



New York, New York, Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **New York 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 New York, New York, Site (formerly known as the Baker and Williams Warehouses site) is located on the west side of central New York City and consists of three adjacent warehouse buildings at 513-519, 521-527, and 529-535 West 20th Street. Building 513-519 consists of seven floors and a basement; Building 521-527 has nine floors and a basement; and Building 529-535 has 11 floors and a basement. Each building has a footprint of approximately 9,200 square feet.

During the 1940s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District used these warehouses for short-term storage of uranium concentrates produced in Port Hope, Canada, from African ores. Approximately 219,000 pounds of orange and yellow sodium uranate were delivered to the site in 1942, and in the following year, approximately 86,000 pounds of the same substance along with 22,000 pounds of sodium uranyl carbonate and 20,000 pounds of black uranium oxide were delivered. The uranium was later distributed to other U.S. government facilities.

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a radiological screening survey of the New York site. The survey identified sufficient contamination to recommend the site for inclusion in the DOE Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). In 1991, during radiological surveys of the buildings, DOE identified contamination in Building 513-519 (surface contamination exceeding guideline levels at four locations in the basement east bay, 21 locations on the first floor east bay, one location on the third floor west bay,

and two locations on the elevator pit east bay) and Building 521-527 (surface contamination exceeding guideline levels in the basement east bay, basement west bay, and on the first floor). No residual contamination above guideline levels was identified in Building 529-535.

Remedial action of Building 521-527 was conducted in 1991. Decontamination involved use of a nonhazardous, nontoxic, biodegradable chemical agent with a self-propelled floor scarifier (a machine that breaks up the surface of concrete and pavement) and chipping hammers. A total of 12 drums of radioactively contaminated waste were generated and shipped to Hanford, Washington, for disposal. Remedial action of contaminated areas of Building 513-519 was conducted in 1993. A steel-shot blasting machine was used to clean surfaces. A total of 38 drums of contaminated materials were generated and shipped to a licensed facility in Clive, Utah, for disposal. A total of 13 cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste were disposed of at out-of-state facilities.

Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (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 New York site was remediated to criteria in DOE order 5400.5, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment*. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on October 16, 1995.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the New York 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 New York site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. An independent verification survey was conducted after the completion of remedial action and no residual radioactivity was found that exceeded current guidelines. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the New York 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 **New York, New York, Site** are available on the LM website at www.energy.gov/lm/new-york-new-york-site

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

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