Why is the NNSS Suitable for CEUSP Disposal?

To protect workers, the public and the environment, disposal of the CEUSP low-level waste is proposed for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS). In order to safely dispose of waste, the Area 5 RWMS was established in 1961 in a valley where legacy contamination exists from 24 historic nuclear tests. Various factors contributed to the selection of this site for radioactive waste disposal, including:

Site Security

The NNSS is government controlled, restricted land guarded by a 24-hour security force. The site's status will remain restricted indefinitely and the U.S. Air Force controlled land surrounding the site provides an additional buffer zone.

Monitoring

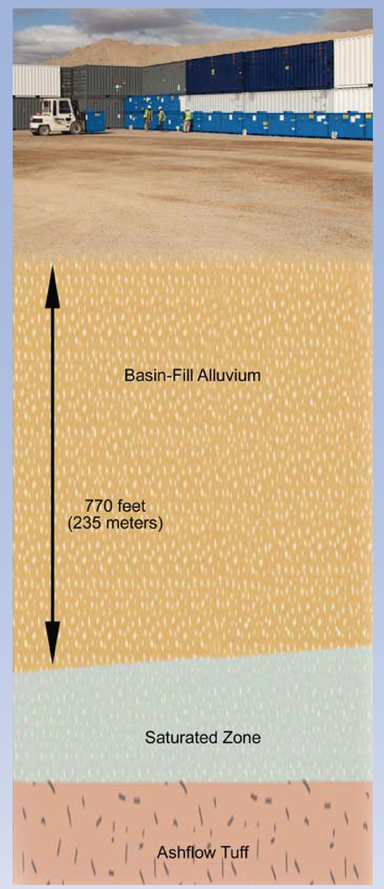
Monitoring networks of the groundwater, air, and subsurface are in place at the NNSS and Area 5 RWMS to ensure operations do not adversely impact the surrounding environment or endanger worker and public safety.

Site Attributes

Area 5 is contained in one of the most arid regions of the U.S. The RWMS resides in an arid environment where rainfall does not reach the water table since it either evaporates or is used by plants. The facility is remote as well. It's located nearly 30 miles from the nearest community.

Engineered Shallow Land Burial of Waste

Natural features of the site complement the engineered design of the disposal cells. Results from multiple special analyses indicated near surface disposal of U-233 CEUSP waste at the NNSS is safe for the public, workers, and the environment for at least 10,000 years.



Groundwater is at least 770 feet below the Area 5 RWMS