Fact Sheet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management

Inhalation Toxicology Laboratory, New Mexico, Site

An MED/AEC legacy site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Inhalation Toxicology Laboratory (ITL) site**. Records for the government-sponsored research conducted at this facility are maintained by the **U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management** as a **Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission Legacy Site**.

Site Information and History

The ITL site is privately owned and located on the southern edge of Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The site occupies 240,000 square feet of building space on 144 acres of land withdrawn from the Bureau of Land Management for use by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). KAFB is located on a high, arid mesa about 5 miles east of the Rio Grande River. The area surrounding ITL is relatively flat and slopes gently westward toward the river. The mean elevation at KAFB is 5,348 feet.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor agency of DOE) created the ITL facility in 1960 to study late-occurring health risks from inhaling small amounts of radioactive particles. Research at the laboratory has since broadened to include a range of radiological and nonradiological respiratory health issues. The Lovelace Foundation for Medical Education and Research originally operated the facility under a management and operating (M&O) contract and conducted research for DOE's Office of Science and other DOE organizations. The Lovelace Foundation reorganized in the 1980s and 1990s, and the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, hereafter Lovelace, evolved as the current facility operator.

In 1996, as a result of decreased DOE funding for the type of work conducted at ITL, Lovelace began efforts to convert the facility into a private-sector operation. To avoid the cost of total shutdown and to allow the completion of research already in progress at the end of the M&O contract, on October 1, 1996, DOE awarded a Cooperative Agreement to Lovelace to assist with privatization of laboratory operations. Under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, DOE provided Lovelace with limited prioritization start-up funding and agreed to fund any environmental cleanup required for the site. On October 1, 2001, DOE executed a long-term agreement under which Lovelace will lease the facility through 2025.

Historical operations at ITL resulted in radiological and nonradiological contamination at numerous areas in the laboratory complex. Lovelace conducted remedial action in the early 1990s and completed cleanup at several sites in 1997. The DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) provided funding and oversight for the remedial action.

Land Use

ITL is located on land designated for commercial, industrial, or transportation use. This land-use designation is projected to continue indefinitely. The surrounding area is nonagricultural, vegetated land.

Regulatory Setting

Investigation and remediation of hazardous materials at ITL were conducted according to provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as administered by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Investigation and remediation of radiological contaminants followed requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (Title 42 *United States Code*, Section 2011, et seq.); DOE Orders 5400.5, "Radiation Protection of the Public and Environment", and 435.1, "Radioactive Waste Management"; and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Guide 1.86, "Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors."

Aerial View of the Inhalation Toxicology Laboratory, New Mexico, Site.

Groundwater monitoring and reporting are conducted according to Discharge Permit No. 519, in accordance with NMED Water Quality Act regulations. Sample results are compared with applicable New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission standards.

ITL is currently operated by Lovelace and will continue to operate as a private research facility. Property transfer legislation passed on March 30, 2009, resulted in the transfer of ITL property title from DOE (Office of National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA]) to Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute. On June 12, 2013, the transfer of property was formalized through a Quit Claim Deed. The legislation releases DOE from all environmental liability at the ITL site, including contamination from past, present, or future activities (Section 13005 of Public Law 111-11, "2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act").

Responsibility for management of historical, government-owned records and long-term groundwater monitoring at the facility transferred from EM to the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) on October 1, 2012. The NNSA Service Center located at KAFB performed all landlord oversight functions until the property title transferred to Lovelace. Effective upon 2013 property transfer, the long-term groundwater monitoring program was no longer the responsibility of LM but of Lovelace.

Legacy Management Activities

LM is responsible for managing records for government sponsored research that concluded in 1994 as well as 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 **Inhalation Toxicology Laboratory, New Mexico, Site** are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov/lm/inhalation-toxicology-laboratory-new-mexico-site**

For more information about LM activities at the **Inhalation Toxicology Laboratory, New Mexico, Site** , contact:

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