



September 13, 2011 Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

Nevada Site Office Welcomes Public to Participate in EIS Hearings

Community members are invited to attend a series of public meetings in September 2011 to learn about, and provide comments on, the *Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and Off-Site Locations in Nevada*. These meetings are part of an official public comment period that spans from July 29 through October 27, 2011.

Draft SWEIS Public Meetings

September 20, 2011

Cashman Center
850 Las Vegas Blvd. North
Las Vegas, NV 89101

September 21, 2011

Pahrump Nugget
681 South Hwy. 160
Pahrump, NV 89048

September 22, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott
185 S. 1470 East
St. George, UT 84790

September 27, 2011

Convention Center
301 Brougner Ave.
Tonopah, NV 89049

September 28, 2011

Carson Nugget
507 North Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration [Nevada Site Office](#), the draft SWEIS presents a thorough analysis of how current missions* and potential missions at the NNSS (formerly the Nevada Test Site) and offsite locations in Nevada may affect the environment over the next ten years. The document examines potential impacts to soil, groundwater, plants, animals, and nearby communities. Public consideration of these effects is, therefore, an important part of developing the final SWEIS.

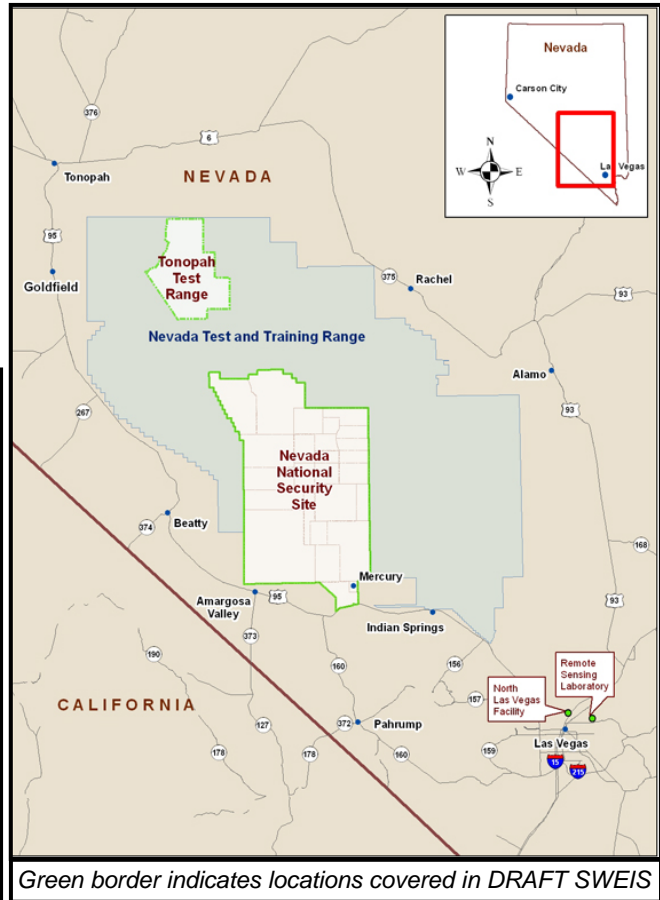
The public meetings, held in Nevada and Utah (see side bar for meeting dates and locations), will consist of an open house and a formal hearing period. The open house (5-8pm) will provide attendees the opportunity to speak one-on-one with subject matter experts about the development and contents of the draft SWEIS, which focuses on the NNSS, the Tonopah Test Range, and two locations within the Las Vegas valley. Additionally, the open house will feature a number of descriptive posters and handouts for participants to review and use as reference when asking questions. Formal comments can be provided privately to a stenographer during the open house or recorded during the public hearing that takes place from 6:30 to 8pm.

Public meetings provide several opportunities for the public to participate in the SWEIS process; it is important to note, however, that community members can provide input at any time during the comment period, which lasts through October 27, 2011. The public can access, and comment on, the document at www.nv.energy.gov/sweis or by request at 877-781-6105.

The final SWEIS is expected to be available in mid-2012.

The [National Environmental Policy Act](#) requires DOE sites to periodically develop Environmental Impact Statements that explore the environmental effects of missions in the context of several reasonable scenarios, or *alternatives*. The Nevada Site Office draft SWEIS offers three alternatives:

- The **No Action Alternative** reflects activity levels remaining consistent with current levels;
- The **Expanded Operations Alternative** includes the capabilities in the *No Action Alternative*, but also explores *adding* capabilities and projects. This alternative also assumes some activities would be conducted more frequently than they are now;
- The **Reduced Operations Alternative** reflects a reduction in activities. These reductions would vary across programs.



** Current missions at the NNSS include: supporting national security and defense initiatives; disposing low-level radioactive waste; implementing corrective actions in areas with historic contamination; and promoting research and development programs, like renewable energy.*

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safety ✦ performance ✦ cleanup ✦ closure