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Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

NEVADA SITE OFFICE TO HOLD GROUNDWATER OPEN HOUSE

Beatty, Nevada will again serve as the host site for a Groundwater Open House held by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office. The event, scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at the Beatty Community Center, is part of ongoing efforts for community members to stay informed about groundwater affected by historic underground nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site.



*Community members at the February 2009
Groundwater Open House in Beatty, Nevada.*

Open house participants will be able to talk one-on-one with scientists, engineers and other specialists involved in the intensive groundwater project at the Nevada Test Site. Detailed information will be provided regarding computer modeling, hydrology, radiation, groundwater monitoring, and the ongoing drilling campaign that will place a total of nine new wells in the Pahute Mesa region of the Nevada Test Site by 2012. These wells will be located both on the Nevada Test Site and the adjacent, restricted U.S. Air Force land.

“We received positive feedback from the previous open house,” said Environmental Restoration Federal Project Director, Rob Boehlecke. “An open house is a perfect opportunity for community members to talk to the people who are doing this important work at the Nevada Test Site,” he added.

At the February 2009 open house, groundwater experts from the Nevada Site Office provided participants with an overview of modeling results that forecasted the presence of tritium in

groundwater on restricted U.S. Air Force land (Pahute Mesa). Subsequent sampling results were consistent with the computer models that predicted contamination would be found in this area within 50 years of the first underground nuclear detonation (1965). Additional data from new wells at Pahute Mesa will further refine these computer models. The models predict where and how fast contaminants are moving in order to develop a long-term monitoring network that protects the public and the environment.

In addition to subject-matter experts from the Nevada Site Office, representatives from the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will be available to discuss the State's role as the Nevada Test Site regulator. Members of the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs will also be available to provide information on volunteer opportunities.

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