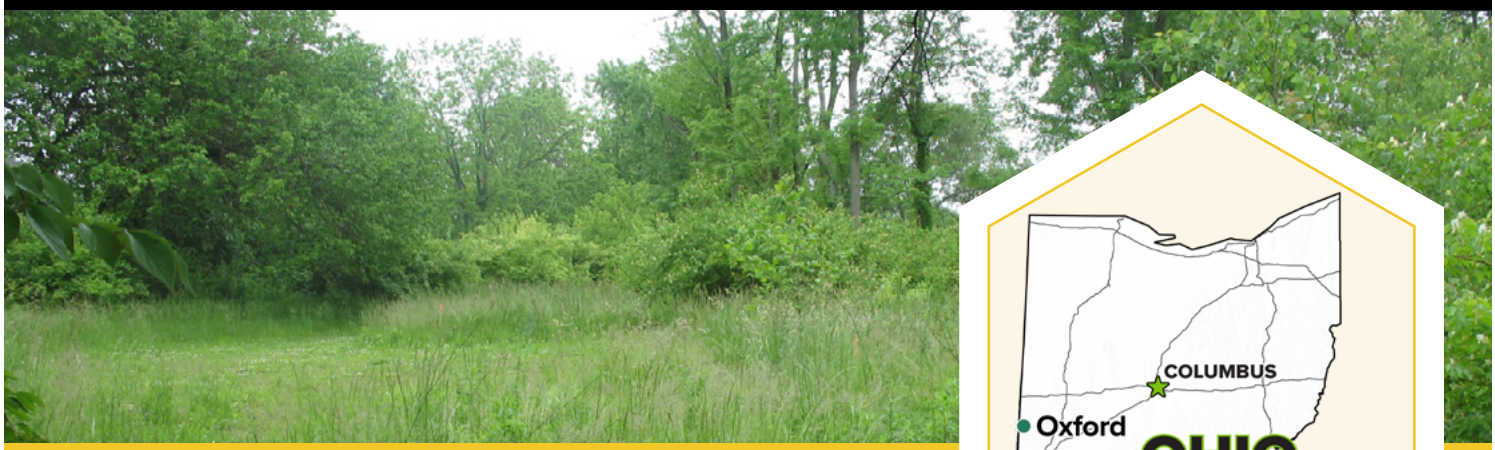
Fact Sheet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management



Oxford, Ohio, Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Oxford 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 Oxford, Ohio, Site (formerly the Alba Craft Laboratory) is located approximately 35 miles northwest of Cincinnati. The site comprises the former Alba Craft Laboratory property at 10-14 West Rose Avenue and vicinity properties at 525 South Main Street, 9 West Rose Avenue, 550 South Main Street, and West Rose Avenue adjacent to the former Alba Craft Laboratory building.

From October 1952 to February 1957, Alba Craft Laboratory, Inc., worked under a subcontract to National Lead of Ohio (NLO), a primary contractor to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a predecessor agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). NLO developed and machine-threaded natural uranium metal to be used at AEC's Savannah River site in South Carolina. NLO also performed hollow drilling and turning of uranium metal for use in the Savannah River and Hanford, Washington, nuclear reactors. It is estimated that NLO machined several hundred tons of uranium at the Oxford site.

In January 1957, after the AEC machining and related activities ended, Alba Craft Laboratory personnel decontaminated the building and equipment in accordance with specifications outlined by the NLO Industrial Hygiene Department. Much of the radioactive material was swept or washed out the rear door of the building. Later, soil was removed from the area outside the door and sent to the DOE Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio, for disposal. Since then, guidelines for residual radioactive contamination in buildings and soils have become more conservative. DOE reviewed site records and determined that further cleanup was warranted.

At the request of DOE, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) conducted a radiological survey of the site in July and September 1992. Survey results identified residual uranium contamination at levels exceeding current guidelines both inside and outside the Alba Craft Laboratory building. As a result, the site was designated in March 1993 for remediation under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This contamination and the building's poor structural condition led to a decision to demolish and remove the structure from the site.

Before remedial action at the Oxford site began, DOE discovered that the former owner of the building had lived near the site at 525 South Main Street and that developmental machining operations were conducted inside the garage of the residence. In April 1994, an ORNL radiological investigation of the property revealed that residual uranium turnings, filings, and small particles had been transported from the laboratory to the residence. Concentrations of the residual radioactive material exceeded the current DOE guidelines and criteria. Follow-up investigations identified other vicinity properties that were contaminated at levels above DOE cleanup guidelines as well.

A drain line in the northeastern corner of the Alba Craft Laboratory building contained radioactive contamination above DOE guidelines, and 65 feet of pipe were excavated and removed. This, in turn, led to excavation and backfilling of the area on the vicinity property at 550 South Main Street. Radioactively contaminated soil was also excavated on approximately 400 square feet of West Rose Avenue in front of the Alba Craft Laboratory building, 50 square feet at 9 West Rose Avenue, and several exterior areas at 525 South Main Street.

After demolition of the Alba Craft Laboratory building and remediation of the vicinity properties, approximately 2,800 cubic yards of soil and building debris contaminated with low-level radioactivity were packaged and shipped to the Envirocare of Utah, Inc. (now known as EnergySolutions) disposal facility in Clive, Utah. The remediated site and the vicinity properties were restored to existing grade and revegetated. Remedial action was completed in 1995.

Regulatory Setting

AEC 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 Oxford site was remediated to criteria in DOE Order 5400.5, *Radiation Protection of the Public and Environment*. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on November 26, 1996.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Oxford 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 Oxford site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use. The site has been restored to a condition acceptable to the owner.

A duplex has been built on a portion of the site. The remainder of the site is vacant and not maintained.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Oxford 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 **Oxford, Ohio, Site** are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov/lm/oxford-ohio-site**

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