

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

ELIMINATION REPORT

FOR

THE FORMER SYLVANIA-CORNING NUCLEAR CORPORATION

BAYSIDE, NEW YORK

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Department of Energy  
Office of Nuclear Energy  
Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology  
Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects (and/or predecessor agencies, offices, and divisions) has reviewed the past activities of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at the former Sylvania-Corning Nuclear Corporation, Bayside, New York. Based on radiological surveys and soil sampling conducted by DOE and others, DOE has determined that the conditions at this site are in compliance with current DOE radiological guidelines and standards, and that no potential for radiological exposure exists beyond that resulting from natural background. Therefore, this site requires no DOE remedial action and will not be included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

This report presents information supporting the determination that the radiological conditions at the former Sylvania-Corning Nuclear Corporation site in Bayside, New York, are in compliance with current DOE radiological guidelines and standards<sup>1</sup> and provides assurance that use of the site will not result in any measurable radiological hazard to site occupants or the general public.

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<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Energy Guidelines for Residual Radioactivity at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites (February 1985).

This elimination report will be archived by DOE through the Assistant Secretary for Management and Administration. A copy of this package will be available for public review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), at the DOE Public Document Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C.

## BACKGROUND

### Site Function

The Metallurgical Laboratory of Sylvania-Corning was used from the late 1940s to the early 1960s under Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) contracts for research and development with radioactive materials, principally uranium and thorium. The uranium work included carbon reduction of uranium oxide; development of pelletized (ceramic), wire, porous, and hollow fuel elements; powder metallurgy, including studies on nonpyrophoric uranium powder, hydrostatic pressing, pressing procedures, ore melting, preforms, and sinter welding; continuous reduction of uranium hydride;  $UO_2$  wafer and flat plate production; uranium pipe cutting; investigation of dimensional stability; and nonaqueous separation. Thorium projects included powder metallurgy, reduction, and canning of slugs. The work was sponsored by the AEC reactor development group as well as by Oak Ridge and Savannah River Operations Offices, Lockland Area Office, Argonne National Laboratory, and University of California Radiation Laboratory. Two contracts have been identified: AT(30-1)-1293 and AT-24(AT(30-1)-Gen-366). The facility was also licensed by AEC to process and use uranium. The regulatory responsibility for the license was transferred from AEC to the New York State Department of Labor in 1962. During this period, occupancy of the building gradually shifted to General Telephone and Electronics (GTE) Laboratories, which also occupied other buildings at the site. GTE subsequently moved its facilities to Waltham, Massachusetts.

## Site Description

The site was owned by Sylvania Electric Company, Atomic Energy Division (later Sylvania-Corning Nuclear Corporation, Inc.), and subsequently by GTE. It is located at 208 to 220 Willetts Point Boulevard, Bayside, New York (Figure 1). None of the original buildings remain. The site is now privately owned. Condominiums have been build on the property. Construction is nearly complete, and approximately 80 percent of the units are occupied.

## Radiological History and Status

New York State terminated the GTE license at this site in 1973 following survey and decontamination by Teledyne Isotopes. Decontamination was verified by the New York Department of Labor and AEC's Health and Safety Laboratory.

However, because no records were available at the time, Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Operations Office and Oak Ridge National Laboratory personnel performed a screening survey on November 29, 1977, to determine its radiological condition. During the site visit and exploratory survey, which included direct measurements and collection of soil samples, no radioactivity above background was detected.

During construction of the condominiums, the DOE Environmental Measurements Laboratory and the New York City Department of Health monitored the subsurface conditions at the site. Gamma ray surveys and soil sample analyses revealed no contamination above background levels.



## ELIMINATION ANALYSIS

Based on a review of historical records and the radiological survey results, DOE has determined that radiation levels and radionuclide concentrations are equal to natural background, demonstrating that the site was adequately decontaminated when operations were terminated. Therefore, no remedial action is necessary and the former site of Sylvania-Corning Nuclear Corporation in Bayside, New York has been eliminated from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

## REFERENCES

- o DeBoer, T.K., (New York State Energy Office) to William Mott (Department of Energy), letter of February 28, 1980.
- o Oak Ridge National Laboratory, "Preliminary Survey of Sylvania-Corning Nuclear Corporation Metallurgical Laboratory, Bayside, New York," March 1980.
- o DeBoer, T.K., (New York State Energy Office) to William Mott (Department of Energy), letter of April 1, 1980.
- o Vierzba, Edmund A., (The Aerospace Corporation) to William E. Mott (Department of Energy), "Sylvania-Corning Nuclear Corporation, Inc., Bayside, New York, Disposition of Residual Materials," letter of October 15, 1980.
- o Mott, William E., (Department of Energy) to Leonard R. Solon (New York City Department of Health), letter of October 23, 1980.
- o Baublitz, John E. (Department of Energy) to Henry J. Montagni, letter of February 29, 1984.