



FUSRAP

Berkeley, California, Site

This fact sheet provides information about the Berkeley, California, Site. This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

Site Description and History

The Berkeley, California, Site (formerly the University of California Site) is located at Gilman Hall on the campus of the University of California. The third-floor and basement areas of the building were used in support of the Manhattan Project and early U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) research activities, including the first production of minute quantities of plutonium by bombarding uranium with neutrons.

In 1976, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a radiological survey of Gilman Hall as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Low levels of uranium contamination exceeding then-current guidelines were detected under the asphalt-tile flooring in two rooms on the third floor and in an unused sewer line under the basement. In 1981, a more detailed characterization survey revealed contamination in 12 rooms, 3 hallways, and 6 exterior alcoves of the building, along with isolated areas of removable contamination. Most of the contamination involved spilled uranium compounds on floors and walls.

Remedial action was conducted between 1976 and 1981 and included removal of radioactive material from the contaminated floor and walls; the remaining areas were shielded, sealed, or fixed. In 1981, DOE discovered additional contamination in Gilman Hall in a room that had not been previously surveyed. From December 1981 through February 1983, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory performed remedial action of the additional contaminated areas under an agreement with DOE and the University.

Regulatory Setting

AEC, a predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites where work was performed to develop the nation's nuclear



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Location of the Berkeley, California, Site

weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiological surveys for more than 600 sites connected with the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup, including the Berkeley site. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated FUSRAP sites.

The Berkeley site was remediated to a condition that would pose no unacceptable risk to occupants in accordance with

the University's state radioactive materials license. DOE certified the site on March 26, 1985 (it is unknown when or if a *Federal Register* notice was posted).

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred responsibility for the Berkeley site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM).

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial-action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the Berkeley site is in compliance with the provisions of the University's radioactive materials license. Surface contamination remains in Gilman Hall and has been covered, shielded, or fixed to reduce exposure and risk to acceptable levels. Based on a review of this post-remedial action data, DOE certified that radiological conditions at the Berkeley site comply with decontamination criteria to protect human health and the environment under the current land use. DOE closed this site under FUSRAP, and the University of California retains responsibility for managing the remaining contamination in accordance with appropriate standards prior to terminating its California general license. The University performs health physics monitoring under the its State radioactive materials license.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Berkeley site. LM's responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

Additional Information

In case of an emergency at the site, contact 911.

Documents related to FUSRAP activities at the Berkeley site are available on the LM website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/berkeley/Sites.aspx>.

For other information on site history or current long-term stewardship activities, please contact us at:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way, Grand Junction, CO 81503

(970) 248-6070 (monitored continuously), or
(877) 695-5322 (toll-free)

FUSRAPinfo@lm.doe.gov