

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY
FOR SITE 26NY1958,
NEVADA TEST SITE,
NYE COUNTY, NEVADA**

by
Harold Drollinger and Fred Nials

with contributions by
Susan Edwards
and
Native American Monitors
Gaylene Moose, Alfred Patterson, and Benn Pikyavit

Lonnie C. Pippin and Colleen M. Beck,
Co-Principal Investigators

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the procedures and findings of the archaeological data recovery effort for site 26NY1958 as part of the Underground Test Area Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the ER-29-1 project. The project is on the Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada, and includes a drill hole along with associated land disturbances for trailers and equipment, temporary reservoirs or earthen tanks, and vehicle parking areas. Data recovery was performed from May 9 to May 19 and from May 31 to June 6, 1994 by the Desert Research Institute for the U.S. Department of Energy/Nevada Operations Office (DOE/NV).

The data recovery involved surface collection, surface scrapes, and backhoe trenches. The investigation recovered 27,498 artifacts, of which 93 percent is obsidian material. The backhoe trenches revealed the artifact material to be limited to the surface, which has been relatively stable since the artifacts were originally deposited.

Site 26NY1958 consists of a series of campsites positioned on the landscape at the base of Shoshone Mountain about midway between the valley lowland resources and the resources of the woodlands in the uplands. The findings of this archaeological investigation indicate the site represents a series of occupations beginning around 8,000 years ago. The earliest occupations, lasting to about 6,500 years ago, were the most intensive or regular evidenced by the

frequency of projectile points and dense debitage concentrations. These dense concentrations were developed by a sequence of overlapping activities. Later occupations after 6,500 years ago seem to have been of shorter duration, but these people in all likelihood used the site in a like manner but not as frequent or as intense. Moreover, the amount of lithic material left by the initial occupants may have drawn people to the site, and as a consequence, contributed to the debitage concentrations by overlapping their activities with the earlier ones. The primary living areas, that is sleeping and eating areas, appear to have been around the dense concentrations.

The major lithic activity at the site was the production of obsidian tools from flakes. The finished tools or late stage biface forms were subsequently carried elsewhere to different locations dependent on the prevailing settlement system at the time. Some tools, such as specialized bifaces, unifaces, and utilized flakes, were used and discarded on the site.

With this study, data recovery has been completed for site 26NY1958 within the project area and DOE/NV has mitigated the adverse impacts to the site. The study has contributed to the understanding of previous settlement systems by determining what types of activities occurred and where they occurred on the landscape. No further archaeological investigations are proposed for the project area.