BROOKHAVEN
NATIONAL
LABORATORY

UPTON, NEW YORK 11973-5000

NEWS RELEASE

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#95-66
Mailed 11/14/95

Contact: Mona S. Rowe, or
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BROOKHAVEN LAB TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION, DEC. 6

Upton, NY — The U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, December 6, to present plans for dealing with a specific area of environmental contamination on the BNL site. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Laboratory's Berkner Hall, and the public is invited to attend. BNL holds such meetings routinely to keep the community informed about remediation activities at the site.

The December 6 meeting will focus on Operable Unit IV, which is located in the central part of the 5,300-acre BNL site. This unit encompasses BNL's steam plant, used to heat and cool buildings, as well as a facility used in the 1950s to clean radiologically contaminated clothing and equipment.

During the public meeting, BNL staff will summarize the nature and extent of contamination within Operable Unit IV, risks to public health and the environment in the absence of cleanup, how cleanup options were developed and evaluated, and proposed cleanup measures.

Documents pertaining to Operable Unit IV are available at BNL's library, as well as public libraries in Shirley and Middle Island. The public comment period is 30 days, from November 22 to December 22, 1995. Oral and written comments are welcome at the December 6 meeting.

Environmental remediation at BNL is carried out under requirements of the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, commonly known as the Superfund Law. BNL is on the Superfund list primarily due to past operations that have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination that potentially threaten Long Island's aquifer. Remediation work is conducted under the framework of an interagency agreement among New York State, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. The Energy Department has jurisdiction over the BNL property and pays for all cleanup costs.

For more information on the meeting, call BNL's Office of Environmental Restoration at (516)282-3129/5195. BNL is located on William Floyd Parkway (County Road 46), one-and-a-half miles north of Exit 68 of the Long Island Expressway.

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This public notice will run in Newsday and Suffolk Life, November 22,1995.

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces Proposed Remedial Action for the Brookhaven National Laboratory Operable Unit IV

A feasibility study has been completed that evaluated alternatives for cleaning up environmental contamination at Operable Unit IV at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Suffolk County, New York. Operable Unit IV is an area in the east-central portion of the Laboratory which has been slated for cleanup under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, also known as the Superfund law.

Based on the feasibility study, the DOE, the lead agency for site remedial activity, with the concurrence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has identified a preferred remedy for site cleanup.

Before selection of the final remedy, DOE will consider written and oral comments on all proposed alternative cleanup methods. This public comment period begins November 22, 1995, and continues until December 22, 1995. Beginning November 22, 1995, the following documents will be available for public review and comment at local libraries, the Laboratory's research library, and the EPA's library in New York City:

Operable Unit IV Feasibility Study
Operable Unit IV Proposed Remedial Action Plan
Addendum to Operable Unit IV Remedial Investigation/Risk Assessment Report

DOE will hold an informational public meeting on December 6, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. at Berkner Hall Auditorium, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, to discuss the feasibility study and the proposed remedial action plan.

The Operable Unit IV feasibility study evaluated:
>five options for cleaning up soil that is chemically contaminated;
>four options for cleaning up soil that is radiologically contaminated; and,
>six options for cleaning up chemically contaminated groundwater.

The options for cleaning up chemically contaminated soil are:
1) no further action;
2) limited action;
3) soil vapor extraction, no soil excavation;
4) total soil excavation, on-site treatment, or on-site/off-site disposal of excavated soils; and,
5) partial excavation, soil vapor extraction.

The options for cleaning up radiologically contaminated soil are:
1) no further action;
2) limited action;
3) total excavation with on-site storage/off-site disposal of excavated soils; and,
4) partial excavation with on-site storage/off-site disposal of excavated soil, and capping.

The options for cleaning up contaminated groundwater are:
1) no further action;
2) limited action;
3) chemical precipitation, air stripping and polishing with activated carbon, and discharge to recharge basins;
4) chemical precipitation and chemical oxidation, enhanced with ultra violet photolysis, and discharge to recharge basins;
5) chemical precipitation and carbon adsorption, and infiltration through recharge basins; and,
6) air sparging and soil vapor extraction with enhanced biodegradation.

The preferred remedial alternative for chemically contaminated soils is:

3) Treatment of organic contamination in subsurface soil using soil vapor extraction.

The preferred remedial alternative for radiologically contaminated soils is:

2) Limited action: fencing and institutional controls until a final remedy is evaluated and implemented under Operable Unit I; groundwater monitoring in the interim period.

The preferred remedial alternative for groundwater is:

6) Air sparging and soil vapor extraction with enhanced biodegradation as an engineering option.

The Feasibility Study, the Proposed Remedial Action Plan, and the Addendum to the Remedial Investigation/Risk Assessment are available at the following information repositories:

Brookhaven National Laboratory
Research Library
Technical Information Division
Building 477A
Upton, NY 11973
(516) 282-3483
Contact: Reference Librarian

U.S. EPA Region II Library
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10278
(212) 637-3000
Contact: Reference Librarian

Longwood Public Library
800 Middle Country Road
Middle Island, NY 11953
Phone: 924-6400
Contact: Reference Librarian

Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Library
301 William Floyd Parkway
Shirley, NY 11967
Phone: 399-1511
Contact: Reference Librarian

For further information regarding the documents and meeting, please contact:

Kathy Geiger
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Environmental Restoration
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, New York
(516) 282-3129
344

Gail Penny
Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Brookhaven Group (Bldg. 464)
Upton, New York
(516)282-3429

For further information regarding the role of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in this project, please contact:

Joshua Epstein
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
(516) 444-0249

For further information regarding the role of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in this project, please contact:

Steve Katz
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(212) 637-3677

Please send written comments to:

Carson L. Nealy
Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Brookhaven Group (Bldg. 464)
Brookhaven National Laboratory
P.O. Box 5000
Upton NY 11973-5000

Enclosed you will also find the following:

- A public notice announcement that will run in Suffolk Life and Newsday on November 22, 1995.
- A press release that will be sent to all local newspapers on November 22, 1995.

If you should have any questions concerning any of the enclosed information, please feel free to call me at 282-3129 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. I look forward to seeing you on December 6th.

With best regards,

Kathy Geiger

Kathy Geiger
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Environmental Restoration

KG:mdb

Enclosures

To learn more...

For more information about the OU IV FS/PRAP, call:

Gail Penny
Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Brookhaven Group
516-282-3429

Kathy Geiger
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Environmental Restoration
Brookhaven National Laboratory
516-282-3129

For more information about the role of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in this project, contact:

Mary Logan
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
212-637-4321

For more information about the role of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in this project, contact:

James Bologna
Project Manager
New York State
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
518-457-3976

Joshua Epstein
Citizen Participation Specialist
New York State
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
516-444-0249

Copies of the OU IV FS/PRAP are available for review at:

BNL Research Library
Building 477A
Brookhaven Avenue
Upton, New York
516-282-3483

Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Library
301 William Floyd Parkway
Shirley, New York
516-399-1511

Longwood Public Library
800 Middle Country Road
Middle Island, New York
516-924-6400

U.S. EPA, Region II
Administrative Records Room
290 Broadway
New York, New York
212-637-4296

Direct written comments to:

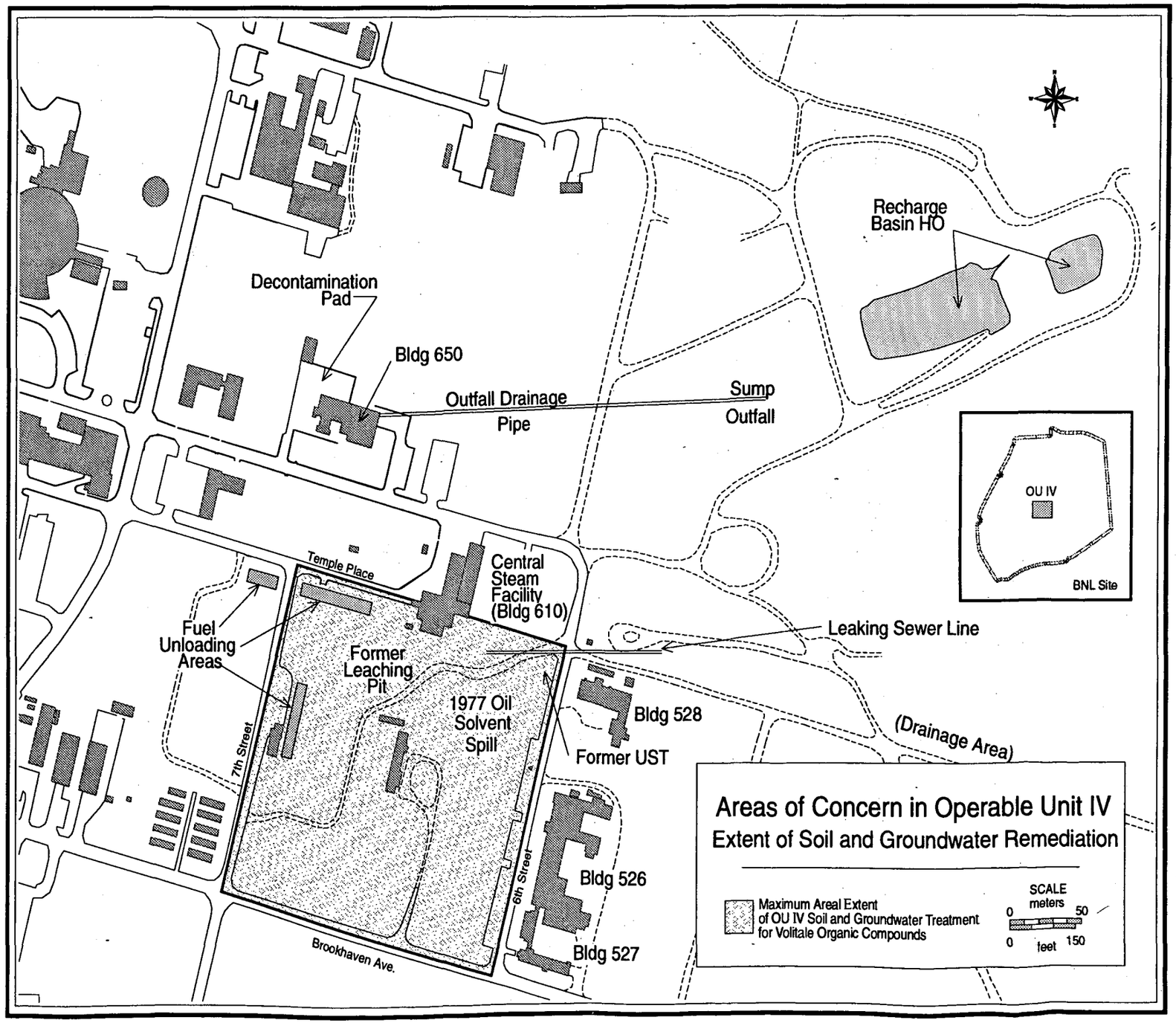
Carson Nealy
Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Brookhaven Group
Building 464
P.O.B. 5000
Upton, New York
11973-5000

Important dates for OU IV:

Public comment period start:
November 22, 1995

Public meeting:
December 6, 1995

Public comment period end:
December 22, 1995



OU IV FS/PRAP SUMMARY SHEET

WHAT IS "OU IV FS/PRAP" AND WHY SUMMARIZE IT:

OU IV is short for *Operable Unit Four*, a name given to the east-central portion of Brookhaven National Laboratory. This area is developed with roads, buildings and parking lots, and evidence has been found of potential environmental contamination dating back to the 1950s. That evidence led to an investigation of the area.

FS/PRAP stands for *Feasibility Study and Proposed Remedial Action Plan*. The FS and PRAP are two of the last in a long series of reports required by federal and state law before an appropriate cleanup method is selected. The Feasibility Study is an extensive report that: details what the investigation of OU IV has found, evaluates different methods for cleanup, and recommends the most appropriate cleanup action. The PRAP briefly summarizes the previous studies and recommends a proposed method of cleanup. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the PRAP

This *Summary Sheet* gives you an overview of OU IV and the efforts made in "characterizing" (that is, studying and profiling) the site and its possible contamination. The Summary Sheet also provides the date of the public meeting and public comment period associated with the OU IV cleanup process. The public meeting is at 7:30 p.m., December 6, 1995 at Berkner Hall Auditorium, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. The purpose of the meeting is to present the information that has been learned about OU IV, propose a method of cleanup for OU IV, and allow the public an opportunity to comment on the information and on the proposed cleanup method.

If you cannot attend the meeting, copies of the FS/PRAP are available for review at local libraries (listed on the reverse side of this sheet). The community can then submit written comments about the OU IV study and the proposed cleanup method during the public comment period. The public comment period is from November 22, 1995 to December 22, 1995.

Background:

BNL is a U.S. Department of Energy laboratory that in 1980 was placed on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's "Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites" list. In 1989, BNL was included on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "National Priorities List" for cleanup. BNL was placed on these lists because of the environmental effects of past practices, some of which could pose a threat to Long Island's sole source aquifer. The cleanup of BNL is overseen by the Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under what is known as the Interagency Agreement.

Areas of OU IV that received attention are:

Central Steam Facility: It provides heating and cooling to most major BNL buildings, covers about 13 acres, and has a network of 21 aboveground fuel tanks and above- and underground connecting pipelines.

At this site, investigation has focused on possible contamination from a 1977 oil and solvent spill, a former leaching pit, a former underground gasoline storage tank, the steam facility's unloading area, and the facility's underground piping.

Reclamation Facility Building 650 Sump and Sump Outfall: The reclamation facility was built in 1959 to decontaminate clothing and heavy equipment using wash operations both inside and outside of the building. Today, Building 650 houses a non-radioactive laundry operation.

Sanitary and Storm Sewer Lines: These lines date back to the original U.S. Army Camp Upton in 1917, though major upgrades were made in 1940. The 31 miles of lines were studied by remote video camera in 1988, which revealed that some of the clay tile pipes have developed cracks or suffered joint slippage.

Recharge Basin HO: This 3.9 acre, sand-and-gravel basin is the largest recharge basin at BNL. Most of the water in this basin was used for cooling BNL's Alternating Gradient Synchrotron and High Flux Beam Reactor, though the water never came in contact with any radioactive material.

The Feasibility Study/Proposed Remedial Action Plan:

First, the nature and extent of contamination is determined in a particular area, in this case, OU IV Then, the nature and extent of any risks posed by the contamination is determined. Finally, the potential clean-up options for the contaminated site are evaluated and recommendations are made for cleanup action. The FS/PRAP addresses these latter two issues.

For contaminated soil, the OU IV FS/PRAP recommends (1) a method called "soil vapor extraction" for soil contaminated with volitale organic compounds and (2) fencing and institutional controls for radiologically contaminated soils as an interim measure.

For groundwater contaminated with volitale organic compounds, the report recommends soil vapor extraction coupled with a process called "air sparging." You can find descriptions of these processes in the actual FS/PRAP

Components of the SUPERFUND Cleanup Process