



New York, New York, Site

FACT SHEET

*This fact sheet provides information about the New York, New York, Site.
This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.*

Site Description and History

The New York, New York, Site (formerly known as the Baker and Williams Warehouses Site) is located on the west side of central New York City and consists of three adjacent warehouse buildings at 513-519, 521-527, and 529-535 West 20th Street. Building 513-519 consists of 7 floors and a basement; Building 521-527 has 9 floors and a basement; and Building 529-535 has 11 floors and a basement. Each building has a footprint of approximately 9,200 square feet.

During the 1940s, the Manhattan Engineer District used these warehouses for short-term storage of uranium concentrates produced in Port Hope, Canada, from African ores. Approximately 219,000 pounds of orange and yellow sodium uranate were delivered to the site in 1942, and in the following year, approximately 86,000 pounds of the same substance along with 22,000 pounds of sodium uranyl carbonate and 20,000 pounds of black uranium oxide were delivered. The uranium was later distributed to other U.S. government facilities.

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a radiological screening survey of the New York Site. The survey identified sufficient contamination to recommend the site for inclusion in the DOE Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). In 1991, during radiological surveys of the buildings, DOE identified contamination in Building 513-519 (surface contamination exceeding guideline levels at 4 locations in the basement east bay, 21 locations on the first floor east bay, 1 location on the third floor west bay, and 2 locations on the elevator pit east bay) and Building 521-527 (surface contamination exceeding guideline levels in the basement east bay, basement west bay, and on the first floor). No residual contamination above guideline levels was identified in Building 529-535.

Remedial action of Building 521-527 was conducted in 1991. Decontamination involved using a nonhazardous, nontoxic, biodegradable chemical agent with a self-propelled floor scarifier (a machine that breaks up the surface of concrete and pavement) and chipping hammers. A total of 12 drums of radioactively contami-



M:\LTS\111\0001\10\S03064\S0306400.mxd carverh 11/20/2007 12:20:33 PM

Location of the New York, New York, Site

nated waste were generated and shipped to Hanford, Washington, for disposal. Remedial action of contaminated areas of Building 513-519 was conducted in 1993. A steel-shot blasting machine was used to clean surfaces. A total of 38 drums of contaminated materials were generated and shipped to a licensed facility in Clive, Utah, for disposal. A total of 13 cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste were disposed of at out-of-state facilities.

Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, 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 weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiometric surveys for more than 600 sites connected with the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup, including the New York 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 New York Site was remediated to criteria in *Guidelines for Residual Radioactive Material at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites*. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13, 1995.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred responsibility for the New York Site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to the DOE Office of Legacy Management.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the New York Site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. An independent verification survey was conducted after the completion of remedial action and no residual radioactivity was found at the site that exceeded current guidelines. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the New York Site. DOE Legacy Management responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

Contacts

Documents related to the New York Site are available on the DOE Legacy Management website at http://www.lm.doe.gov/new_york/Sites.aspx.

For more information about DOE Legacy Management activities at the New York Site, contact

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 B³/₄ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503

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