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Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

NNSS Cleanup Sites Get More Bang for the RA Buck!

Closure work is currently underway at the historic *Buggy* site on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly the Nevada Test Site). Crews working at *Buggy* and several other cleanup sites were able to ramp up activities after making the most of [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) funds.

[The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office](#) had earmarked part of its original \$44 million in Recovery Act funds to complete cleanup-phase activities at *Buggy* and other historically-contaminated atmospheric test locations at the NNSS. Fortunately, efficiencies in scheduling and planning allowed the Nevada Site Office to move beyond the cleanup process to the closure stage, which involves formalizing use restrictions and long-term institutional controls.

These are not the only activities gaining traction on the NNSS cleanup front. An approximate \$4.7 million in Recovery Act money gained through efficiencies is being used for several other activities, including:

- Completing surveys and drill pad construction for two groundwater characterization wells in Frenchman Flat (southeastern portion of the NNSS);
- Completing additional groundwater modeling at Pahute Mesa (northwestern area of the NNSS);
- Removing contaminated soil at [Industrial Sites](#) on the Tonopah Test Range (north of the NNSS);



The *Buggy* experiment, conducted in the spring of 1968, was a series of five nuclear detonations used to produce a large trench. *Buggy*, along with several other tests, was part of the [Plowshare Project](#) in which the U.S. government studied peaceful uses for nuclear weapons.

Cleanup at *Buggy* included the removal of hazardous debris.

- Completing the Closure Report for contaminated railroad tracks in Areas 25 and 26 (southern portion of the NNSS); and
- Completing radiological surveys in Area 11 (eastern part of the NNSS).

Closure work at *Buggy* and several other contaminated sites is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

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