

U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

Office of Legacy Management

CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO

BERKELEY

Berkeley, California

A FUSRAP SITE

This fact sheet provides information about the **Berkeley 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 Berkeley, California, Site (formerly the University of California site) is located at Gilman Hall on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. The third floor and basement areas of the building were used in support of the Manhattan Project and early U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) research activities, including the first production of minute quantities of plutonium by bombarding uranium with neutrons.

In 1976, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a radiological survey of Gilman Hall as part of an evaluation for inclusion into the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Low levels of uranium contamination exceeding then-current guidelines were detected under the asphalt-tile flooring in two rooms on the third floor and in an unused sewer line under the basement. In 1981, a more detailed characterization survey revealed contamination in 12 rooms, three hallways, and six exterior alcoves of the building, along with isolated areas of removable contamination. Most of the contamination involved spilled uranium compounds on floors and walls.

Remedial action was conducted between 1976 and 1981 and included removal of radioactive material from the contaminated floor and walls. The remaining areas were

shielded, sealed, or fixed. In 1981, DOE discovered additional contamination in Gilman Hall in a room that had not been previously surveyed. From December 1981 through February 1983, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory performed remedial action of the additional contaminated areas under an agreement with DOE and the university.

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 Berkeley site was remediated to a condition that would pose no unacceptable risk to occupants, in accordance with the university's state radioactive materials license. DOE certified the site on March 26, 1985 (it is unknown when or if a *Federal Register* notice was posted).

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Berkeley 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 Berkeley site is in compliance with the provisions of the university's radioactive materials license. Surface contamination remains in Gilman Hall and has been covered, shielded, or fixed to reduce exposure and risk to acceptable levels. Based on a review of this post-

remedial action data, DOE certified that radiological conditions at the Berkeley site comply with decontamination criteria to protect human health and the environment under the current land use. DOE closed this site under FUSRAP, and the University of California retains responsibility for managing the remaining contamination in accordance with appropriate standards prior to terminating its California general license. The university performs health physics monitoring under the state of California radioactive materials license.

Legacy Management Activities

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

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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 **Berkeley, California, Site** are available on the LM website at www.energy.gov/lm/berkeley-california-site.

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

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