Fact Sheet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management

Albany, Oregon, Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Albany site**. Long-term stewardship responsibilities for this site are managed by the **U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management** under the **Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program**.

Site Information and History

The Albany, Oregon, Site (formerly the Albany Research Center site) is located at 1450 Queen Avenue SW, approximately 23 miles south of Salem, Oregon. The Albany Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and is currently known as NETL-Albany. The site consists of three main areas: the former Albany Research Center (ARC), which comprises a number of buildings in the northern and central sections of the site, a 2-acre inactive biomass research facility that occupies the center of the site, and a 14-acre open area in the back of the site.

ARC was established in 1943 to investigate innovative approaches for developing strategic mineral resources and for conducting other activities relevant to metallurgical research in the United States. From 1948 to 1956, the U.S. Bureau of Mines melted, machined, welded, and alloyed thorium at the site for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and later, until 1978, worked with uranium and thorium for the Energy Research and Development Administration, a predecessor agency of the DOE. During this period, various decontamination efforts were performed at process buildings and surrounding areas of the site to remove uranium and thorium contamination that remained from metallurgical operations. However, inadequate records were kept as to whether new, stricter radiological guidelines were being met. Therefore, in early 1984, a radiological survey was conducted at the site, which estimated that approximately 2,600 cubic yards of contaminated material needed to be remediated to meet DOE guidelines.

Portions of 18 buildings and 37 exterior locations were designated as needing decontamination under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Remedial action of the site included decontamination of buildings; excavation, backfilling, and seeding of excavated areas; and transportation of the contaminated waste to the DOE Hanford facility near Richland, Washington, for disposal. The work was performed in two phases. Phase I ran from July 1987 to January 1988 and consisted of decontamination of most of the areas at the site. Subsequent post-Phase I surveys identified additional areas needing cleanup, which were remediated from August 1990 to April 1991 during Phase II. These areas were primarily buildings but also included a PCB-contaminated lime pit used to segregate heavy metals from waste residue. This mixed PCB–radioactive waste was removed from the pit and placed in 55-gallon drums for shipping to Hanford for disposal. In total, approximately 2,977 cubic yards of soil (from an area of 7,236 square yards), 400 cubic yards of building debris, and 67 cubic yards of equipment were removed from the Albany Site. Supplemental limits were applied to limited residual contamination on the surface of drains, subfloor pipes, soils, and certain processing equipment, but any demolition debris will contain less than the authorized limit for Th-232; thus no disposal restrictions will apply.

Regulatory Setting

AEC, the predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites used in the development of the nation's nuclear weapons and atomic energy programs. DOE has the legislative authority under the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, to perform radiological surveys, monitoring, and maintenance

at sites used to support the nuclear activities of DOE's predecessor agencies. DOE also has legislative authority under the AEA to remediate FUSRAP sites identified as requiring some form of response action. In 1997, Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) retains responsibility for long-term care of remediated FUSRAP sites. For more information about the program, please see the FUSRAP fact sheet.

The Albany 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 February 23, 1993.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Albany FUSRAP site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to LM.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the Albany site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. Based on a review of this post-remedial action data, DOE determined that radiological conditions at the Albany site comply with decontamination criteria to protect human health and the environment and has released the site for unrestricted use. The site has been restored to a condition acceptable to the owner.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Albany site. LM's responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

CONTACT INFORMATION

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AT THE SITE, CONTACT 911

LM TOLL-FREE EMERGENCY HOTLINE: (877) 695-5322

Site-specific documents related to the **Albany, Oregon, Site** are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov//lm/albany-oregon-site**

For more information on FUSRAP site history or current long-term stewardship activities, contact:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Email:
FUSRAPinfo@lm.doe.gov
public.affairs@lm.doe.gov

DOE Office of Legacy Management
(970) 248-6070

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