

TTR NESHAPs Report (2008)  
(SNL)

**Section I. Facility Information**

"SANDNESHAP2008"

**Site Description**

Sandia National Laboratories, Nevada (SNL/NV) is based at the Tonopah Test Range (TTR). The TTR is operated by Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico (SNL/NM), for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear ordnance programs. The TTR was used as a bombing range during World War II. SNL/NV activities at TTR date from 1957 when TTR came into limited use after similar facilities at Salton Sea Test Base, California, and at Yucca Mountain on the Nevada Test Range became inadequate. The TTR was originally designed and equipped to gather raw data on aircraft-delivered inert test vehicles coming under Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) purview. Over the years the facilities at TTR and the capabilities of SNL/NV have been expanded to accommodate tests related to AEC (later, the DOE) weapons development programs, varying from simple tests or hardware components to rocket launches or air drops of test vehicles.

The TTR is located about 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, covering 624 square miles (1,616 km<sup>2</sup>) within the boundaries of the Nellis Air Force Range Complex. The nearest population centers are Goldfield (population 659) located about 25 miles (40 km) west of the TTR, and Tonopah (population 4,400) located 30 miles (48 km) northwest of the TTR.

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**Point Radiological Sources**

SNL/NV does not currently have any facilities or other stack emission points that generate airborne radionuclide releases.

**Diffuse Radiological Sources**

During the early 1960's, three dispersal tests involving plutonium were conducted at TTR. These tests were conducted at Clean Slates 1, 2, and 3. A total of approximately 4,122 grams of plutonium is estimated to have been used in the three dispersal tests. The total area of contamination due to the three dispersal tests was estimated to be approximately 20 million square meters as documented in an aerial survey of the three Clean Slate sites (EG&G, 1979). Limited remediation of these sites has been conducted in the past. Diffuse source locations are shown in Figure 1.

U.S. Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Air Emission Annual Report  
(Under 40 CFR 61.94, Subpart H)  
Calendar Year 2008

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**U. S. Department of Energy**

**NESHAP ANNUAL REPORT FOR CY 2008**

**SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, NEVADA**

Sandia National Laboratories

Albuquerque, New Mexico

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# CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>SECTION I. Facility Information</b> .....	2
Site Description .....	2
Point Radiological Sources .....	2
Diffuse Radiological Sources .....	2
<b>SECTION II. Air Emission Data</b> .....	4
Radiological Releases During 2008 .....	4
Environmental Surveillance Program.....	4
<b>SECTION III. Dose Assessment</b> .....	5
Receptor Location .....	5
Dose To the Maximum Exposed Individual.....	5
Certification.....	6
<b>SECTION IV. Other NESHAP Compliance Criteria</b> .....	7
New or Modified Radiological Sources .....	7
NESHAP Subparts Q and T .....	7
Unplanned Radiological Releases .....	7
NESHAP History at TTR .....	7
NESHAP Air Monitoring.....	8
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	9

## **Introduction**

This National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Annual Report has been prepared in a format to comply with the reporting requirements of 40 CFR 61.94 and the April 5, 1995 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOE and EPA.

According to the EPA approved NESHAP Monitoring Plan for the Tonopah Test Range (TTR), 40 CFR 61, subpart H, and the MOA, no additional monitoring or measurements are required at TTR in order to demonstrate compliance with the NESHAP regulation.

## **Section I. Facility Information**

### **Site Description**

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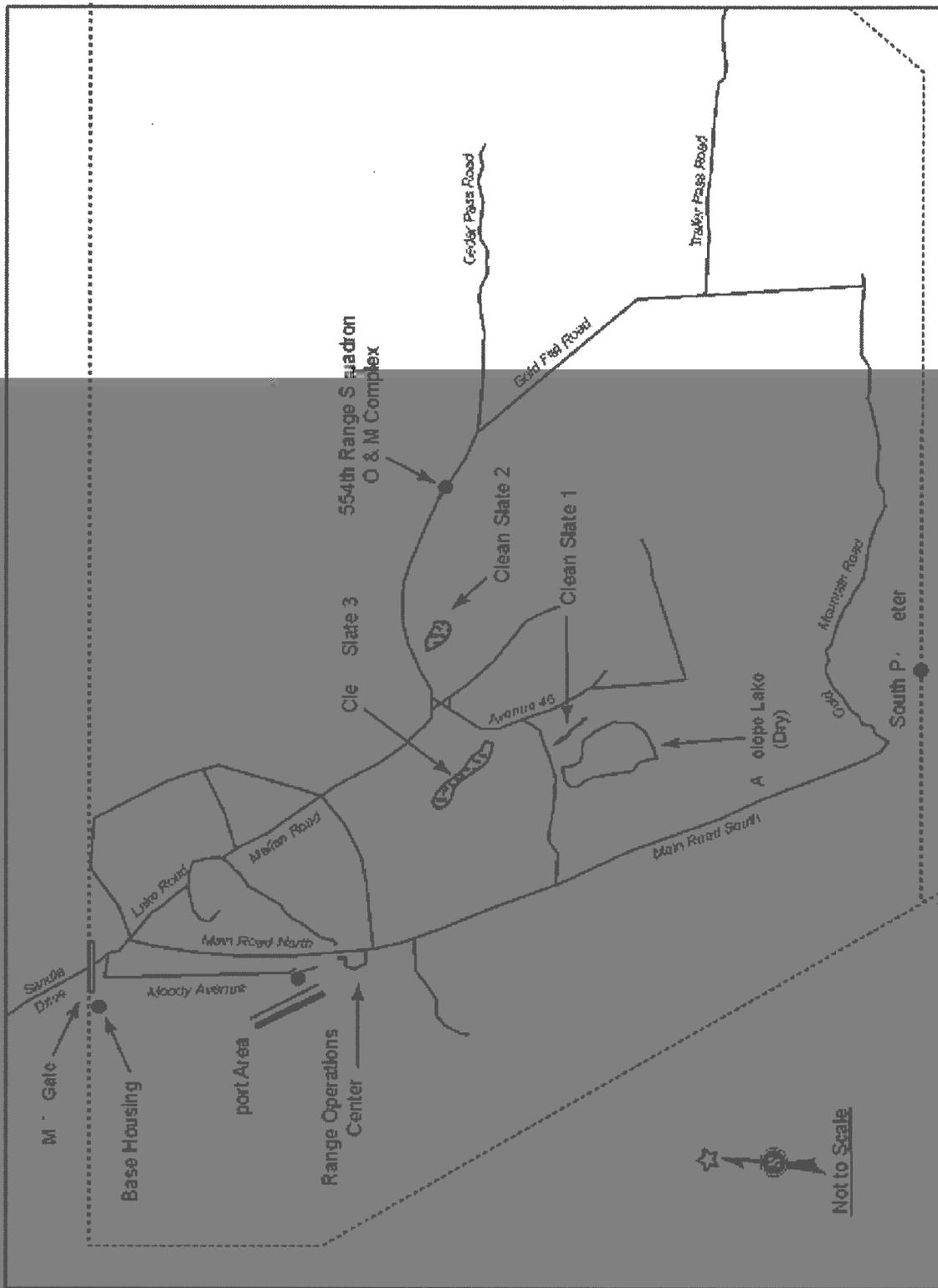
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### **Point Radiological Sources**

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Figure 1. Diffuse Source On-Site Receptor Locations

## Section II. Air Emission Data

### **Radiological Releases During 2008**

During 2008, no new radiological air emissions sources were identified. The only sources of airborne radionuclide emissions at TTR were from diffuse sources of plutonium and americium associated with the original Clean Slate dispersal tests. The radionuclide emissions are uncontrolled and are the result of wind resuspension of contaminated surface soil particulates.

### **Environmental Surveillance Program**

In February of 1977, the EG&G Energy Measurement Group performed an aerial radiological survey at TTR. The surveyed areas included Clean Slates 1, 2, and 3. This radiological survey indicated the presence of transuranic contamination outside the Clean Slate access control fences and in the predominant downwind direction. An additional aerial survey was conducted in 1993. The results of the 1993 survey confirmed the general shape delineated by the 1977 survey.

Routine environmental surveillance activities were begun by SNL/NM at TTR in 1992. Included in these activities are soil and air sampling. The objective of the soil sampling and analysis has been to provide data identifying the extent of soil contamination in areas that were either known or suspected of being contaminated. Results from soil sampling have confirmed the presence of plutonium and americium in the prevailing downwind directions of Clean Slates 1, 2, and 3. The results also confirmed the general shape and activity concentrations indicated by both EG&G surveys.

All routine environmental surveillance data for TTR are included in the annual Site Environmental Report for Tonopah Test Range. These reports, and the information contained in the reports, are part of SNL's environmental compliance activities related to DOE Order 450.1A, *Environmental Protection Program* (DOE 2008).

Initial NESHAP dose assessments at TTR were based on environmental surveillance data, and release estimates from contaminated soil areas, which led to continuous air monitoring in 1996 and 1997. Since that time, NESHAP dose estimates have been based on the results of the continuous air monitoring effort.

### **Dose To the Maximum Exposed Individual**

The effective dose equivalent (EDE) to the MEI was determined based on measured air concentrations for Am-241, Pu-238, and Pu-239/240, and the dose conversion factors from Federal Guidance Report 11, Limiting Values of Radionuclide Intake and Air Concentration and Dose Conversion Factors For Inhalation, Submersion, and Ingestion. The EDE to the MEI was calculated to be 0.024 mrem/yr based on measured data.

**SNL NEVADA AUTHORIZED CERTIFICATION**

M. Patty Wagner      Manager, Sandia Site Office (SSO)  
Name                      Title

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
M. Patty Wagner  
DOE/NNSA/SSO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section IV. Other NESHAP Compliance Criteria**

### **New or Modified Radiological Sources**

During 2008, there were no new or modified radiological sources at SNL/NV facilities.

### **NESHAP Subparts Q and T**

During 2008, no radon emissions occurred from any of the SNL/NV facilities.

### **Unplanned Radiological Releases**

During 2008, there were no unplanned or accidental radiological releases from any of the SNL/NV facilities.

### **NESHAP History at TTR**

The original NESHAP compliance activities at TTR consisted of CAP88 dose calculations based on resuspension calculations of the Clean Slate source term. The resuspension calculations were conservative and demonstrated the need for continuous air monitoring of the Clean Slate sites (1.1mrem/yr EDE to the MEI).

According to 40 CFR 61, subpart H, air monitoring is not required for any source with an EDE to the MEI of less than 0.1 mrem/yr. In addition, emissions from sources with less than 0.1 mrem/yr EDE to the MEI are not required for input to calculations performed for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the regulation. However, these sources are required to be listed in the annual NESHAP report.

To satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 61, Subpart H a document entitled National Emission Standard for Emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Monitoring Plan for the Tonopah Test Range (SNL 1995) was submitted to and approved by EPA Region IX. This Plan outlined the technical approach for conducting continuous air monitoring for one year at the MEI location for Clean Slate emissions. The plan included a phased approach for determining future monitoring requirements, based on the results of the one-year monitoring program:

- EDE >0.1 mrem/year – continuous monitoring at the MEI location, until a one-year period less than 0.1 mrem/year was established;
- EDE ≤0.1 mrem/year, but >0.05 mrem/year – periodic confirmatory monitoring at the MEI location;
- EDE ≤0.05 mrem/year – no further air monitoring required.

Based on the results of the one-year continuous air-monitoring program, the EDE to the MEI was determined to be 0.024 mrem/yr (SNL 1997c). These results demonstrate compliance with 40 CFR 61, subpart H. In accordance with the approved monitoring plan, no additional air sampling is required, since the EDE to the MEI was below 0.05 mrem/yr.

#### **Future NESHAP Activities**

SNL will continue to prepare Annual NESHAP Reports according to guidance provided by EPA and DOE. In addition, new sources will be evaluated for NESHAP applicability and modifications to the existing sources will be evaluated for NESHAP applicability.

