

DOE

NEWS



**For Immediate Release
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DOE Releases Record of Decision for LEHR Cleanup

(DAVIS, Calif.) — The U.S. Department of Energy has released the Record of Decision establishing the final remedy for the environmental cleanup of the DOE areas of the Laboratory for Energy-Related Health Research, also known as LEHR, at the University of California, Davis.

DOE has successfully completed removal actions at the DOE areas of the LEHR, which has significantly reduced impacts to human health and the environment. However, residual contaminants remain at the site at concentrations that prevent unrestricted use of some areas or that have the potential to impact groundwater quality above background concentrations in the future. This ROD addresses the cleanup in six DOE areas. A separate proposed plan and ROD for groundwater and other UC Davis disposal units will be issued by UC Davis in the future.

The ROD, which was also signed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of California, consists of the final remedy for the DOE areas of the former research facility. The ROD outlines the Energy Department's long-term responsibilities to ensure the remedy remains protective. Under the ROD, DOE will conduct long-term groundwater monitoring to detect changes in contaminant concentrations that could impact human health and the environment. If monitoring indicates impacts to groundwater by the identified contaminants of concern, then DOE will evaluate remedial options and determine whether additional remediation is appropriate.

The ROD also requires land-use controls known as institutional controls to prevent exposure where there is a potential for unacceptable risk to human health. Implemented controls include restricting activities that disturb the sub-surface and a prohibition against residential use in one area. DOE expects to begin implementing the final remedy in August 2010.

(more)

DOE began investigating the contamination at the research site in 1988 and started cleanup work at the site in 1996. Investigation and analysis of the remaining contaminants in the DOE areas provided data for DOE to prepare a detailed evaluation of remedial alternatives to complete the cleanup. The Proposed Plan summarized the remedial alternatives and identified DOE's preferred alternative. The final remedial alternative was determined after consideration of public input and in consultation with federal and California state regulators.

Between 1958 and 1988, DOE-sponsored research at LEHR generated radiological and hazardous waste that was disposed of on site. Because some of this waste contaminated soil and groundwater, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated LEHR as a Superfund cleanup site in 1994. Under a Federal Facilities agreement, UC Davis and DOE are responsible for completing the environmental cleanup at LEHR.

The Record of Decision and additional information are available at:

DOE LEHR website:

<http://www.lm.doe.gov/land/sites/ca/lehr/lehr.htm>

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