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Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

EM NEWS FLASH

Pluto Closure Project Earns P2 Award

In recognition of their recycling efforts during the 2009 closure of the Pluto Disassembly Facility at the Nevada Test Site, Navarro Nevada Environmental Services (NNES) and National Security Technologies (NSTec) have been honored with a National Pollution Prevention award. As a result of the team's initiative during closure activities, 90,000 lbs of waste generated was recycled, benefitting the environment and saving the tax payer money.

The award, titled "Best-In-Class" in the category of *Recycling*, highlights the contractors' success in identifying alternative uses for waste materials. Rather than disposing the lead shielding removed from the [Pluto](#) facility, for example, workers were able to package and transport the material to a vendor in Tennessee to be used elsewhere within the U.S. Department of Energy Complex. Other recycled materials included: used oil; items containing mercury, such as thermometers and thermostats; lead-acid batteries; computer components and equipment; and leaded glass windows.

The Pluto Disassembly Facility, located in Area 26 of the Nevada Test Site, was closed under the [Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order \(FFACO\)](#) agreement with the State of Nevada. Closure Activities took place from May 2008 to February 2009. Built in 1960, Pluto was originally used for nuclear reactor design and testing.

"We wanted to recognize our contractors' resourcefulness when it comes to finding ways to reduce waste," said Kevin Cabbie, Federal Sub-Project Director for Soils and Industrial Sites. "This award reinforces the Nevada Site Office's commitment to streamlining processes."

The 90,000 lbs of reused waste represents approximately 35 percent of the total mass of waste generated during closure activities. These recycling efforts saved the Nevada Site Office \$152,000.



A leaded glass window is removed from the Pluto Facility before being sent to the FERMI Laboratory near Chicago, IL for reuse. These windows provided shielding between the hot cell and the control room during operations.



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