

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 volatile organic compounds and (2) fencing and institutional controls for radiologically contaminated soils as an interim measure.

For groundwater contaminated with volatile 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



To learn more...

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

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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

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

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

U.S. EPA, Region II
Administrative Records Room
290 Broadway
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Direct written comments to:

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Important dates for OU IV:

Public comment period start:
November 22, 1995
Public meeting:
December 6, 1995
Public comment period end:
December 22, 1995

