



RCRA PERMIT FOR A HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY



FACT SHEET FOR A RCRA HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT (RENEWAL) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EPA ID# NV389009001

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has developed this Fact Sheet for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit which NDEP intends to renew for the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO). This Fact Sheet has been prepared in accordance with the public notice requirements of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 444.8632 and Chapter 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 124.8. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide interested citizens and other governmental agencies a summary description of the principal facts and issues NDEP has considered in reviewing the Application for renewal of a RCRA Permit for the management of hazardous waste. For this permit renewal, the ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD is the APPLICATION, DRAFT PERMIT and this FACT SHEET.

BACKGROUND:

The Nevada National Security Site (NNS) is a U.S. Department of Energy installation occupying 3561km² (1,375 mi²) of federally owned land in southeastern Nye County. The NNS supports national security-related research, development and testing programs. During the course of its operation, the NNS generates and receives mixed waste containing hazardous waste that requires storage and/or disposal. In March 1995, NDEP issued a Part B Permit to the Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office for a Hazardous Waste Storage Unit (HWSU) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EODU). The permit was subsequently renewed in 2000, 2005 and 2010. In 2010 NDEP issued a new permit for a new Subtitle C landfill herein referred to as the Mixed Waste Disposal Unit (MWDU) and Mixed Waste Storage Unit (MWSU). In 2011 the MWSU, MWDU, HWSU and EODU were consolidated into a single permit.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION:

The MWDU, MWSU and HWSU are located in the remote southeastern portion of the NNS, within the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). The RWMC includes the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS) which is an active disposal site for low level waste. The MWDU is located near the northeastern corner of the RWMC, and consists of a Subtitle C landfill with a design capacity of 25,485 m³, an aboveground tank used to contain leachate and leachate collection system.

The MWSU is located within the Area 5 RWMC and consists of one Transuranic (TRU) Pad Cover Building and TRU Pad, with a maximum storage volume of 17,690 m³ (624,716 ft³); one Sprung Instant Structure Building, with a maximum storage volume of 365 m³ (12,890 ft³); one Visual Examination and Repackaging Building, with a maximum storage volume of 240 m³ (8,476 ft³); and one Drum Holding Pad (DHP), with a maximum storage volume of 131 m³ (4,626 ft³).



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The HWSU is located in Area 5 and consists of a prefabricated, rigid steel-framed roofed shelter used to store hazardous, nonradioactive waste generated on the NNSS.

The EODU is located in a remote portion of Area 11 within the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The controlled area containing the EODU includes approximately 20 acres of land and consists of one detonation pit surrounded by an earthen pad, approximately 20 meters (65 feet) by 31 meters (100 feet); ancillary equipment that includes an explosives magazine and firing point area; and one satellite accumulation area. When waste is present, the magazine is operated in compliance with the Satellite Accumulation Area and 90-day accumulation requirements of 40 CFR 262.34.

TYPES OF WASTE TO BE HANDLED

The HWSU is permitted to store containerized hazardous nonradioactive waste generated at the NNSS. No offsite generated wastes are managed at the HWSU. The MWSU accepts containerized polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste, containerized friable and non-friable asbestos waste and containerized low-level mixed waste (LLMW) for storage until disposal at the MWDU. The MWDU landfill receives and disposes of containerized LLMW, PCB and asbestos waste. The EDOU is permitted to open detonate the following waste explosives: commercially manufactured explosives (capable of detonation as described in 40 CFR 265.382), small arms ammunition, blasting caps, black powder, and smoke pots (hexachloromethane) that have been generated on the NNSS.

BASIS FOR THE PERMIT CONDITIONS

The draft permit conditions are established pursuant to the authority of Section 3006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (Chapter 40 Code of Federal Regulations as codified in part 271), 40 CFR Parts 124, and 260 through 270, Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 459.520 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 444.842 through 444.8746, 444.940 through 444.9555, and 444.960. These laws and regulations govern the management of hazardous wastes in the State of Nevada. The NDEP as the authorized permitting agency for the State of Nevada, has reviewed the permit renewal application submitted by NNSA/NFO and has determined the facility can be operated under the proposed permit conditions in accordance with applicable regulations and in a manner which is protective of public health and the environment.

The operation and maintenance requirements in the draft permit also contain the following plans: waste analysis plan; accident prevention, contingency and emergency response plan; personnel training plan; inspection plan; security plan; record-keeping and reporting requirements; and closure and post-closure requirements.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

No Variances were requested for this Permit Renewal.



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PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION

Section 7004(b) of RCRA, NAC 444.8632, and 40 CFR Section 124.10 require that the public and interested agencies be given at least forty-five (45) days to comment on each draft Permit prepared under RCRA. The comment period for the NNSA/NFO draft permit will end on August 25, 2015. Any person interested in commenting on the application or draft permit must do so within this forty-five day comment period.

The ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD is available for public review between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the NDEP office located at 2030 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 230 in Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 or at the NDEP Website <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm#bff> . Copies of the ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD will also be available for review at the addresses below:

Pahrump Library
701 East Street
Pahrump, Nevada 89048
775-727-5930

Clark County Library
1401 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
702-507-3400

When NDEP makes a final decision to either renew or deny the permit, notice will be given to NNSA/NFO and to each person who has submitted written comments or requested a notice of the final decision. The final permit decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after service of notice of the decision unless a later date is specified or review is requested under NAC 444.8632, or an appeal of the NDEP decision is brought to the State Environmental Commission under NAC 459.9995. If no comments are submitted requesting a change to the draft permit, the final permit shall become effective reflecting the conditions in the draft permit.

NAME OF PERSON TO CONTACT AT NDEP:

Justin Costa Rica, Las Vegas, Nevada, (702) 486-2850 x 234, jcostarica@ndep.nv.gov

Comments should include all reasonably available references, factual grounds, and supporting material. A public hearing may be held to hear further comments if a written notice of opposition is received and a request for such a hearing is submitted by August 25, 2015. In the event that such a public hearing is requested, a time and place for the meeting will be scheduled and announced in a separate public notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing. The NDEP will respond in writing to all comments received during the public comment period and any statements heard at a public hearing, in the event one is held, when making a final permit decision.