

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
The United States Department of Energy
announces the availability of a document relating to the
investigation of the Brookhaven National Laboratory Inactive Hazardous Waste Site,
Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor
for public review

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of a document relating to the environmental restoration activities at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). The *Action Memorandum: Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor Pile Fan Sump Removal Action* is available for review at the libraries listed below. There is no public comment period for this document.

This action memorandum describes a removal action that is taking place on the Laboratory site. A removal action is an accelerated cleanup response to a known or potential contamination source.

The Pile Fan Sump collects water from various laboratory facilities, including the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR) and the High Flux Beam Reactor. It is an underground concrete structure that is 5 feet wide, 7 feet long and 10 feet deep, weighing approximately 27,000 pounds. This sump has approximately 250 feet of floor-drain piping connected to it.

As a result of past BGRR operations, the sump is contaminated with fission products such as cesium-137 and strontium-90. It is a potential source for a strontium-90 groundwater plume detected by the Operable Unit III remedial investigation.

The Pile Fan Sump contamination was initially discovered in 1996 during a site-wide environmental investigation. This investigation found that rainwater was collecting in the sump and overflowing into surrounding soils.

In late 1997 and early 1998, water and sludge were removed from the Pile Fan Sump and connected piping, and the sump was capped with a weather-tight cover to prevent further intrusion of rainwater. Also, instruments were installed to monitor the water level.

Under this removal action, the sump and the 250 feet of piping connected to it will be excavated and shipped to a licensed off-site facility for disposal.

Surrounding soils will be surveyed to determine if any radioactive contamination is present. Any soils with radioactive contamination above established cleanup levels will be excavated and shipped to a licensed off-site facility for disposal. The excavated area will be backfilled with soils that are verified to be below the cleanup standards.

Located in Upton, N.Y., BNL is classified as an Inactive Hazardous Waste Site by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. BNL is on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priority List.

The Action Memorandum: Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor Pile Fan Sump Removal Action can be found at the following libraries:

Longwood Public Library
800 Middle Country Road
Middle Island, NY
(516) 924-6400

Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library
301 William Floyd Parkway
Shirley, NY
(516) 399-1511

BNL Research Library
Building 477A
Upton, NY
(516) 344-3483

U.S. EPA, Region II Library
290 Broadway
New York, NY
(212) 637-4296

For more information, contact:

Jim Goodenough
U.S. Department of Energy
(516) 344-2423

Ken White
Brookhaven National Laboratory
(516) 344-4423