

White Sands Test Facility Significant Aspects

White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) is committed to multi-media environmental compliance in all facility activities. In addition, NASA continues to actively encourage, resource conservation, innovative technologies, recycling activities, sustainable acquisition, and other "green" initiatives. To accomplish these goals, NASA established an Environmental Management System (EMS) to ensure that environmental compliance is maintained, new programs and test protocols adhere to State and Federal regulatory requirements, and continuous environmental improvement is part of the way WSTF does business.

WSTF's EMS was certified to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard in April 2000. WSTF was the first NASA facility or center to achieve this certification. The ISO 14001 standard provides a systematic approach to achieving environmental excellence through five major areas: commitment and policy, planning, implementation and operation, measurement and evaluation, and Management review

Integral to the EMS is the annual identification of WSTF operations that have significant environmental aspects. The current significant aspects form the basis of WSTF's operations Environmental Management Programs and are designed to minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts or elevate positive environmental impacts.

1. **Aspect – Water Quality**

Impact - Loss of water storage capacity.

Objective - Ensure tank structural integrity and maintain drinking water quality at WSTF by performing identified maintenance on Tank 2 (725K gal) and Tank 3 (1 million gal) drinking water storage tank.

Target – Repair and upgrade WSTF Tank 2 and 3 and minimize water supply impacts to propulsion testing and water customers (ADF-SW and WSC).

2. **Aspect – Water Quality – Cross Connection Control**

Impact – Quality of drinking water.

Objective - Maintain quality drinking water at WSTF by prevention of drinking water contamination from non-potable water sources.

Target- Map WSTF potable and non-potable systems to identify areas that need backflow prevention and update/install backflow prevention to separate potable and non-potable water systems.

3. **Aspect – Air Emissions – Refrigerant Management**

Impact – Air emission compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Objective - Maintain Clean Air Act air emission compliance by strengthening the Refrigerant Management program.

Target – Evaluate the refrigerant management system and solidify the refrigerant management requirements into one document.

4. **Aspect – Water Conservation**

Impact – Water use reduction.

Objective – Increase water conservation to meet Executive Order E.O. 13693.

Target – Achieve a two percent water use reduction per year.

5. **Aspect – Risk Management Plan & Process Safety Management Integration**

Impact – Adherence to EPA risk management program requirements and OSHA process

management rules.

Objective – Maintain compliance to EPA and OSHA regulations.

Target – Integration of the EPA Risk Management Plan requirements with the OSHA Process Safety Management requirements

6. **Aspect – Opportunity for Resource Conservation**

Impact – Increase employee awareness and involvement in environmental stewardship.

Objective – Enhance awareness and continued improvement of pollution prevention, resource conservation and reuse for waste reduction and environmental stewardship.

Target – Support NASA WSTF SSPP Goals by raising awareness and employee involvement for continual improvement.

NASA-WSTF employees have achieved excellence by adhering to these goals and commitments and their efforts have resulted in:

- The 2016 GreenGov Presidential Award in the Purchasing Power Category for the development of a software tool that seamlessly integrates data collection and management of green purchasing.
- The 2013 acceptance to the NMED Green Zia Environmental Leadership Program at the Gold Level (their highest level). WSTF retains this membership through annual reporting. NMED recognized WSTF's attention to reducing site environmental impacts by employing pollution prevention and best management practices for energy, sustainable acquisition, hazardous waste, product use, solid waste, and waste diversion.
- The 2012 Federal Green Challenge Award for Overall Achievement and outstanding efforts to advance sustainability and for its leadership in reducing the environmental footprint of federal government activities.
- An NMED commendation for detailed waste and resource tracking systems and integration of environmental goals within site operations and organization culture. NMED also recognized WSTF for their commitment to and innovation in reducing waste and natural resources use in New Mexico.