

P-Tunnel is located in Area 12 of NTS, north of the Area 12 camp. Vehicular access to P-Tunnel is via the Mercury Highway, Tippipah Highway, Rainier Mesa Road, and Road 12-01, as shown in Figure 5.2-1. The traffic on these roads is controlled by NTS personnel; no public traffic is allowed on these roads. Because a release of plutonium from an intersite pit shipment would require a severe accident (e.g., an accident with a fuel tanker or train [see section 4.16.4.2]), the controlled transportation environment within NTS does not pose a significant threat to pit shipments. Consequently, the contribution to overall transportation risk from onsite transportation is negligible.

Radiological impacts of unloading pits at the two facilities are described in section 5.2.2.1, Human Health.

5.2.1.12 Aircraft Accidents

The airspace above NTS, designated as R4808, is a special-use airspace identified by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. This designation applies to all aircraft and is unlimited in height. Clearance to enter the restricted airspace above NTS must be obtained from DOE. Aircraft pilots desiring to fly through NTS airspace are required to contact the DOE Operations Coordination Center at NTS;

information regarding the type of aircraft and nature of flight into the restricted airspace must be provided. DOE does authorize flights into the restricted airspace.

There are four airports and five landing strips in the vicinity of DAF and P-Tunnel. Las Vegas McCarran International Airport is the major commercial airfield in the State of Nevada. This airport, located approximately 122 kilometers (76 miles) southeast of NTS, is used by commercial (air carrier and air taxi), military, and general aviation aircraft. In 1994, McCarran International Airport had 488,347 aircraft operations (take-offs and landings). North Las Vegas Airport is located just north of McCarran International Airport and is used by commercial air taxi, military, and general aviation aircraft. In 1994, North Las Vegas Airport had 188,707 aircraft operations (take-offs and landings). Table 5.2.1.12-1 summarizes the total number of airfield operations at the McCarran International and North Las Vegas Airports (PC 1996j). Nellis Air Force Base, located 107 kilometers (67 miles) from NTS, is also north of McCarran International Airport and is only used by military aircraft.

The closest airfield to NTS, Indian Springs Auxiliary Field, approximately 48 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of DAF, has two runways used only by military aircraft. Beatty Airfield,

TABLE 5.2.1.12-1.—Las Vegas McCarran International and North Las Vegas Airport Operations for 1994

AIRCRAFT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	
	MCCARRAN	N. LAS VEGAS
Air Carrier	229,497	0
Air Taxi	104,395	9,928
Military	17,280	1,164
General Aviation	137,175	177,615
Total Airfield Operations	488,347	188,707

Source: PC 1996j