



LAUNCH UMBILICAL TOWER #1 FACT SHEET

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Location

The Launch Umbilical Tower #1 (LUT-1) Storage Area is situated on Kennedy Space Center (KSC). It is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Fifth Street SE and D Avenue SE in the KSC Industrial Area.

History

In the late 1970s, launch structures at Pads 39 A & B were replaced to accommodate the new Space Shuttle. These activities included removing the Launch Umbilical Towers (LUTs) from the pads and replacing them with new structures. In 1981 and 1982, the LUTs were dismantled. LUT-1 was part of the LC-39A launch gantry and was relocated to the current storage area in 1983.

NASA conducted an environmental investigation of the storage yard and determined that soils across the site are contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The source of the contamination was determined to be the paint chips that flaked off the structures and accumulated on the ground.

Structure Decontamination and Disposal

To prevent further contamination of soil at the site, LUT-1 will be decontaminated and recycled. Asbestos will be removed from insulation and ductwork throughout the structures. Copper wiring, stainless steel pipes and fittings, and other non-painted metals will be removed and recycled. The structures will then be cut into manageable pieces, and the paint will be removed using a high-pressure water-blasting system. There are approximately 3.5 million pounds of structural steel in the tower. Approximately 95% of the tower will be recycled.

Conclusion

Once the tower is removed from the site, investigation of soil and groundwater contamination will resume. In the meantime, hay bales have been strategically installed to prevent migration of PCBs from the site onto adjacent lands, and a Land Use Control has been implemented to prohibit residential use of the site.



This Fact Sheet was written and produced by the NASA/KSC Environmental Program Office. All comments or questions can be made by calling (321) 867-8442 or by writing to the following address:

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