



New Brunswick, New Jersey, Site

The New Brunswick site, (formerly the New Brunswick Laboratory site) is located approximately 1.5 miles from downtown New Brunswick. The 5.6-acre site is situated in an industrial area and consists of a vacant, fenced, grass-covered lot. The property is bordered by Jersey Avenue on the north, a main rail line and vacant property on the south, and industrial property on the east and west.

From 1948 to 1977, the site was used by the U.S. Government as a chemistry laboratory for nuclear reactor and weapons programs. The site included a main laboratory building, a plutonium laboratory complex, and nine support buildings. Americium; enriched uranium, plutonium, and thorium; and uranium ores were all used at the site. In 1960, soil containing uranium ore (pitchblende) residue was shipped from the Middlesex Municipal Landfill site to the New Brunswick site, where it was mixed with clean soil and used to fill an abandoned rail spur that entered the eastern side of the property. The facility was closed in 1977, and laboratory operations were relocated to Argonne National Laboratory. The 29 years of operations at the site resulted in radiological contamination of the property.

The site was remediated in two phases. Phase I was completed in 1978 and included removal of plumbing, equipment, and portions of floors, walls, and ceilings. Phase II, conducted from 1981 through 1983, consisted of removing all aboveground structures, including contaminated concrete foundations, as well as drain lines, and soil, and shipping the waste and debris to the Nevada Test Site for disposal. This phase also included restoring the remediated portion of the site and installing 13 groundwater monitor wells.

After Phase I and Phase II were completed, verification surveys and sampling identified localized areas that were contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium. These areas included the previously filled railroad spur and a localized spot midway along the southern fence line. Remediation of this additional contaminated soil was conducted in 1996 under FUSRAP and included excavating with heavy equipment, segregating contaminated soil using a segmented gate system, and shipping the soil by rail to a licensed disposal facility.

In 2006, DOE worked with GSA and excessed this property through a bidding process. A successful winning bid was received and sale of the property is expected to be completed soon.