term monitoring of these wells will provide a means to evaluate the groundwater transport model, provide a system with high detection probability that takes into account uncertainty in the migration pathways, provide a system for early detection of radionuclide migration rates in excess of what has been predicted by the model, assure the public and the regulators that public health is not compromised, provide compliance monitoring of physical parameters to demonstrate that groundwater conditions have not significantly changed from those simulated in the previous model, achieve site closure and minimize long-term risk of public exposure to contaminated groundwater, and achieve all of these objectives while providing the best value to the tax payers.



Project Shoal Area will be turned over to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management in the fall for long-term management.

Although the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management maintains ownership of the land, a land withdrawal allows the U. S. Department Of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to manage the site.

Project Shoal Area, located in Northern Nevada, was the site of an underground nuclear test conducted jointly in 1963 by the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor to the DOE). As part of the Vela Uniform program, the test was designed to improve the nation's ability to identify and locate underground nuclear explosions.

Project Shoal in the Lime(stone) Light

by Michelle Meade

Project Shoal, an underground nuclear test that took place in 1963 and one of the eight Offsites currently managed by the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office's (NSO) Environmental Management (EM) Program, was a tour stop for the 2005 Earth Science Week Public Field Trip hosted by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG).

This annual weekend event, in conjunction with National Earth Science Week, is a caravan tour through Northern Nevada that stops at different areas of interest for families to explore nature and collect various rock samples. Departing out of Fallon, Nevada, both days had more than 80 attendees including kids with their rock picks, shovels, and buckets, and even a few family dogs. During the approximately 150-mile round trip, the 20 plus high-terrain vehicles trekked through rural Nevada on Highway 50, hence this year's title of the trip: The Great Highway 50 Rock Tour.

Held on October 22nd and 23rd, 2005, EM staff used posters, which included photos and graphs, to explain Project Shoal to the tour attendees on the trip. Pete Sanders, the Project Shoal Task Manager for the NSO and Jenny Chapman, Associate Research Hydrologist with the Desert Research Institute (DRI), presented the posters and explained the timeline and activities that took place at Project Shoal. Graphics on the underground nuclear test along with conceptual models of ongoing groundwater monitoring efforts in the area captured the curiosity of the rockhounds as they tromped around the broken rock piles collecting unweathered granite samples left from the excavation of the shaft and tunnel for emplacement of the nuclear device.

Another event highlight was speaker Robert C. Horton. Horton worked on Project Shoal as a geologist with the NBMG, who was contracted to perform geology mapping in the shaft and drift of the nuclear test in 1962 and 1963. A mining engineering graduate of Mackay School of Mines, Horton was also former head of NBMG, and Director of the U.S. Bureau of Mines under President Reagan from 1981 to 1987. "It was an interesting experience for us. We had to get security clearances although we never saw anything top secret," Horton said.

D.D. LaPointe, Geologist with NBMG and coordinator of the Earth Science public field trips, said in reference to the Shoal visit, "It provided such an array of geologic issues that people could explore and think about. From children being interested in collecting rocks, to the nuclear history of the area and ongoing consequences, the scientists being there provided a human face on what did happen, and what is happening."

The six stops on this year's field trip were: Huck Salt Mine Operations, Project Shoal area, marble and limestone road cut, Fairview Peak at the 1954 earthquake scarp, Bell Mountain Mine area, and Nevada wonderstone collecting area.

For more information about Project Shoal, please visit <http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/factsheets.aspx>.

For more information about Nevada geology, natural hazards, mineral or energy resources, contact the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology at (775) 784-6691, or at <http://www.nbmg.unr.edu>.



Pete Sanders and Jenny Chapman give a brief presentation with posters depicting the history and ongoing groundwater monitoring efforts of Project Shoal.

Congratulations to Public Involvement staff for achieving IAP2 certification

by Rosemary Rehfeldt

The Environmental Management team wishes to congratulate its Public Involvement staff, Nick Duhe, Michelle Meade, Dona Merritt, Rosemary Rehfeldt, and Kelly Snyder, for completing their Tier I Public Participation certification training requirements from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).

IAP2 is a worldwide association of members seeking to promote and improve the practice of public participation. The organization was founded in 1990 to promote the values and best practices associated with involving the public in government and industry decisions that affect their lives. Sixteen chapters throughout the world, including the Silver State chapter in Nevada, provide speakers, training, and networking through regular meetings, workshops, and newsletters.

In 1999, IAP2 launched its Certificate Training Course in Public Participation, providing comprehensive training in the tools and skills needed for effective public participation. Tier I training has three components required for certification: Planning for Effective Public Participation; Effective Communications for Public Participation; and Techniques for Effective Public Participation.

For more information on IAP2, visit their website at <http://www.iap2.org>.

In Remembrance

Bill King, a resident of Pahrump, Nevada and an active member of the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB) passed away in October 2005. Bill was a dedicated member of the CAB for four years and a participant in the CAB's Transportation Waste committee.

Bill will be fondly remembered as a prominent voice for the Pahrump area. Bill always made sure that he had an opportunity to weigh in on CAB discussions, regardless of the Environmental Management subject under consideration. He was devoted to declaring the best interests of Pahrump since the Nevada Test Site is located in Nye County.

"Bill had an amazing passion for stakeholder involvement. Pahrump and Nye County should be very proud that they had such an active resident who truly cared about the town and county," said Kelly Snyder, Designated Deputy Federal Official for the CAB.

Bill's commitment to his community and the public participation process was invaluable. The Nevada Site Office is deeply saddened over his loss.



Bill King, CAB Member

Nevada Test Site Public Tours 2006 Schedule

February 22, 2006

March 23, 2006

April 26, 2006

May 24, 2006

June 20, 2006

September 13, 2006

October 25, 2006

November 29, 2006



Low Level Radioactive
Waste Management
Site



Sedan Crater



Railroad Bridge



Apple II House

Tour participants will visit historic nuclear test locations, such as Sedan Crater, as well as observe areas where work activities are currently taking place, like the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Sites. The tour covers approximately 250 miles. Call (702) 295-0944 for more information.



Questions should be directed to:
Office of Public Affairs
702-295-3521

U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Site Office
Office of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

EM Update is published by:
Office of Environmental Management
Nevada Site Office

Story Editor:
Kelly Snyder

Layout:
Nick Duhe



To request information on Environmental Management activities, including the CAB, e-mail your request to the address below.

Include your name, address, phone number and information request.

Envmgt@nv.doe.gov

If you would like to be added to the EM mailing list and receive electronic news regarding EM activities please email us at:

Envmgt@nv.doe.gov