

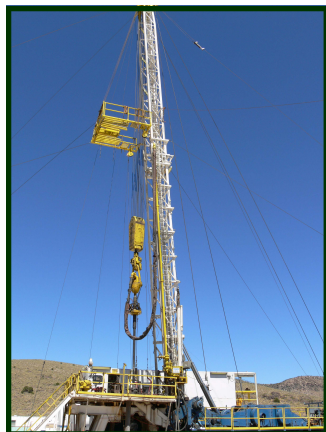


November 23, 2010 Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH



New Wells to Shed Light on Pahute Mesa Groundwater



Groundwater experts are in the midst of an intensive well drilling and installation campaign that will add ten new wells to the Pahute Mesa region of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly the Nevada Test Site) by 2013. The additional wells will help scientists understand the movement of radiologic contamination in groundwater resulting from historical underground nuclear testing.

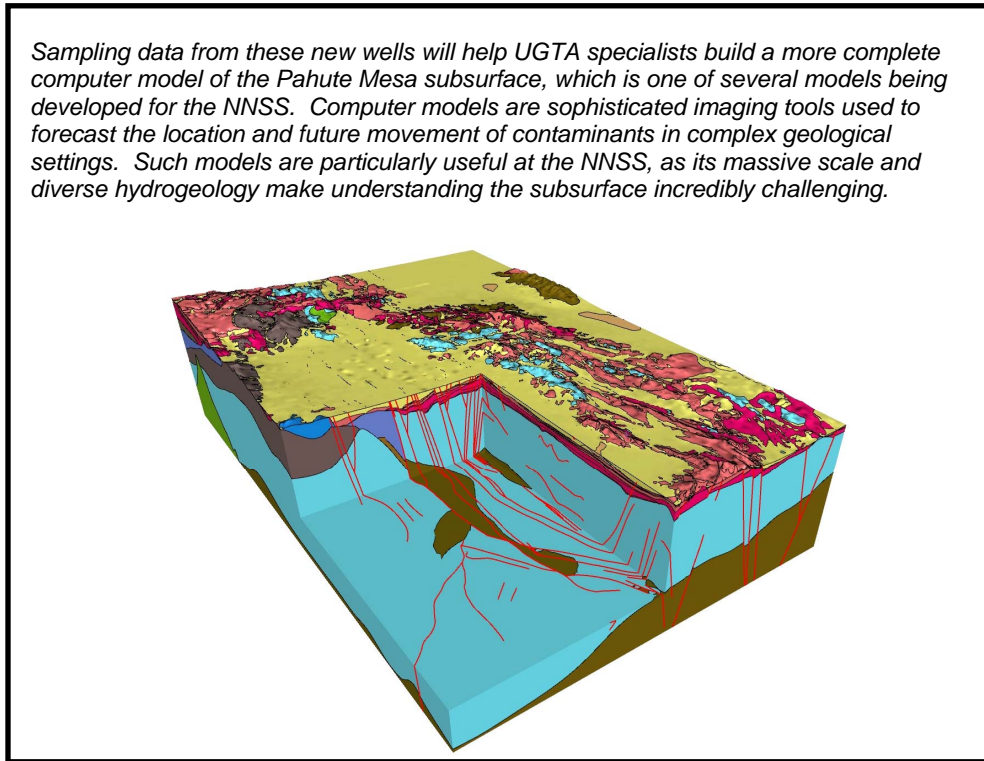
The new Pahute Mesa wells are part of a network of more than 90 wells located on or near the NNSS that are sampled as part of the Underground Test Area (UGTA) activities. This vast well network supports UGTA's site-wide [groundwater characterization program](#), which is overseen by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office.



Work on UGTA's latest well, ER-EC-15, began November 11, 2010, putting the total number of new wells at eight. The two remaining Pahute Mesa wells will be drilled in 2012. As these wells are completed, UGTA specialists collect samples, which are sent to independent laboratories for testing. In addition to radiological contamination levels (e.g. tritium, plutonium) and metal content, scientists are looking for hydrogeologic information that contains indicators about where groundwater originated and how long it took to get there.

Sampling results for Pahute Mesa will be published in the *Hydrologic Data Document*, due out in mid 2012. Until that time, UGTA experts will periodically share results with the NNSS regulator, the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. The public can request the same data by calling 702-295-3521 or by emailing: envmgt@nv.doe.gov.

The *Flow and Transport Document* for Central/Western Pahute Mesa, which will contain detailed information about the direction and flowpaths of groundwater, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013/beginning of 2014.



You have received this announcement as a member of the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office Environmental Management distribution list which is not shared with advertisers or third-party websites. If you would like to be removed from the list, please call 702-295-3521 or e-mail your request to envmgt@nv.doe.gov with the words "EM News Flash Remove" in the subject line. If you know anyone who would like to begin receiving these articles, please have them send a request to envmgt@nv.doe.gov with the words "EM News Flash Subscribe" in the subject line. You can also follow us on Facebook at [NNSA Nevada Site Office](#).



safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure