

Transporting Low-Level Waste to the Nevada Test Site

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Safety is the first priority for the Environmental Management mission at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office. In fact, this commitment to safety is integrated at DOE sites that generate and transport low-level and mixed low-level waste to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for permanent disposal.



Waste generators are responsible for ensuring that waste is packaged and transported in a safe and compliant manner. These generators and the contracted commercial carriers must comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, NTS Waste Acceptance Criteria, and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations and requirements.

Routing Preferences

U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require carriers to select routes which minimize radiological risk. In addition, the NTS Waste Acceptance Criteria addresses waste transportation and forbids low-level and mixed low-level waste shipments across Hoover Dam and through the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

In combination with these requirements, the Nevada Site Office has identified preferred routes (see map on reverse side) and advises generators to conform to the following guidelines:

- Avoid heavily populated/congested areas in the state of Nevada (including the Las Vegas Beltway, I-215)
- Avoid Davis Dam (AZ-68 and NV-163)
- Use the northern route, I-80 (see map on reverse) during summer months (May - October)
- Use the southern routes during the winter months (November - April), but divide shipments between CA-127 and NV-160 (see map on reverse)

- Direct carrier drivers to complete the mandatory driver questionnaire

The Nevada Site Office may suspend generator shipments if waste is not transported in compliance with the identified requirements and guidelines.

Emergency Response

A Nevada Site Office grant funds emergency preparedness activities and resources in counties near the NTS. This grant is funded by an additional fee charged to generators which is based upon the volume of waste disposed. By the end of fiscal year 2009, approximately \$9 million dollars will have been distributed to Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties to enhance emergency response capabilities.



The Nevada Site Office also strives to accommodate a request by the State of California to limit the number of shipments that travel along California Highway CA-127 due to extremely limited and remote emergency response capabilities (see blackout dates on reverse).

Definitions

Carrier: The trucking company which transports radioactive waste from the generator site to the Nevada Test Site.

Generators: U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Energy sites that generate low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste through cleanup activities.

U.S. Department of Transportation: The federal agency which regulates the packaging and transportation of radioactive materials in accordance with Title 49 in the Code of Federal Regulations.

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Preferred low-level and mixed low-level waste transportation routes to the Nevada Test Site.

2009 Black-Out Dates for CA-127

Generators must advise their carriers to avoid transporting low-level and mixed low-level waste shipments along CA-127 on the following dates:

Dec. 28, 2008 - Jan. 4, 2009; Jan. 16-19; Feb. 13-16; Mar. 14-15;
Mar. 30-Apr. 19; Apr. 23-28; May 8-10; May 22-25; Jul. 3-6;
Sep. 4-7; Oct. 9-12; Oct. 30 - Nov. 1; Nov. 6-11; Nov. 25-29;
Dec. 20 - Jan. 4, 2010

Permitted Shipments

In addition to any required hazardous material permits and prior to movement in Nevada and any neighboring state, overweight and/or oversized shipments must possess the appropriate state-issued permits. When applying for such permits, all carriers to the NTS must declare that the load is radioactive material, and specify intended routes. Annual permit holders carrying radioactive materials to the NTS are also limited to specific routes. Approved routes, such as NV-160, may be further restricted due to bridge weight capacities, width/height limits, or work zone lane restrictions. Carriers should be aware of all current postings on www.nevadadot.com/business/trucker/.

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