1 Introduction

Established in 1947, Brookhaven National Laboratory is a multipurpose research institution primarily funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science. The Laboratory is operated and managed by Brookhaven Science Associates, a partnership between the Research Foundation for the State University of New York on behalf of Stony Brook University, the largest academic user of Laboratory facilities, and Battelle, a nonprofit applied science and technology organization. BSA has been managing and operating the Laboratory under a performance-based contract with DOE since 1998. From 1947 to 1998, BNL was operated by Associated Universities, Incorporated. Prior to 1947, the site operated as Camp Upton, a U.S. Army training camp, which was active from 1917 to 1920 during World War I and from 1940 to 1946 during World War II.

One of 10 National Laboratories, BNL has a history of outstanding scientific achievements. For over 60 years, Laboratory researchers have successfully worked to envision, construct, and operate large and innovative scientific facilities in pursuit of research advances in many fields. Programs in place at BNL emphasize continual improvement in environmental, safety, security, and health performance.

1.1 LABORATORY MISSION AND POLICY

BNL's broad mission is to produce excellent science and advanced technology in a safe and environmentally sound manner with the cooperation, support, and involvement of its scientific and local communities. The fundamental elements of the Laboratory's role in support of DOE's strategic missions are the following:

- To conceive, design, construct, and operate complex, leading-edge, user-oriented research facilities in response to the needs of DOE and the international community of users.
- To carry out basic and applied research in long-term, high-risk programs at the frontier of science.
- To develop advanced technologies that address national needs and to transfer them to other organizations and to the commercial sector.
- To disseminate technical knowledge, to educate future generations of scientists and engineers, to maintain technical capabilities in the nation's workforce, and to encourage scientific awareness in the general public.

BNL's Environmental, Safety, Security, and Health (ESSH) Policy is the Laboratory's commitment to continual improvement in ESSH performance. Under this policy, the Laboratory's goals are to protect the environment, conserve resources, and prevent pollution; maintain a safe workplace by planning work and performing it safely; provide security for people, property, information, computing systems, and facilities; protect human health within our boundaries and in the surrounding community; achieve and maintain compliance with applicable ESSH requirements; maintain an open, proactive, and constructive relationship with employees, neighbors, regulators, DOE, and other stakeholders; and continually improve ESSH performance.

In 2001, BNL was the first DOE Office of Science National Laboratory to achieve full registration under the International ISO 14001 environmental management standard. In addition, in December 2006, BNL was the first DOE Laboratory to achieve full registration under the

Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) 18001 Standard. These programs are discussed in Chapter 2 of this report.

1.2 RESEARCH AND DISCOVERIES

BNL conducts research in physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, applied science, and a wide range of advanced technologies. BNL's world-class research facilities are also available to university, industrial, and government personnel from around the world. Current research includes energy security to help address the world's need for new, more efficient, and sustainable energy sources; photon sciences, using ultra-bright light for studies of material structures and properties at the atomic and nanometer scales to enable the design of new energy-efficient materials, pharmaceuticals, and more; quantum chromodynamics (QCD) to study how fundamental subatomic particles and their interactions gave shape to the visible matter of the universe today; physics of the universe to explore cosmic mysteries across the universe, from the origin of mass to the dark matter and dark energy; and climate, environment, and biosciences to research climate change, ecosystems, and sustainable energy to provide a scientific basis for informed climate change management strategies, approaches to adaptation, and policy decisions. In addition to major research activities, the Laboratory provides expertise and smaller programs in a range of areas including accelerator science and technology, biological imaging, homeland and national security, and advanced computation.

To date, researchers working at BNL have received seven Nobel Prizes, National Medals of Science, Enrico Fermi Awards, Wolf Foundation Prizes, R&D 100 awards, as well as other recognitions for discoveries made wholly or partly at BNL. Some significant discoveries and developments made at the Laboratory include new forms of matter, subatomic particles, technologies that fuel leading experimental programs around the world, and life-saving medical imaging techniques for diagnosis and treatment of disease.

1.3 HISTORY

BNL was founded in 1947 by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a predecessor to the present DOE. AEC provided the initial funding for BNL's research into peaceful uses of the atom. The objective was to promote basic research in the physical, chemical, biological, and engineering aspects of the atomic sciences. The result was the creation of a regional laboratory to design, construct, and operate large scientific machines that individual institutions could not afford to develop on their own.

Although BNL no longer operates any research reactors, the Laboratory's first major scientific facility was the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR), which was the first reactor to be constructed in the United States following World War II. In operation from 1950 to 1968, the reactor's primary mission was to produce neutrons for scientific experimentation and to refine reactor technology. Decommissioning of the BGRR was completed in June 2012, and the remaining structures are currently undergoing long-term routine inspection and surveillance.

The High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) was in operation from 1965 through 1996. The facility was used solely for scientific research and provided neutrons for experiments in materials science, chemistry, biology, and physics. The HFBR also allowed researchers to study the basic nature of chemical structures, including the hydrogen bond that holds much of our world together. In late 1996, workers discovered that a leak in the HFBR spent fuel storage pool had been releasing tritium to the groundwater (see SER, Volume II, Groundwater Status Report, for further details). The reactor was shut down for routine maintenance at the time of the discovery and was never restarted. In November 1999, DOE decided that the HFBR would be permanently shut down. With input from the community, a final Record of Decision (ROD) was approved outlining the remedy for the HFBR's permanent decontamination and decommissioning (D&D).

Medical research at BNL began in 1950 with the opening of one of the first hospitals devoted to nuclear medicine. It was followed by the Medical Research Center in 1958 and the Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor (BMRR) in 1959. The BMRR was the first nuclear reactor in the nation to be constructed specifically for medical research. Due to a reduction of research funding, the BMRR was shut down in December 2000. All spent fuel from the BMRR has been removed and transported off site, and the facility is currently in a "cold" shutdown mode as a radiological facility and has entered a period of surveillance and maintenance.

The Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer (BLIP) has been in operation since 1972. It creates radioactive forms of ordinary chemical elements that can be used alone or incorporated into radiotracers for use in nuclear medicine research or for clinical diagnosis and treatment.

Although the Laboratory no longer performs research associated with neuroimaging, BNL's Center for Translational Neuroimaging (CTN) used brain-imaging tools, including positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment, to research causes of, and treatments for, brain diseases such as drug addiction, appetite disorders, attention deficit disorder, and neurodegenerative disease. The development of PET and MRI also has helped facilitate the development of new drugs for physicians worldwide to treat patients for cancer and heart disease.

High-energy particle physics research at BNL began in 1952 with the Cosmotron, the first particle accelerator to achieve billion-electron-volt energies. Work at the Cosmotron resulted in a Nobel Prize in 1957. After 14 years of service, the Cosmotron ceased operation in 1966 and was dismantled in 1969. Knowledge gained from the Cosmotron lead to design improvements and paved the way for construction of the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS).

The AGS is a much larger particle accelerator, and became operational in 1960. The AGS has allowed scientists to accelerate protons to energies that have yielded many discoveries of new particles and phenomena, for which BNL researchers were awarded three Nobel Prizes. The AGS receives protons from BNL's linear accelerator (Linac), designed and built in the late 1960s as a major upgrade to the AGS complex. The Linac's purpose is to provide accelerated protons for use at AGS facilities and BLIP. The AGS booster, constructed in 1991, further enhanced the capabilities of the AGS, enabling it to accelerate protons and heavy ions to even higher energies.

The Tandem Van de Graaff accelerator began operating in 1970 and is the starting point of the chain of accelerators that provide ions of gold, other heavy metals, and protons for experiments at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). In 2010, BNL began operating a new heavy ion beam source for use by RHIC and the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL), the Electron Beam Ion Source (EBIS). This source produces and accelerates intense and bright heavy ion beams, allowing studies with new types of ions previously unavailable from the Tandem Van de Graaff accelerator.

RHIC began operation in 2000. Inside this two-ringed particle accelerator, two beams of gold ions, heavy metals, or protons circulate at nearly the speed of light and collide, head-on, releasing large amounts of energy. RHIC is used to study what the universe may have looked like in the first few moments after its creation, offering insights into the fundamental forces and properties of matter. Planned upgrades to RHIC will expand the facility's research capabilities. The first upgrade, RHIC II, will increase the collider's collision rates and improve the sensitivity of the large detectors it uses. Another planned upgrade, the eRHIC, will add a high-energy electron ring to create the world's first electron and heavy ion collider.

The NSRL became operational in 2003. It is jointly managed by DOE's Office of Science and NASA's Johnson Space Center. The NSRL uses heavy ions extracted from the AGS booster to simulate space radiation and study the effects on biological specimens, such as cells, tissues, and DNA, as well as industrial materials. Studies are conducted to identify materials and methods that reduce the risks astronauts will face on future long-term space missions.

The National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) used a linear accelerator and booster synchrotron to guide charged particles in orbit inside two electron storage rings for use in a wide range of physical and biological experiments. Using beams of very intense light in the x-ray, ultraviolet, and infrared spectra, the NSLS allowed scientists to study the structure of proteins, investigate the properties of new materials, and understand the fate of chemicals in the environment. Although the NSLS had been continually updated since its commissioning in 1982, the practical limits of its performance had been reached and operations permanently ceased in September 2014. The NSLS is currently in a transition to a safe state involving the removal of all hazardous materials in anticipation for utilization of the facility by other organizations.

To continue advances in these fields, construction of the NSLS-II, conceived as the next generation synchrotron light source, began in 2008. To help meet the critical scientific challenges of our energy future, this new state-of-the-art, medium-energy electron storage ring synchrotron will provide x-rays more than 10,000 times brighter than the NSLS and will focus on research at the nanoscale. The NSLS-II will enable scientists to focus on some of the nation's most important scientific challenges at the nanoscale level, including clean, affordable energy, molecular electronics, and high-temperature superconductors. In October 2014, the NSLS-II achieved "first light," when the first shutter was opened to begin commissioning of the first experimental station (called a beamline) allowing powerful x-rays to travel to a phosphor detector and capture the facility's first photons. By the end of 2015, the NSLS II continued toward full operational status, with eight beamlines in the process of being fully commissioned for operation.

The Laboratory's Research Support Building (RSB) was completed in 2006 and provides administrative and support functions in a single location for employees and visiting scientists. The RSB has been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. This award is based on five categories: sustainability, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

BNL's Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN) provides state-of-the-art capabilities for the fabrication and study of nanoscale materials, with an emphasis on atomic-level tailoring to achieve desired properties and functions. Nanoscience has the potential to bring about and accelerate new technologies in energy distribution, drug delivery, sensors, and industrial processes. The CFN is a science-based facility used for developing strong scientific programs while offering broad access to its capabilities and collaboration through an active user program. It is one of five Nanoscale Science Research Centers funded by DOE's Office of Science, and supports the Laboratory's goal of leadership in the development of advanced materials and processes for energy applications. The CFN building has also been awarded LEED Silver certification.

The new Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB), completed in 2013, is an energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable building that provides labs, offices, and support functions to bring together a broad spectrum of researchers, including industry, universities, and other National Laboratories. The ISB fosters energy research, focusing on the effective uses of renewable energy through improved conversion, transmission, and storage. The ISB has also been awarded LEED Gold certification.

Construction of a 32-megawatt Long Island Solar Farm (LISF) at BNL was completed in the fall of 2011. The LISF is the largest solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating plant in the Northeast region. Its goal is to help Long Island be less reliant on fossil fuel-driven power generation and to meet peak load demands from summertime air conditioning use. It is generating enough renewable energy to power approximately 4,500 homes and is helping New York State meets its clean energy and carbon reduction goals. The LISF will be one of the most studied solar installations, as it will be a focal point of the Northeast Solar Energy Research Center (NSERC) at BNL.

Construction of the NSERC is being completed in phases, as funding is available. Research will include work done at the LISF, as well as a dedicated research array for testing solar panel modules, inverters, and other equipment being developed for the solar energy industry.

Figure 1-1. Major Scientific Facilities at BNL.

1. Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)
2. NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL)
3. Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS)
4. AGS Booster
5. Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer (BLIP) and Linear Accelerator (Linac)
6. Heavy Ion Transfer Line (HITL)
7. Radiation Therapy Facility (RTF)
8. Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope (STEM)
9. Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB)
10. Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN)
11. National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS-II)
12. National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS)
13. Tandem Van de Graff and Cyclotron

1.4 FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Most of the Laboratory's principal facilities are located near the center of the site. The developed area is approximately 1,820 acres:

- 500 acres originally developed by the Army as part of Camp Upton, and still used for offices and other operational buildings
- 200 acres occupied by large, specialized research facilities
- 520 acres used for outlying facilities, such as the Sewage Treatment Plant, ecology field, housing facilities, and fire breaks
- 400 acres of roads, parking lots, and connecting areas
- 200 acres occupied by the Long Island Solar Farm

The balance of the site, approximately 3,400 acres, is mostly wooded and represents the native pine barrens ecosystem.

The location of the major scientific facilities at BNL are shown on Figure 1-1. Additional facilities, shown on Figure 1-2 and briefly described below, support BNL's science and technology mission by providing basic utility and environmental services.

- *Central Chilled Water Plant (CCWP)*. This plant provides chilled water sitewide for air conditioning and process refrigeration via underground piping. The plant has a large refrigeration capacity and reduces the need for local refrigeration plants and air conditioning.
- *Central Steam Facility (CSF).* This facility provides high-pressure steam for facility and process heating sitewide. Either natural gas or fuel oil can be used to produce the steam, which is conveyed to other facilities through underground piping. Condensate is collected and returned to the CSF for reuse, to conserve water and energy.
- *Fire Station.* The Fire Station houses six response vehicles. The BNL Fire Rescue Group provides on-site fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous material response, salvage, and property protection.
- *Major Petroleum Facility (MPF).* This facility provides reserve fuel for the CSF during times of peak operation. With a total capacity of 2.3 million gallons, the MPF primarily stores No. 6 fuel oil. The 1997 conversion of CSF boilers to burn natural gas as well as oil has significantly reduced the Laboratory's reliance on oil as a sole fuel source when other fuels are more economical.
- *Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).* This plant treats sanitary and certain process wastewater from BNL facilities prior to discharge into groundwater recharge beds, similar to the operations of a municipal sewage treatment plant. The plant has a design capacity of 3 million gallons per day. Effluent is monitored and controlled under a permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).
- *Waste Management Facility (WMF).* This facility is a state-of-the-art complex for managing the wastes generated from BNL's research and operations activities. The facility was built with advanced environmental protection systems and features, and began operation in December 1997.
- *Water Treatment Plant (WTP).* The potable water treatment plant has a capacity of 5 million gallons per day. Potable water is obtained from five on-site wells. Water pumped from three supply wells located in the western section of the site is treated at the WTP with a lime-softening process to remove naturally occurring iron and with sodium hypochlorite for bacterial control. The plant is also equipped with dual air-stripping towers to ensure that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are at or below New York State drinking water standards. Two wells located in the eastern section of the developed site are treated by the addition of sodium hydroxide to increase the pH of the water to make it less corrosive, and by the addition of sodium hypochlorite to control bacteria. BNL's potable water met all drinking water standards in 2015.

Past operations and research at the BNL site, dating back to the early 1940s when it was Camp Upton, have resulted in localized environmental contamination. As a result, the Laboratory was added to the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and

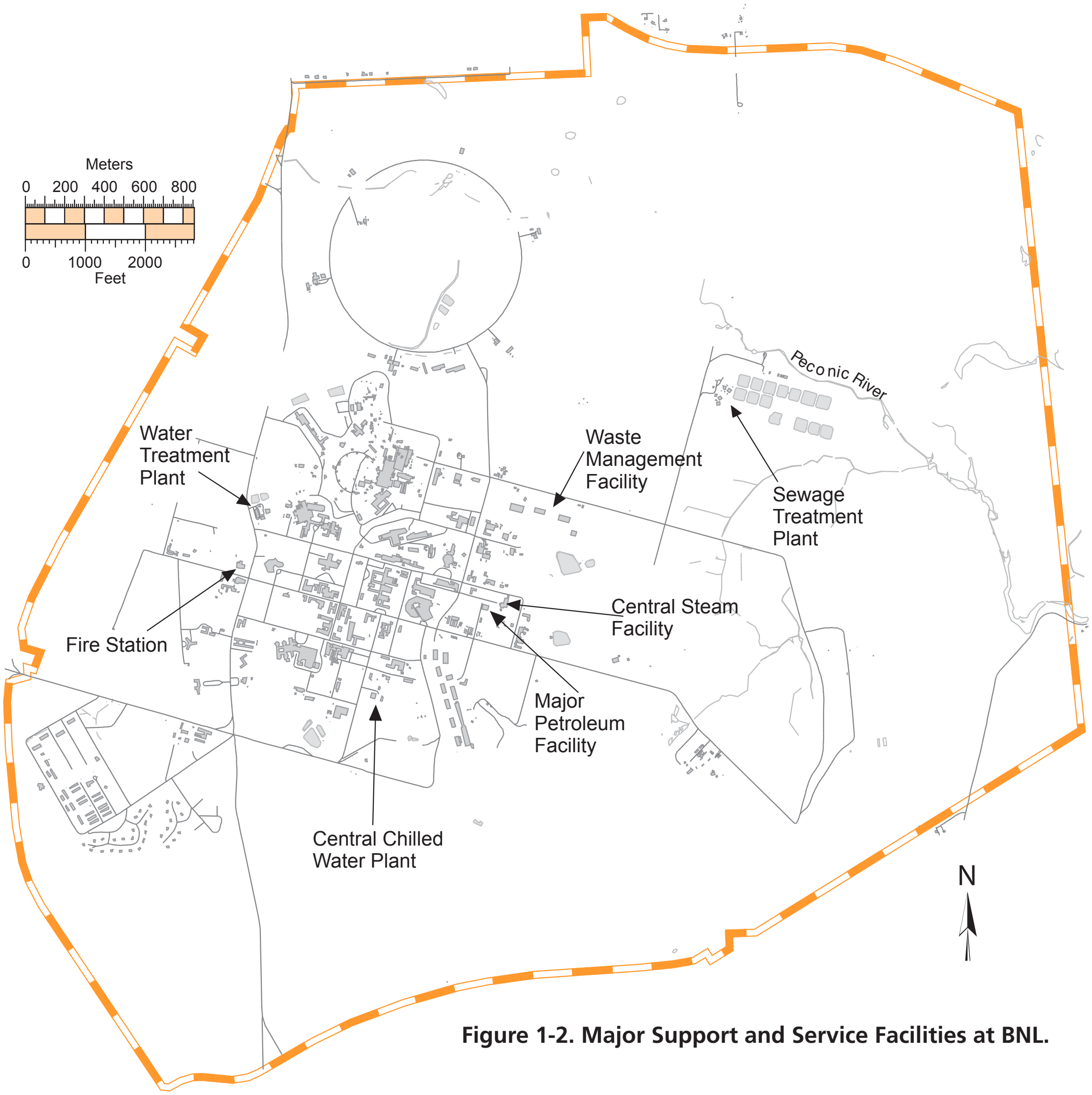


Figure 1-2. Major Support and Service Facilities at BNL.

Liability Act (CERCLA) National Priorities List of contaminated sites in 1989. One of 40 sites on Long Island identified for priority cleanup, BNL has made significant progress toward improving environmental operations and remediating past contamination. DOE will continue to fund cleanup projects until the Laboratory is restored and removed from the National Priorities List. Major accomplishments in cleanup activities at BNL are discussed further throughout this report.

1.5 LOCATION, LOCAL POPULATION, AND LOCAL ECONOMY

BNL is located near the geographical center of Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. The Laboratory is located in Brookhaven Township, the largest township in both area and population, and is approximately 60 miles east of New York City. BNL is one of the five largest high-technology employers on Long Island, with approximately 2,800 employees that include scientists, engineers, technicians, and administrative personnel. In addition, the Laboratory annually hosts almost 4,000 visiting scientists and students from universities, industries, and government agencies, who often reside in apartments and dormitories on site or in nearby communities.

BNL strengthens Long Island's position as a center of innovation in energy, materials sciences, nanotechnology, and other fields crucial to the growth of New York State's economy. With a budget of more than $549 million in 2015, the Laboratory had a significant economic impact on New York State. In fiscal year 2015, employee salaries, wages, and fringe benefits accounted for more than $357 million, or 60 percent of its total budget. Supporting local and state businesses whenever possible, BNL spent more than $162 million in 2015 on goods and services, $18.5 million of that with Long Island companies.

1.6 GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

BNL is situated on the western rim of the shallow Peconic River watershed. The marshy areas in the northern and eastern sections of the site are part of the headwaters of the Peconic River. Depending on the height of the water table relative to the base of the riverbed, the Peconic River both recharges to and receives water from the underlying Upper Glacial aquifer. In times of sustained drought, the river water recharges to the groundwater; with normal to above-normal precipitation, the river receives water from the aquifer.

The terrain of the BNL site is gently rolling, with elevations varying between 44 and 120 feet above mean sea level. Depth to groundwater from the land surface ranges from 5 feet near the Peconic River to approximately 80 feet in the higher elevations of the central and western portions of the site. Studies of Long Island hydrology and geology in the vicinity of the Laboratory indicate that the uppermost Pleistocene deposits, composed of highly permeable glacial sands and gravel, are between 120 and 250 feet thick (Warren et al. 1968, Scorca et al. 1999). Water penetrates these deposits readily and there is little direct runoff into surface streams unless precipitation is intense. The sandy deposits store large quantities of water in the Upper Glacial aquifer. On average, approximately half of the annual precipitation is lost to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, and the other half percolates through the soil to recharge the groundwater (Franke and McClymonds 1972, Aronson and Seaburn 1974).

The Long Island Regional Planning Board and Suffolk County have identified the Laboratory site as overlying a deep-flow recharge zone for Long Island groundwater (Koppelman 1978). Precipitation and surface water that recharge within this zone have the potential to replenish the Magothy and Lloyd aquifer systems lying below the Upper Glacial aquifer. It has been estimated that up to two-fifths of the recharge from rainfall moves into the deeper aquifers. The extent to which groundwater on site contributes to deep-flow recharge has been confirmed through the use of an extensive network of shallow and deep wells installed at BNL and surrounding areas (Geraghty & Miller 1996). This groundwater system is the primary source of drinking water for both on- and off-site private and public supply wells, and has been designated a sole source aquifer system by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Laboratory's five in-service drinking water wells draw up to 1,000 gallons per minute, or approximately 1.34 million gallons of water per day from the aquifer to supply drinking water, process cooling water, or fire protection. This water is treated to remove contaminants and is then returned to the aquifer by way of recharge basins or injection wells. In 2015, approximately 413 million gallons of water were pumped for use on site.

Groundwater flow directions across the BNL site are influenced by natural drainage systems: eastward along the Peconic River, southeast toward the Forge River, and south toward the Carmans River (Figure 1-3). Pumping from on-site supply wells affects the direction and speed of groundwater flow, especially in the central, developed areas of the site. The main groundwater divide on Long Island is aligned generally east–west and lies approximately one-half mile north of the Laboratory. Groundwater north of the divide flows northward and ultimately discharges to the Long Island Sound. Groundwater south of the divide flows east and south, discharging to the Peconic River, Peconic Bay, south shore streams, Great South Bay, and Atlantic Ocean. The regional groundwater flow system is discussed in greater detail in Stratigraphy and Hydrologic Conditions at the Brookhaven National Laboratory and Vicinity (Scorca et al. 1999). In most areas at BNL, the horizontal velocity of groundwater is approximately 0.75 to 1.2 feet per day (Geraghty & Miller 1996). In general, this means that groundwater travels for approximately 20 to 22 years as it moves from the central, developed area of the site to the Laboratory's southern boundary.

1.7 CLIMATE

Meteorological Services (MET Services) at BNL has been recording on-site weather data since August 1948. MET Services is responsible for the maintenance, calibration, data collection, and data archiving for the weather instrumentation network at BNL. Measurements include wind speed, wind direction, temperature, rainfall, barometric pressure, and relative humidity.

The Laboratory is broadly influenced by continental and maritime weather systems. Locally, the Long Island Sound, Atlantic Ocean, and associated bays influence wind directions and humidity and provide a moderating influence

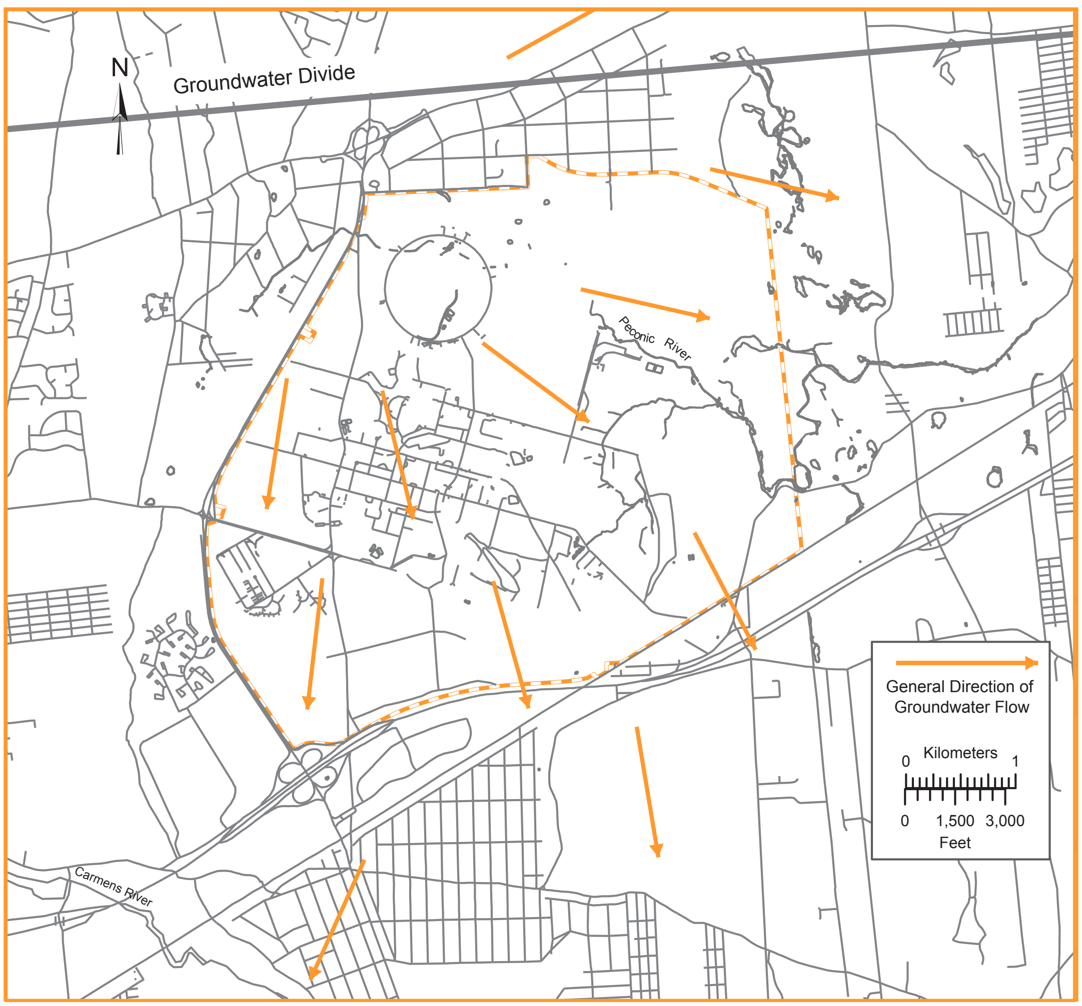
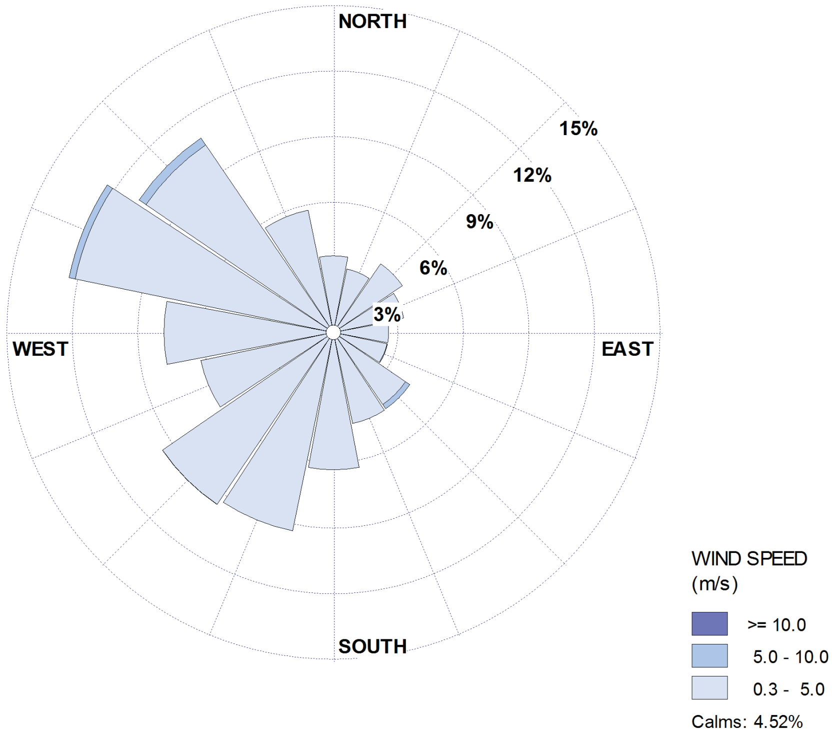
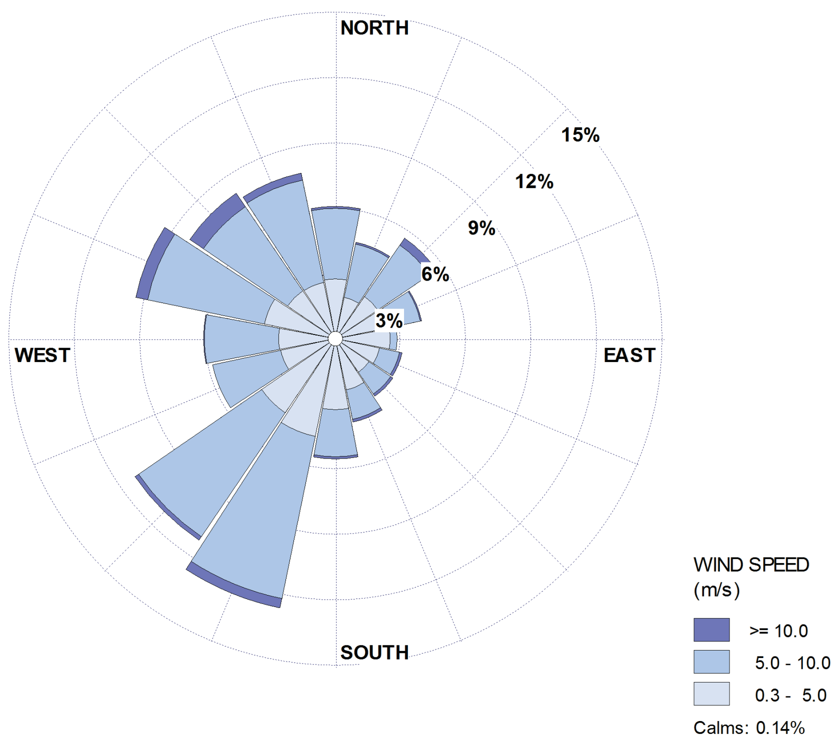


Figure 1-3. BNL Groundwater Flow Map.





Explanation: Wind direction was measured at heights of 10 and 85 meters above the ground. The readings were plotted on the charts to indicate how often wind came from each direction. The concentric circles represent multi-percentage increases in the frequency. For example, at 10 meters above the ground, wind was from due south 7 percent of the time. The predominant wind direction in 2015 was from the northwest at the 10-m level, and from the southwest at the 85-m level.

Figure 1-4. BNL Wind Rose (2015).

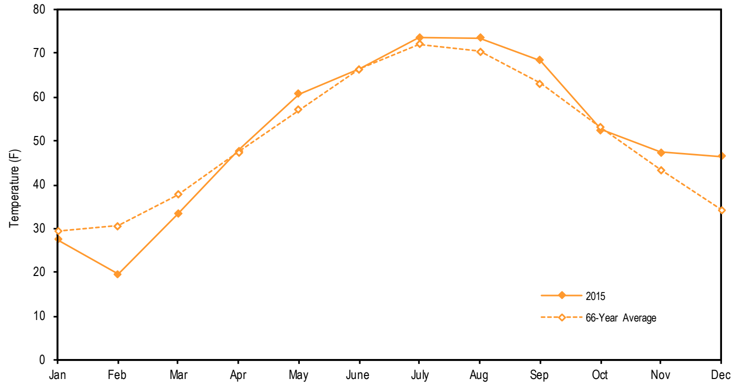


Figure 1-5. BNL 2015 Monthly Mean Temperature versus 65-Year Monthly Average.

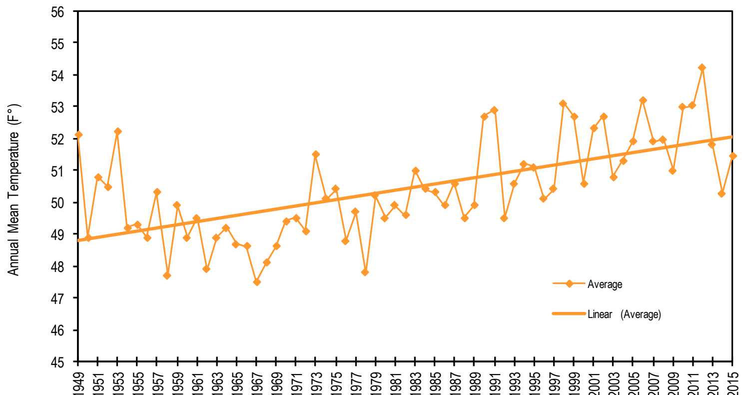


Figure 1-6. BNL 2015 Annual Mean Temperature Trend (65 Years).

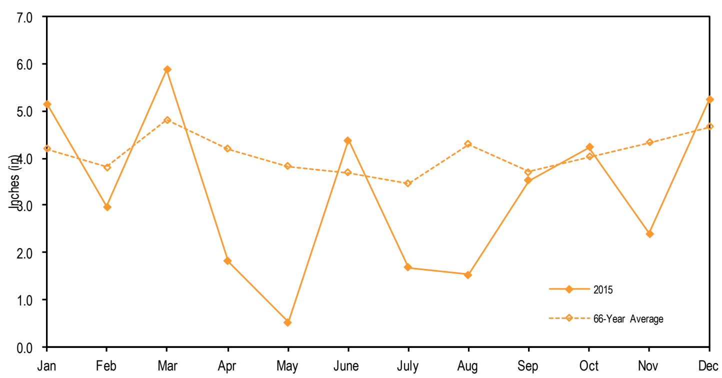


Figure 1-7. BNL 2015 Monthly Precipitation versus 65-Year Monthly Average.

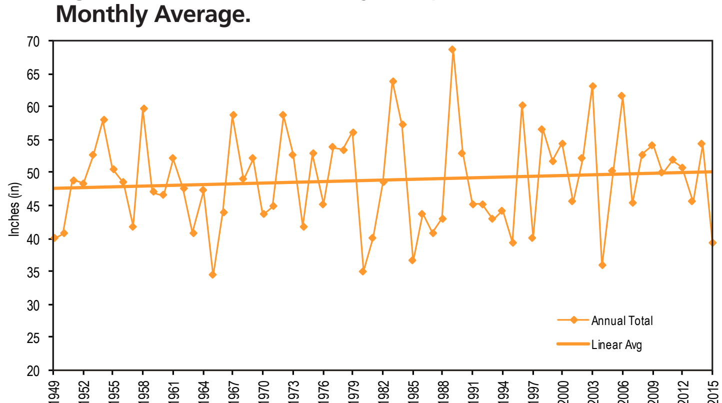


Figure 1-8. BNL 2015 Annual Precipitation Trend (65 Years).

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

on extreme summer and winter temperatures. The prevailing ground-level winds at BNL are from the southwest during the summer, from the northwest during the winter, and about equally from those two directions during the spring and fall (Nagle 1975, 1978). Figure 1-4 (see Page 10) shows the 2015 annual wind rose for BNL, which depicts the annual frequency distribution of wind speed and direction, measured at an on-site meteorological tower at heights of 33 feet (10 meters) and 300 feet (85 meters) above land surface.

The average monthly temperature in the area for 2015 was 50 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). The average yearly temperature for the area was 50.27 °F. Figures 1-5 and 1-6 (see Page 10) show the 2015 monthly mean temperatures and the historical annual mean temperatures, respectively. The total annual precipitation in 2015 was 54.25 inches. Figures 1-7 and 1-8 (see Page 10) show the 2015 monthly and the 65-year annual precipitation data. The average snowfall for 2015 was 35.9 inches, just above the 32.50 inches average yearly snowfall for Long Island.

1.8 NATURAL RESOURCES

The Laboratory is located in the oak/chestnut forest region of the Coastal Plain and constitutes about 5 percent of the 100,000-acre New York State–designated region on Long Island known as the Central Pine Barrens. The section of the Peconic River running through BNL is designated as "scenic" under the New York State Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River System Act of 1972. Due to the general topography and porous soil, the land is very well drained and there is little surface runoff or open standing water. However, depressions form numerous small, pocket wetlands with standing water on a seasonal basis (vernal pools), and there are six regulated wetlands on site. Thus, a mosaic of wet and dry areas correlates with variations in topography and depth to the water table.

Vegetation on site is in various stages of succession, which reflects a history of disturbances to the area. For example, when Camp Upton was constructed in 1917, the site was entirely cleared of its native pines and oaks. Although portions of the site were replanted in the 1930s, portions were cleared again in 1940 when Camp Upton was reactivated by the U.S. Army. Other past disturbances include fire, local flooding, and draining. Current operations minimize disturbances to the more natural areas of the site.

More than 200 plant, 15 animal, 85 bird, 13 amphibian, 12 reptile, and 10 fish species have been identified on site, some of which are New York State threatened, endangered, exploitably vulnerable, and species of special concern. To eliminate or minimize any negative effects that BNL operations might cause to these species, precautions are in place to protect habitats and natural resources at the Laboratory.

In November 2000, DOE established the Upton Ecological and Research Reserve at BNL. The 530-acre Upton Reserve (10 percent of the Laboratory's property) is on the eastern portion of the site, in the Core Preservation Area of the Central Pine Barrens. The Upton Reserve creates a unique ecosystem of forests and wetlands that provides habitats for plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. From 2000 to 2004, funding provided by DOE under an Inter-Agency Agreement between DOE and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services was used to conduct resource management programs for the conservation, enhancement, and restoration of wildlife and habitat in the reserve. In 2005, management was transitioned to the Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast (FERN). Management of the Upton Reserve falls within the scope of BNL's Natural Resource Management Plan, and the area will continue to be managed for its key ecological values and as an area for ecological research (BNL 2011). Additional information regarding the Upton Reserve and the Laboratory's natural resources can be found in Chapter 6 of this report.

1.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Laboratory is responsible for ensuring compliance with historic preservation requirements. BNL's Cultural Resource Management Plan was developed to identify, assess, and document the Laboratory's historic and cultural resources (BNL 2012). These resources include World War I trenches; Civilian Conservation Corps features; World War II buildings; and historic structures, programs, and discoveries associated with high-energy physics, research reactors, and other science conducted at BNL.

The Laboratory currently has three facilities classified as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places: the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor complex, the High Flux Beam Reactor complex, and the World War I training trenches associated with Camp Upton. Further information can be found in Chapter 6.

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