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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



June/July 2007 - Issue 126

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

## Predicted severe fire season sparks comprehensive preparation

In 2007, experts at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) are predicting one of the worst fire seasons on record. The increased concern is due to low precipitation since the beginning of the year, according to **Kent Ostler**, senior scientist with the National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec) Environmental Technical Services Group.

"The vegetation and other areas of the site are the driest I've seen in over 20 years," explains Ostler. "A dry lightning or a stray cigarette butt could possibly flare up."

Should fire break out at the NTS during the hot summer season, the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) is well prepared. [Read full story >](#)

### In This Issue

- [Assisting thirsty sheep at the NTS also provides training opportunity](#)
- [Complex retrofit project brings collaboration to a new level](#)
- [Tidy facilities create safer, healthier, less costly work environments](#)
- [Unusual structures at the Nevada Test Site](#)
- [Nevada Site Office leadership tours the RSL](#)
- [RWMC staff saves energy with innovative changes](#)
- [Lynn appointed to Business & Contract Management post](#)

Additional new articles can be found in the following locations:

- [Beyond the Call](#)
- [Partners in Education](#)
- [Environmental Management](#)
- [Safety](#)

Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family  
 Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office  
 Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs  
 Submit articles or ideas to the editor at M/S NSF119, [restivnm@nv.doe.gov](mailto:restivnm@nv.doe.gov), or (702) 295-7045

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Milestones

### Milestones

#### Desert Research Institute

##### 25 years

John Watson

##### 20 years

Clay Cooper, Dorothy Miller, Steve Mizell

##### 15 years

Susan Edwards, Russell Cullison

##### 10 years

Dawn Coots, Barbara Jackson, Eric McDonald

#### National Security Technologies, LLC

##### 45 years

Albert Moeller

##### 40 years

Gary Boyd, Charles Mitton

##### 35 years

John Echave, Linnie Forsstrom, Daniel Madden, Jacquelynn Smith

##### 30 years

Edythe Boyd, Ruben Cuaron, James Fisher, Max Woodrum

##### 25 years

Kendall Braithwaite, Stanley Brewster, Danny Brickey, Ardena Carr, Val Chamberlain, Nina Force, Cenobio Gallegos, James Scherr, Gay Walker, Linda Wiles

##### 20 years

Catherine Carey, Douglas Devore, Dawn Fletcher, Brent Frogget, Joseph Volk

##### 15 years

Vickie Baker, Carol Perry, Denise Saporiti, Howard Wong, Edward Woodward

##### 10 years

Ronald Butters, Ronald Jayne, Michael Simpson, A. Thompson, Dallin Wrigley

##### 5 years

Henry Adams, Dianne Bell, Elizabeth Becerril, Timothy Buer, Jeffrey Cagle, Marilyn Capasso, Kuan Chin, Itaska Cole, Melanie Cole, Jacob Cothron, Loretta D'Ambrosia, Bradley Delamarter, Daniel Diaz, Douglas Dinger, Todd Emmitt, Nicole Fa'afiu, Martin Fay, Joshua Friedman, Robert Gang, Roger Gima, Karen Griffin, Monte Hildebrand, Craig Hollabaugh, Kim Holton, Scott Jenkins, Michael Jones, Scott Jones, Archie Kahele, Kelly Keenan, Monty Larsen, Matthew Martin, Jessica McMillin, Brian Memmott, Brian Moran, Jeffrey Mortensen, Steven Mortensen, David Mower, Robert Nolan, Trenton Otteson, Jeffrey Owens, Charles Perazich, Alissa Poderis, Michael Pope, Paul Rice, Frederick Rose, Guadalupe Rutkowski, John Shoemaker, Ann Thurman, Russell Shelton, Eddie Solis, Brian Tate, James Tellinghuisen, Westly Voels, R. Miles Wright, Jason Young

### **Los Alamos National Laboratory**

#### **30 years**

Bill Haag

### **NNSA/NSO**

#### **30 years**

Michael Marelli

#### **25 years**

Victoria Niemann

#### **20 years**

Robert Friedrichs, Bruce Hurley

#### **15 years**

Timothy Cooper, Peter Munding

### **Team CNSI**

#### **25 years**

Steve Gault

### **Wackenhut Services, Inc.**

#### **20 years**

Katherine Reynolds

#### **15 years**

Steven Barker

#### **5 years**

S. Chris Prince, Patrice Ross

### **New Hires**

Richard Ackroyd, Teri L. Allison, Jayme Allocco, Mario Angel, Fatima Bouzidi, Tony Coleman, Mary Camp, Joy Cotter, Marcus Dixon, Lani A. Fellows, Leigh Guarino, Sean Gordoni, Andrea Guerber, Mary Granoski, Edward Hill, William Hood, Beth Jayne, Terry Knight, Andrew Krenitz, Deborah Lee, Sean Leu, Diana Lilley, Jennifer Macy, Jennifer Mankins, Amy McKinney, Barry McNeill, Jacqueline Meeker, Lloyd Montoya, Christopher Murphy, Nicholas Orsi, Raymond Page, Ki Park, Ricardo Reyes, Diane Robinson, Sandra Roybal, Maria Salomon, Gina Sands, Allison Urbon, Dennis Waldrop, Colby Williams, Bruce Wilson, Emily

Wilson

## **In Memory**

Joseph Aliano, Myrna Becker, Martin Hess, Greg Mize

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**Beyond the Call**

U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Beyond the Call

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- [NNSA one of three agencies nationwide to win multiple aviation awards](#)
- [Nevada Site Office security professionals possess solid credentials](#)

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## Partners in Education

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- [NSTec initiates agreement with State University System](#)

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**Environmental Management**

U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Award-winning Material Exchange Web site is back in operation

After a hiatus of several months to move locations and perform an inventory, NSTec's award-winning Material Exchange program is up and running again.

The Material Exchange helps projects acquire usable supplies, chemicals, and equipment for free while diverting those materials from landfills. With the creation of an interactive web site, all Nevada Site Office (NSO) organizations can take advantage of this cost- saving program.

The Web site allows employees from any NSO organization to list materials they no longer need. Once listed, an email is sent to the NSTec Pollution Prevention (P2) team, letting them know that items have been added to the list and need to be retrieved and placed in the material exchange storage area.

Employees needing supplies can access the Web site and *shop* for needed supplies from the list of available items. Designed to work like most internet stores, the customer can browse the list of available items, request items by placing them into the "shopping cart," and finally check out requested items. An email is then sent to the P2 team, letting them know to deliver the requested items. Items are for government-related work only.

A new feature of the Web site is the *Wish List* which allows users to list needed items. If those items become available, the P2 team will contact the user.

The Material Exchange Web site can be accessed with the following link, [Click Here](#) or by going to the NSTec homepage on the intranet, clicking on the "Daily Needs" dropdown menu, and choosing "Material Exchange."

Address questions to **Dodie Haworth** (702) 295-0656 or **Al Karns** (702) 295-5689.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Safety

### Beware of situations that trigger dosimeter dose readings

The Radiological Control Department at National Security Technologies (NSTec) is asking every employee who possesses a dosimeter to help the department prevent the work and cost that occur when dose investigations are executed. That means being aware of, and taking the proper precautions for, situations that can trigger dose readings, including air travel and medical procedures.

Federal regulation requires Radiological Control to record only occupational exposure and not record dose arising from medical procedures, natural background, or other causes. However, each quarter unusual or missing dosimeter readings prompt investigations of associated doses. Dosimeters are provided for workers at the Nevada Test Site and several associated locations outside Nevada.

The largest dose investigation workload comes from dosimeters that are never returned to Radiological Control for processing. In addition to the time and effort taken by this process, the value of the re-usable dosimeters is lost.

Other investigations are triggered by two occurrences outside an employee's regular work scope—medical tests that require radioactive material, as well as airport security checks involving radiological equipment.

Most airports subject luggage to x-ray scans to search for dangerous items without having to open each bag. Any dosimeter will receive about 150 millirem of radiation each time it goes through a scan process. Consequently, dosimeters should be taken as carry-on items only, according to NSTec Radiological Control Manager **Mark McMahan**. Gate security x-ray machines use so little radiation that there is no interference with occupational dose measurements.

Medical procedures such as stress tests may use radioactive material to create images. Although the material is eliminated naturally, a dosimeter worn within a few days following the procedure will detect the exposure. If this occurs, surrender the dosimeter until a survey shows no detectable radiation. At that point, another dosimeter can be issued.

"If you plan to undergo a medical test that uses radioactive material, contact Radiological Control. We can guide you through the steps to avoid exposing your dosimeter," says McMahan.

Remember, always exchange a dosimeter for processing at the beginning of each quarter. If a dosimeter is no longer needed, now or in the foreseeable future, return it to Radiological Control in Building 23-650 in Mercury. If necessary, a new dosimeter can be issued. Direct any questions to Radiological Control at **(702) 295-6341**.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Face-to-Face

### Face-to-Face

#### Linda Cohn

**Company:** NNSA/NSO Assistant Manager for Safety Programs

**Title:** Cultural Resources Program Manager

**Hometown:** Native of Las Vegas, Nev.

**Hobbies:** Motorcycling, traveling, spending time with my three Airedale terriers.



Linda's most significant contribution to the agency is supporting the 1998 Joint Verification Experiment 10-year celebration. She is looking forward to the 20th anniversary activities in 2008. If Linda could have any job, she would her current position because it allows her to interact with so many different organizations within and outside the NSO family and learn about NTS history. Most people wouldn't know that Linda has nearly 24 years with the Department of Energy and NSO.

#### Shelly Docimo

**Company:** WSI-Nevada

**Title:** WSI Electronic Systems Section Planner

**Hometown:** Fresno, Calif.

**Hobbies:** Having her grandchildren over, going to the movies, swimming, and cooking.



Shelly believes her most important contribution to the company is setting up the Work Control Program. Something she has learned that has made her more effective on the job is to always give people the benefit of the doubt and not take things too personally. If she could have any job, she would be a clinical social worker, because she wants to help people. What most people wouldn't know about Shelly is the size of her extended family – she has five children, one of whom is still at home, as well as eight grandchildren, and a set of twins due in September.

#### Craig Jordan

**Company:** Stoller (SNJV)

**Title:** Communications Specialist

**Hometown:** Cleveland, Ohio (Go Cavaliers!)

**Hobbies:** Doing 3-D computer animation, watching movies, and going to jazz concerts.



Craig believes his most significant contribution to the company is his

creativity. What he has learned that has made him better at what he does today is to determine what his bosses like. If he could have any job, it would be Steven Spielberg's. Most people wouldn't know that Craig's best friend and greatest inspiration is an 8-year-old, physically challenged boy named Nathan. Although the boy is confined to a wheelchair and is constantly in pain, Nathan is always smiling, laughing, and wanting to play.

**James Walker Jr.**

**Company:** NSTec

**Title:** Senior Facility Manager, RSL-Nellis

**Hometown:** Las Vegas, Nevada

**Hobbies:** All types of music, working with the youth of today, and being with his family (four kids, one daughter and three sons, and one granddaughter).



James believes his most significant contribution is working for the NTS for more than 20 years. His background includes stints in property management and the redistribution and recycling area. His other interests include participating in the Nevada Army National Guard, the National Property Management Association, and the RSL-Nellis Heartsaver program as an instructor. He is also a Total Quality Manager Facilitator and a Yellow Belt in Six Sigma. James has learned to not take things personally and always help others. His ideal job would be to help the youth of today as a leader or counselor. People may not know that James has a rich music background, having played the drums since the age of four. He also made a national televised broadcast in the 1980's with Paul Anka.

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**Calendar of Events**

U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Calendar of Events

### July 11

The Community Advisory Board will hold a public meeting at 5 p.m. at 7710 West Cheyenne Ave, Cheyenne Conference Room (#130), Las Vegas, Nev., 89130. The meeting features an update on TRU waste and a briefing on Environmental Management's educational outreach programs. For more information, contact Kelly Snyder at (702) 295-2836 or [snyderk@nv.doe.gov](mailto:snyderk@nv.doe.gov). The CAB is comprised of Southern Nevada volunteer citizens who provide the Nevada Site Office's Environmental Management Program with informed recommendations on environmental activities at the Nevada Test Site. For additional information visit the CAB Web site at <http://www.ntscab.com>.

### September 18, October 23

NTS Public Tour that includes Sedan Crater, Icecap and T-1 Training Area, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, and Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, NSTec**, at (702) 295-0944. Tours are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## To Your Health

American men in particular are at a high risk for certain illness, disease, and injury. This predicament has sparked educational efforts proactively explain health challenges men may face throughout their lifetimes.

Men's Health Network ([menshealthnetwork.org](http://menshealthnetwork.org)) says these reasons contribute to higher rates of illness:

- Many men have no health coverage.
- Men make one half as many physician visits for preventive services.
- Men are employed in the most dangerous jobs, including mining, fire fighting, construction, and fishing.
- Social influences discourage healthy behaviors in men and boys.
- Research on male-specific diseases is under-funded.
- Men may have less healthy lifestyles, including risk taking at younger ages.

Here are several of the major health issues that men currently face:

- Coronary artery disease
- Obesity
- Hypertension
- Stroke – about the same risk as women
- Diabetes – risk of death about the same as women
- Cancer – men are 50 percent more likely to develop cancer (all cancers)
  - Prostate cancer
  - Colon cancer
  - Lung cancer
- Injuries – men more than twice as likely to die from an injury
  - Unintentional, including motor vehicle accidents
  - Suicide is three times more common in men.
  - Homicide is four times more common in men.
- Finally, 92 percent of all workplace deaths occur in men.

So how can men to take an active role in their own personal health and the health care system in general? First and foremost, they need to seek out current, understandable, and reliable sources of information on health-related issues, according to **Gary Mousseau**, a Physician Assistant with the NSTec Occupational Medicine Department (OccMed).

Physicians can be a good first step in this process, along with resources at the library, on the internet, and through employers. Contact the NSTec OccMed Department at **(702) 295-6224** (Nevada Test Site) and **(702) 295-1473** (North Las Vegas) to schedule a brief appointment.

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## Acronyms

### Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

<b>BEEF</b>	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
<b>CTOS</b>	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
<b>DAF</b>	Device Assembly Facility
<b>DOE</b>	Department of Energy
<b>EM</b>	Emergency Management
<b>EM</b>	Environmental Management
<b>ES&amp;H</b>	Environment, Safety, and Health
<b>FRMAC</b>	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
<b>JASPER</b>	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
<b>LANL</b>	Los Alamos National Laboratory
<b>LLNL</b>	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
<b>NNSA</b>	National Nuclear Security Administration
<b>NSO</b>	Nevada Site Office
<b>NSTec</b>	National Security Technologies, LLC
<b>NTS</b>	Nevada Test Site
<b>PIP</b>	Process Improvement Project
<b>R-MAD</b>	Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility
<b>RSL-A</b>	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
<b>RSL-N</b>	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
<b>SC</b>	NNSA Service Center
<b>SCE</b>	Subcritical Experiment
<b>SNJV</b>	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
<b>SNL</b>	Sandia National Laboratories
<b>STL</b>	Special Technologies Laboratory
<b>WSI-NV</b>	Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

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## Masthead

### Masthead

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## Predicted severe fire season sparks comprehensive preparation

In 2007, experts at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) are predicting one of the worst fire seasons on record. The increased concern is due to low precipitation since the beginning of the year, according to **Kent Ostler**, senior scientist with the National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec) Environmental Technical Services Group.

"The vegetation and other areas of the site are the driest I've seen in over 20 years," explains Ostler. "A dry lightning or a stray cigarette butt could possibly flare up."

Should fire break out at the NTS during the hot summer season, the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) is well prepared.

"The key for success is early detection and rapid response," explains NSTec Fire Chief **Charles Fauerbach**. "All of the involved agencies will take an aggressive initial attack posture to control any fires that may occur and reduce the rate of spread and total acreage involved."

The NNSA maintains Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Air Force, and NSTec to address fire protection issues. These MOUs provide procedures—who to call, how to arrange for services, authority among the agencies, for example, to quickly acquire offsite fire-fighting resources.

In addition, the NSO has amplified its readiness to tackle the wildland fire season through extensive training and enhanced equipment. Preparations include the following:

- Pickup trucks have been replaced with sturdier models featuring a flatbed configuration that can carry a maximum load of 300 gallons of water per vehicle.
- Small trailers can now tow behind eight terrain vehicle (ATVs). The trailers feature self-contained solar batteries and



*With a smoke column from the head of the fire in the distance, the Incident Command Post for the 2006 Mid-Valley Fire stands at the ready. The 25-foot video camera on the command post is raised and observing fire conditions.*



*A helicopter, guided in by the NTS Fire & Rescue Water Supply Officer, prepares to refill its 350-gallon belly tank. The snorkel pump hangs below a 5,000-gallon water vessel or "pumpkin." Upon filling the tank, the helicopter continues to attack fire hot-spots during the Calico Hills Fire in 2006.*

- mobile radio repeaters to automatically boost radio reception during a fire.
- A 2,000-gallon water tender (fire truck) is available to supply water to remote areas.
- Three fire engines (each carries 1,000 gallons of water) are available for structural protection if a fire encroaches on a facility and can also shuttle water to and from remote locations.
- A department of 69 individuals has completed wildland safety refresher training, which included classroom and hands-on components.
- Heavy equipment operators, with trucks that carry ample water supplies to support firefighters.
- Additional fire cameras have been installed on the NTS to immediately record any visible smoke or fire that may arise from lightning or other events. If something is caught on video, responders immediately shift into action. The cameras are located at high points across the site and are remotely controlled by staff at the Operations Coordination Center.
- Dip tanks, including one that holds up to 10,000 gallons of water, may be set up at various remote areas of the test site to provide an adequate remote water supply.

In 2006, there were 18 fires at the site; only two of those required assistance from outside organizations such as the BLM. Fauerbach said the site's assets to fight fires include firefighters, paramedics, heavy equipment operators, Emergency Management Center and Emergency Operations staff, and other members of the Emergency Response Organization.

Fauerbach says that up to 98 percent of fires are caused by lightning strikes. Individuals working or visiting the NTS are required to exercise caution, especially if they're driving off road, says Ostler. They must carry shovels and fire extinguishers.

For more information, please see the fact sheet titled "*Protecting the NTS from Wildland Fires.*" It is located at [www.nv.doe.gov](http://www.nv.doe.gov) and can be accessed through a direct link on the Web site's front page. The Web site will also post any significant fire-related events on the Emergency Public Information link.



*A helicopter drops water from a "Bambi" bucket on hotspots during the Air Force Fire in June 2005, while BLM firefighters monitor the effectiveness of the intervention.*

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Assisting thirsty sheep at the NTS also provides training opportunity

*Ingenuity and technology give sheep the water they need during a drought*

Desert Big Horn sheep, firefighters, community volunteers, and a helicopter pilot don't normally have much in common, but in mid-May they collaborated in a very special way.

A herd of Nevada Desert Big Horn Sheep populate the rugged Specter Range, which is situated south of the Nevada Test Site (NTS) and just north of U.S. Highway 95. While well suited to the desert environment and able to survive for long periods without water, the ongoing drought was proving too much for the Nevada State animal. Years ago, water tanks, referred to as guzzlers, were built to help capture and store rainwater runoff as a sustainable water supply for the Big Horn Sheep. With the current water supply critically low, a plan to help replenish the water was pushed into action.

The only way to get large amounts of water into the rocky rugged mountain terrain is by air. The Nevada Division of Wildlife provided funding to hire Sundance Helicopters to transport water from the NTS to the Specter Range. NNSA provided the water and the test site fire and rescue department supplied the dip tank for the water.

NTS Fire and Rescue seized the opportunity to not only help this worthwhile endeavor, but to turn it into a realistic training exercise in preparation for the upcoming wildland fire season. "From an operational perspective, we set up the water dip tank just like we would in a real-life air response to a wildland fire on the NTS" said NTS Fire and Rescue Chief **Charles Fauerbach**. "The difference is that the helicopter carried the water to refill the guzzler for the sheep, instead of fighting a fire."

In 2006, NTS Fire and Rescue responded to 16 wildfires on the NTS. Chief Fauerbach emphasized that "our goal is to put out any fire before it threatens critical facilities and infrastructure on the NTS. This is no easy feat



*NTS Fire and Rescue firefighters fill a pumpkin-like, 5,000-gallon water dip tank with life saving water from the fire truck.*



*A helicopter transports much-needed water to fill man-made tanks in the Specter Range for the Desert Bighorn sheep.*

considering the vast geographic area we cover.”

NTS Fire and Rescue have pre-identified areas of potential concern such as those containing surface radiological contamination and culturally significant sites. “Over the last several years we have adopted a much more aggressive posture when it comes to wildland fires,” said Fauerbach. “Crews have fitted eight ATVs with water and foam tanks so firefighters can reach remote regions and attack the fires.” Many of the firefighters are cross-trained and certified in wildland fire techniques. Fire Marshal James Brown noted that “the crews were able to get some good hands-on training during this operation, which went like clockwork.”

At the guzzler site deep in the Specter range, volunteers from the Fraternal Order of the Nevada Desert Big Horn Sheep provided the necessary ground support. “Between water drops, our guys performed needed maintenance on the guzzlers” noted Bill Vasconi, a volunteer from the ground crew. “We cleared brush and inspected the network of pipes which distributes water from the main guzzler to smaller watering troughs within the mountain range.”

By the end of the day, almost 8,000 gallons of water was airlifted during 43 roundtrip flights. The Desert Big Horn Sheep got much-needed water and the firefighters and pilot exercised their wildland firefighting skills. But, more importantly, according to Craig Stevenson, Nevada Division of Wildlife, “the volunteers and test site personnel have helped to ensure the survival of the sheep through yet another hot and dry summer.”



*Although they can tolerate the desert climate and survive for long periods without water, the ongoing drought can take its toll on the Big Horn Sheep.*

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## Complex retrofit project brings collaboration to a new level

Moving the Critical Experiments Facility (CEF) from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to the Nevada Test Site is a complex retrofit project requiring a high level of collaboration.

One of the first priorities to accommodate the three-year transfer of CEF to the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) was moving the DAF Material Access Area Boundary (MAA). This project was successfully completed on a tight, five-month timeframe between January and May of 2007.

“The boundary move was the first in a series of critical milestones in the CEF project, and the one that was necessary to allow extensive remodeling of the DAF,” explains **Paul Huber**, Deputy Project Manager, CEF Central Project Office.

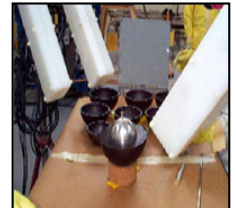
The CEF will provide hands-on training for emergency responders and nuclear criticality training that will incorporate plutonium, enriched uranium, and other special nuclear materials (SNM). The CEF operations will enable scientists and engineers to gain expertise in advanced nuclear technologies that support the following:

- Nuclear materials management and criticality safety
- Emergency response in support of counterterrorism activities
- Nuclear nonproliferation to support domestic and international programs to control excess nuclear materials
- Criticality experiments in support of Stockpile Stewardship and other programs.

To protect the material storage and processing, the MAA features rigorous accountability and access controls. By moving the MAA boundary area, construction workers were allowed to work within the DAF while maintaining an adequate level of security.

“Without the significant changes accomplished as part of this boundary move, CEF project construction activities simply could not have been accomplished,” explains **Jeff Herhold**, Assistant General Manager for Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI).

Supporting activities to facilitate the boundary move



*Moving these types of critical assemblies requires a lot of man hours to ensure that associated controls and instrumentation, as well as physical boundaries, work spaces and equipment, can properly accommodate them.*

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included

- an inspection and certification to ensure that the CEF side of the DAF no longer contained classified matter or nuclear materials,
- completion of a security vulnerability analysis for the new mode of operation,
- a significant rewrite of the security plan for the DAF, and
- physical installation and relocation of security systems.

Relocating the missions and necessary support logistics of the CEF to the DAF is an intricate process being led by the Central Project Office (managed by LANL) and executed among NSTec, LLNL, and WSI. **Steve Scott** of NNSA/NSO also worked with the team to accomplish the move in a timely manner and Huber noted his assistance was critical to tying the physical work, the verification, and the documentation together to achieve the desired outcome.

"This was a monumental effort and a top priority for the Nevada Site Office," says **Ray Phifer**, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) Assistant Manager for Safeguards and Security. "A lot of collaborative effort among NNSA and its contractors made this happen. Everyone had the same level of desire to get the job done."

Ultimately, moving the security boundary will facilitate the construction of the CEF, slated for completion in 2010. Accordingly, a particular section of the DAF has been designated as the CEF.

The CEF is the only site in the nuclear weapons complex where general research and hands-on training can be conducted into nuclear safeguards, criticality safety, and emergency response using Category I level nuclear materials. Categorization is based on the potential risk of the material being used for a nuclear explosive device, which depends on several factors, including the radiation level and quantity of material.

To accommodate moving CEF critical assembly machines and associated controls and instrumentation, workers will have to create new physical boundaries, reconfigure work spaces and equipment, relocate and enhance internal utilities, and install miles of conduit for control and instrumentation systems. The 100,000-square-foot DAF was originally designed to assemble nuclear test devices before they would be moved underground for detonation. DAF is now primarily a platform to conduct subcritical experiments.

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## Tidy facilities create safer, healthier, less costly work environments

To accomplish its vision of a clean, safe, and healthy workplace, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) recently kicked off the LOOKING SHARP Housekeeping and Site Appearance Process.

The main objective involves developing company documentation necessary to guide improvements. Once the documents are formally issued, a LOOKING SHARP Housekeeping Committee will be established to identify and address concerns. Additionally, the committee will gather feedback from site workers and offer solutions.

“Poor housekeeping is unprofessional, detrimental to employee morale, and can contribute to workplace injuries,” says **Linda Caldwell**, the NSTec organizational services manager leading the effort.

For NSTec President **Steve Younger**, tidy facilities are about more than appearances.

“A neat environment contributes to safety, with fewer tripping and other hazards, and to security, as we clearly know where important items are kept,” explains Younger. “Long-term maintenance costs are reduced when things are kept in good working order. Most importantly, a pleasant working environment indicates that our people – and the work that they do – are important.”

Currently, the focus has been on eliminating excess materials rather than general housekeeping issues. Work on the A-1 and C-3 yards at the North Las Vegas facility has received top priority due to possible future storm water monitoring requirements.

Also, during the week of June 4, 2007, more than 43,000 pounds of cable and reels were removed from the east side of the A-2 building at the Losee Road facility. The total weight to date of all surplus and scrap metals removed from North Las Vegas this year, is about 210 tons. Forty-two air conditioning units, two cooling towers, four hydraulic



*The before and after pictures show the difference when approximately 42 surplus air conditioners were removed from the North Las Vegas Facility. These materials amounted to 225 tons of weight.*

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jacks, seven swamp coolers, and two platforms have also been removed.

The LOOKING SHARP process will include: 1) inspecting all occupied NSTec facilities and areas where work is performed; 2) identifying satisfactory and unsatisfactory housekeeping practices; 3) grading facilities and posting grades in visible areas; and 4) tracking unsatisfactory housekeeping practices until they are corrected. The process encompasses facilities, equipment, and materials, and the elimination of nonessential materials and hazardous conditions.

**Steve Lawrence**, NNSA's assistant manager for Site Operations, believes that the physical work environment is vital to overall productivity and job satisfaction. "The LOOKING SHARP PROGRAM will help the Nevada Test Site's appearance, as well as improve the overall safety and security of the workforce," he notes.

Caldwell is confident that the program will have a positive outcome for NSTec employees as well as visitors and customers. "For everyone to benefit, however, employees have to be committed to its success," says Caldwell.

If you have questions or comments regarding the LOOKING SHARP process, please contact Caldwell at (702) 295-0694.

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## Unusual structures at the Nevada Test Site

*Can you identify this facade?*

*SiteLines* will periodically feature various structures at the Nevada Test Site that remain a mystery in terms of both name and origin. The Nevada Site Office is appealing to the historical knowledge of our readers to assist in identifying and archiving these structures.

This particular facility is located on the sound end of the Yucca Lake bed in Area 6. If you have an idea of exactly what it is, please contact NNSA Cultural Resources Manager **Linda Cohn** at (702) 295-0077.



*This angle of the structure depicts the south and west elevations, with an additional pole façade on the right side.*

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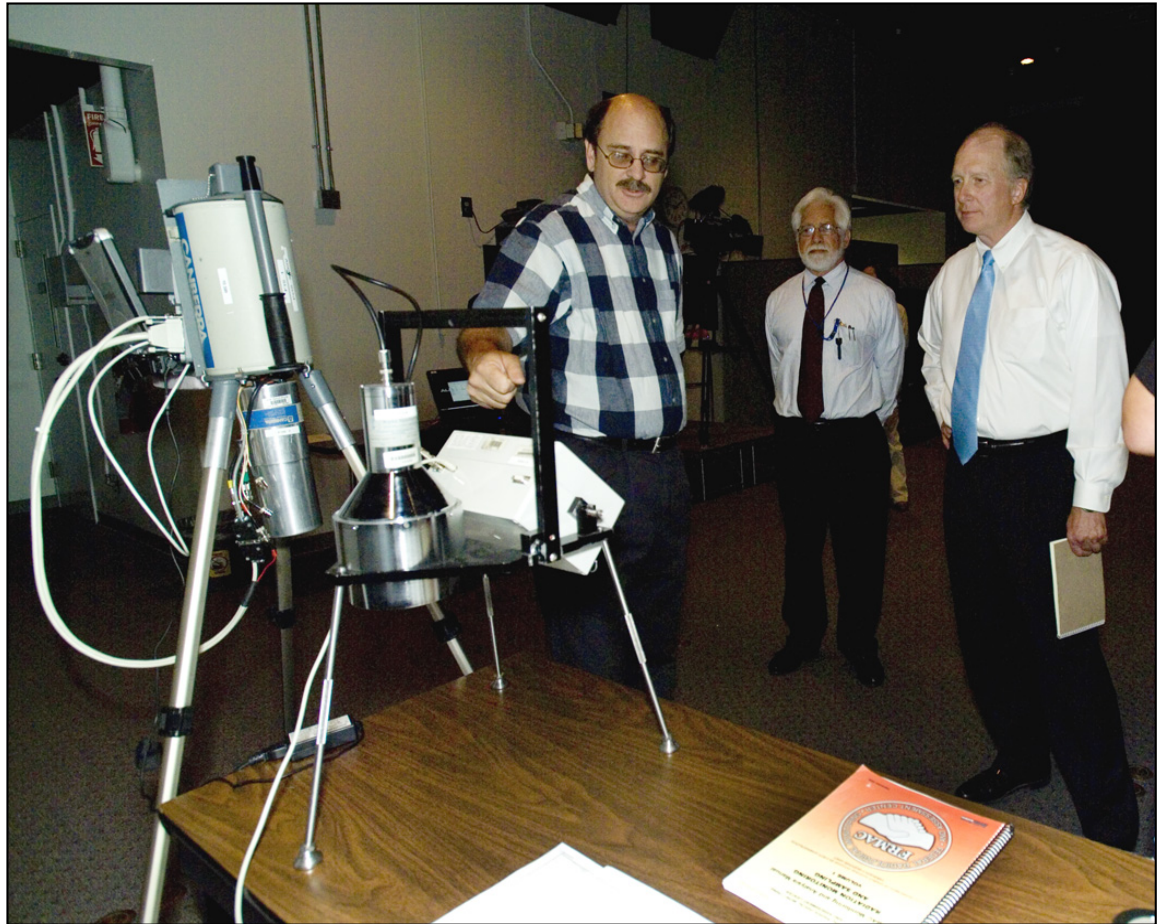
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## Nevada Site Office leadership tours the RSL



NSTec's **Don Van Etten**, Manager, Consequence Management, explains capabilities to NNSA/NSO Manager **Jerry Talbot** during his recent visit to the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Nellis. **Roger Thompson**, Senior Scientific Advisor with the NNSA, looks on. Talbot also visited the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

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## RWMC staff saves energy with innovative changes

Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) staff will meet a key goal for environmental stewardship for FY07 – to reduce gasoline consumption.

Ultimately, their efforts will save \$110,595 in vehicle rental fees and reduce gasoline consumption by about 8,333 gallons annually. The use of a different mix of vehicle types will enable these savings.

RWMC Operations Manager **Mike Millard**, RWMC Technical Staff member **Burt Ford**, and Fleet Services Superintendent **John “Butch” Woods** (all of NSTec) spent several months analyzing all possible combinations and/or replacements of various vehicles. The final mix resulted in eliminating one sport utility vehicle (SUV) and replacing the other with a minivan; replacing three 15 passenger vans with minivans; and replacing most of the 4x4 crew cab trucks with regular pickup trucks.

Ford summed up the success of the study: “Positive results such as these are what we can expect when we work together to improve efficiency and reduce cost.”

The first vehicle change-out was accomplished in February 2007 and the final reconfiguration of the fleet is expected to be completed July 2007. The fleet supports day-to-day facility operations, provide a means for the emergency evacuation, and transports personnel to and from Mercury at the end and beginning of a work shift.

### What takes place at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex?

The Area 5 RWMC is a 732-acre site that includes the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) and the Waste Examination Facility (WEF).

The 92-acre RWMC site is used for low-level waste (LLW) disposal generally shipped to the Nevada Test Site in drums and boxes. The LLW



*Burt Ford stands next to a minivan, a more fuel-efficient vehicle that became a popular replacement for sport utility vehicles and passenger vans.*

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is then placed in shallow, excavated disposal cells, approximately 22 feet deep. To ensure the integrity of waste packages during transit, radiological surveys are completed for each truck and package upon arrival at the RWMC, and again prior to being released from the disposal area. Once delivered to the RWMC, the containers are carefully stacked and methodically arranged in a grid system—within the disposal cells—to facilitate tracking. As the cells fill, heavy equipment operators spread an 8-foot layer of soil over the waste.

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## Lynn appointed to Business & Contract Management post

**Kathy Lynn** was recently appointed as Deputy Assistant Manager for Business and Contract Management for the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO). In her new role, she is taking a proactive approach in managing the staffing and day-to-day operations of the Business and Contract Management organization.



*Kathy Lynn*

“An important aspect of my job is to ensure there is cross-training and succession planning for functions that are minimally staffed and/or at risk of losing staff who may retire within the next two to five years,” says Lynn.

Lynn was first appointed as a federal employee with the Department of the Navy as a Personnel Management Specialist with the Naval Aviation Depot in Alameda, Calif. in 1989. She joined the Department of Energy in 1992 with the Oakland Operations Office and then transferred to the Nevada Operations Office in 1994. She later accepted a position as Executive Officer for the Field Chief Financial Officer, stationed in Nevada. When the function was ultimately transferred to Albuquerque, she accepted a position as a Lead Business Management Specialist with the NSO in 2004.

Prior to joining the federal government, Lynn worked for AT&T Major Markets and also at Dow Chemical. In addition to her civilian Federal service, Lynn served 22 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve and retired as a Commander.

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