

EPA: Lab's Releases to Peconic 'No Existing Risk to Human Health'

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found no existing risk to human health during a recently completed U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) investigation of BNL releases that affect groundwater, soil and sediment, and fish in the on-site headwaters area of the Peconic River, which is located in the eastern-central portion of the Lab site.

EPA spokesman Richard Cahill confirmed, "None of our findings indicates an existing risk to human health."

Much of the contamination noted as a result of this investigation has been previously documented, and all is due to past disposal practices at the site. DOE, EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) were all involved in the *Operable Unit V [OUV] Remedial Investigation/Risk Assessment Report*.

The investigation of OUV was part of ongoing environmental remediation activities at BNL that are carried out under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act of 1980, which is commonly known as the Superfund law and under which BNL falls primarily due to past operations that have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination that could potentially threaten Long Island's aquifer.

OUV includes the Lab's sewage treatment plant (STP), from which some 800,000 gallons of treated water are discharged each day into the headwaters of the Peconic River.

The plant consists of several processing buildings, a settling tank, six active sand filter beds and two storage ponds.

The STP area was first used by the U.S. Army's Camp Upton, which occupied the site during both World Wars. BNL began using the plant in 1947.

Disposal Practices Updated

Because BNL's disposal practices have been radically updated, the plant's current effluent is not expected to cause contamination such as that found during the investigation.

Since 1970, the effluent has been regulated by NYSDEC. Today's discharges are monitored daily and meet the stringent requirements of a NYSDEC permit.

As a result of a 1997 upgrade, the STP employs two aeration tanks to reduce nitrogen and organic-matter discharges, and it includes ultraviolet disinfection of the effluent, thereby eliminating the use of chlorine.

The following findings — some of which were shared with the public previously — are detailed in the risk assessment:

- **Groundwater** — Southeast of the STP and in off-site areas east and southeast of BNL, groundwater contains volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethene (TCE), which was once commonly used in industry and at the Lab as a degreasing agent.

TCE was found at a maximum concentration of 32 parts per billion (ppb) at 230 feet below land surface, well below the depth at which private wells are placed; the federal drinking water standard is 5 ppb.

Today, TCE is used only occasionally at BNL, and its use and disposal are rigidly controlled by state and federal law.

The groundwater was also found to contain the radioactive material tri-

tium at a maximum concentration of 2,000 picocuries per liter, or one-tenth of the drinking water standard, at 40 feet below land surface. Tritium in groundwater in the vicinity of the sewage treatment plant is present due to discharges from the High Flux Beam Reactor that are unrelated to the tritium plume of 1997.

Because of emissions-reduction efforts by the Reactor Division, tritium is now detectable only infrequently in the plant's discharges to the Peconic River.

- **Soils and Sediment** — Elevated levels of heavy metals, such as mercury and silver, and low levels of radioactive materials, including cesium-137, are found in soil at the STP site and in sediment downstream from the point of discharge from the STP. The sediment also contains polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Water-flow patterns and barriers impede the travel of these contaminants off site.

- **Fish** — In the on-site portion of the Peconic River, fish accumulate PCBs and mercury. These fish do not pose a hazard to human health because they are too small for human consumption. However, they could pose a hazard to wildlife preying solely on them.

Water-flow patterns and barriers impede the travel of these fish off site. The report concludes that contaminant concentrations found in off-site fish pose no hazard to wildlife or to human health.

The full report is available for review at the BNL Research Library, Bldg. 477; public libraries in Middle Island and Shirley; and EPA's library in Manhattan.

Through July 29, DOE is seeking public comment on the investigation results.

To comment, or for more information, call John Carter, DOE, Ext. 5195, or Peter Genzer, BNL Environmental Restoration Division, Ext. 3174.

DOE Extends Environmental Review Of High Flux Beam Reactor

On Tuesday, May 26, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) informed the Brookhaven Executive Round Table, a panel of local elected officials and regulators, that the department has modified its schedule for conducting a review of the environmental impacts of BNL's High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR).

The Record of Decision — the review document analyzing such options as shutdown of the reactor or its restart — will now be completed in mid-1999, instead of in December of this year.

The decision to extend the timetable is an outcome of public comments that DOE had received on the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS): Over two months this past winter, DOE had gathered 592 comments on the scope of the EIS, through three public meetings, as well as through letters, faxes, phone calls, comment cards and electronic mail.

The extension will also ensure that the draft EIS incorporates studies relating to groundwater protection and remediation of the tritium plume, to be completed this summer and fall.

"Many of our stakeholders had expressed concern that we were moving too fast and had asked us to take more time to evaluate their comments and related environmental protection issues," said Dean Helms, Executive Manager of DOE's on-site Brookhaven Group. "Given these comments and the scope of the review, we have extended our schedule."

The new schedule is as follows:

Milestone	Previous date	Revised date
Draft EIS/public review comment period	mid-July 1998- mid-August 1998	late November 1998- late January 1999
Final EIS public availability	late November 1998	late April 1999
Record of Decision	late December 1998	late May 1999

As the schedule shows, the public will have additional opportunities for comment after the department issues the draft EIS.

Copies of public comments DOE has received so far are available in public reading rooms at: the BNL Research Library, Bldg. 477; Longwood Public Library; Shirley-Mastic Public Library; and the Freedom of Information Library at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Riverhead Officials Visit BNL



Roger Stoutenburgh

Several Riverhead Town officials, including (front) Supervisor Vincent Vilella, and (from left) Attorney Adam Grossman, Assistant to the Supervisor Lyn McDonald and Councilman Philip Cardinale Jr., visited BNL on April 8. After a welcome and overview from BNL Director John Marburger, the group took a Lab tour, with stops including the Positron Emission Tomograph (PET) facility to learn about Brookhaven's PET research on the biochemical effects of drugs, aging and certain diseases of the brain; the remediation area in which the pump-and-treat process is being used on site to clean up groundwater; and the Peconic River (see story above). Here, Mike Bebon (right), Assistant Laboratory Director for Facilities & Operations, points out the location where the Lab's sanitary wastewater discharges to the river after being treated in BNL's recently upgraded Sewage Treatment Plant.

Look for BNL Series in Sunday's *Newsday*

The first results of *Newsday's* three-month-old effort to increase its coverage of BNL by assigning reporters to cover the Lab site will appear in this Sunday's edition: Written by Charles Zehren, this multiple-page look at life at BNL will include photos and graphics. The May 31 article will be the first in an occasional series that will look at

several aspects of BNL, from interaction with the local community to its scientific research.

BNL science will also be addressed in *Newsday's* historical series, "Long Island, Our Story," next Tuesday, June 2, when the Lab will figure prominently in Earl Lane's report on the history of science on Long Island.

Return Engagement for Pianist DeSa

On Wednesday, June 3, at 8 p.m., pianist Lucerne DeSa will return to BNL to give her second BERA concert in Berkner Hall.

DeSa's program will include selections from Enrique Granados' *Goyescas*, Isaac Albeniz's *Suite Española* and Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Cirandas*, as well as Ernest Nazareth's *Three Tangos* and Alberto Ginastera's *Sonata No. 1, Opus 22*.

DeSa has won many competitions, including the Southwestern Youth Music Festival and the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition.

She has performed solo in locations from Middlebury College in Vermont

to the University of California, Irvine.

With clarinetist Marcus Eley, DeSa has given concerts at such places as the Cité Universitaire de Paris and the Old First Church concert series in San Francisco. DeSa and Eley recently completed their first recording, "Welcome Home," released by Arabesque Records in March.

The free concert is open to the public. Donations will be accepted to help defray costs and fund future events. With a single contribution of \$25 or more, donors will be

listed in each concert program for the rest of the season. For a recorded message about the concert, call Ext. 3550.



Lucerne DeSa

Tops in BNL Contest, Bridge Builder Takes Fourth in International



Joe Rubino

East Islip High School physics teacher Bill Lynch (left), and seven of his students look over the basswood bridges that they entered in BNL's 17th annual Model Bridge Contest, organized and hosted on February 28 by Museum Programs in Community Involvement & Public Affairs and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. A short time later, these bridges and those of the other approximately 250 high school students from 24 Suffolk County schools who participated in the contest were crunched in a stress tester to determine which one could hold the most weight, relative to its own weight. As it turned out, one of Lynch's students, William Thornevell Jr. (center), took first place and won a \$100 gift certificate to a local computer store because his 43.8-gram (1.56 ounce) bridge held more than 134.1 kilograms (298 pounds), or about 3,089 times its own weight. Also, Thornevell and second-place winner Allison Mooney, Walt Whitman High School, received round-trip airfare from Brookhaven Science Associates to go to Las Vegas to compete in the 1998 International Bridge Building Contest, where, on May 2, Thornevell came in fourth—the highest ranking ever obtained by a student qualified for the international contest through BNL's bridge contest.

Three BERA Bus Trips

BERA will offer three bus trips this summer. The per-person costs include admission and round-trip bus transportation.

- Atlantic City, Saturday, July 18; \$23 with coin package to be announced.
- New York Yankees game, Friday, July 24; leaving BNL at 4:30 p.m., \$39.
- Six Flags/Great Adventure, Saturday, August 8, \$45.

Make paid reservations on a first-come basis at the BERA Sales Office, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information, call Andrea Dehler, Ext. 3347, or M. Kay Dellimore, Ext. 2873.

Service Awards

The following employees celebrated service anniversaries during May:

40 Years	
Kenneth H. Johnson	Plant Eng.
35 Years	
John H. Weinmann	AGS
30 Years	
Vincent E. Chiampou	AGS
Joseph A. Curtiss	Adv. Technology
Micheal J. LeVine	Physics
Richard C. Sautkulis	Biology
Kenneth A. Sutter	App. Science
20 Years	
Patricia A. Bender	Plant Eng.
William H. Birkholz	RHIC
Patricia Carr	App. Science
Karen N. Cestra	RHIC
Joseph M. Collins	Physics
Melanie J. Covitz	RHIC
Joseph Cracco	Physics
David P. Elling	App. Science
Carmen T. Falkenbach	Dir. Office
William B. Jensen	Plant Eng.
John E. Kulesa	Plant Eng.
Joseph M. Kutschera	Plant Eng.
Jesus Marte	Admin. Support
Payman Mortazavi	NLSL
Daniel P. Mullaly	AGS
Darlene J. Reeves	AGS
Rhea Robinson	Plant Eng.
Elaine D. Zukowski	Dir. Office
10 Years	
William Chimienti	RHIC
Jeffrey P. Davis	Plant Eng.
Ove H. Dyling	Plant Eng.
Ronald R. Harding	ES&H Services
Arthur T. Harris	Plant Eng.
Srinivasan Iyer	Budget Office
Albert L. Langhorn	Physics
Esther G. Larios	Admin. Support
Ann Marie Luhrs	Reactor
Doris Rueger	RHIC
John C. Small	Contracts & Proc.
Jeffrey G. Tabacco	Plant Eng.
Richard J. Travis	Reactor
Samuel Velazquez	Safeguards & Sec.

To Your Health

The following programs are being sponsored by the Health Promotion Program of the Occupational Medicine Clinic (OMC). For more information, contact Health Promotion Specialist Mary Wood, Bldg. 490, Ext. 5923 or 6251.

March Into May: Time to Total

Ten weeks have hurried past, and, 345 BNLeers have participated in the physical activity program known as March Into May, setting personal goals and following through with them.

BNL was one of ten employers nationwide selected by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity to have its employees participate.

Now, at the end of the program, it's time to add up total physical activity points and report them to team captains. Remember: T-shirts await participants!

Winners of the midpoint raffle held to encourage faithful participation were: Muriel Pfeiffer, who won a Canon camera; Conrad Foester and D.J. Greco, portfolios with calculators; and Susan Monteleone and Deborah Keating, spa certificates.

Healthline Lecture: GI Problems

Do you sometimes get slowed down as you fight off the effects of an upset stomach, indigestion, heartburn or even an ulcer? If so, you're far from alone. Over 95 million people, young and old, suffer from some kind of digestive disorder, and over 10 million are hospitalized each year due to their gastrointestinal (GI) problems.

Learn more about such concerns at the next Healthline Lecture, when physician Peter Ells will give an "Update on Gastroenterology Problems" at noon on Tuesday, June 2, in Berkner Hall. Ells will discuss common gastrointestinal problems, emphasizing peptic ulcer disease caused by bacteria called *helicobacter pylori*, the importance of screenings for detecting colon cancer and the most current information on hepatitis C.

At Stony Brook University Hospital & Medical Center, Ells is Acting Head of the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology and Medical Director of the Endoscopy Laboratory. In addition, he is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine, where he was twice selected by student votes to win an outstanding teaching award.

To register for the lecture, complete and return the bottom portion of the flier sent to all employees to Mary Wood, before Tuesday, June 2.

Skin-Cancer Screening

A board-certified dermatologist will screen up to 40 employees for skin cancer on Thursday, June 11, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in OMC, Bldg. 490.

To obtain an appointment, send a note with your name, building number and extension to Mary Wood. You will receive a confirmation by mail.

Classified Advertisements

Placement Notices

The Laboratory's placement policy is to select the best-qualified candidate for an available position. Candidates are considered in the following order: (1) present employees within the department/division and/or appropriate bargaining unit, with preference for those within the immediate work group; (2) present employees within the Laboratory; and (3) outside applicants. In keeping with the Affirmative Action Plan, selections are made without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or veteran status.

Each week, the Human Resources Division lists new placement notices, first, so employees may request consideration for themselves, and, second, for open recruitment. Because of the priority policy stated above, each listing does not necessarily represent an opportunity for all people.

Except when operational needs require otherwise, positions will be open for one week after publication.

For more information, contact the Employment Manager, Ext. 2882; call the JOBLINE, Ext. 7744 (344-7744), for a complete list of all job openings; use a TDD system to access job information by calling (516) 344-6018; or access current job openings on the World Wide Web at <http://www.bnl.gov/JOBS/jobs.html>. The following vacancies are exempt from the Director's hiring freeze.

OPEN RECRUITMENT - Opportunities for Laboratory employees and outside candidates.

NS7063. ENGINEERING POSITION - Requires a bachelor's degree in a technical discipline, demonstrated mechanical and/or electrical engineering skills, 15 years of related work experience, and a working knowledge of the nuclear and waste-management industry. Decontamination and decommissioning experience, knowledge of process equipment and instrumentation, background with facility modifications, and in-depth knowledge of water treatment systems/processes are necessary. Responsibilities include developing technical work documents, identifying new equipment/technology, process and equipment troubleshooting, building management and relief supervision for technical staff. Waste Management Division.

DD7699. TECHNICAL POSITION - (term appointment) Requires AAS in electrical or mechanical technology or equivalent, and extensive experience in the field. The ability to read and work from schematics and drawings, as well as the ability to test and troubleshoot various electronic/electrical systems, also required. Must be able to help set up and methodize work procedures for various projects. Will assist in setting up wiring run lists and in the day-to-day operation of the group. Alternating Gradient Synchrotron Department.

DD7700. TECHNICAL POSITION - (term appointment) Requires an AAS degree in electrical technology or equivalent experience. Must have experience with digital voltmeters and oscilloscopes, and familiarity with PCs. Must possess strong construction and troubleshooting skills and be able to work from electronic schematics, rough sketches and verbal instructions. Experience with high-voltage techniques, programmable logic controllers, high-power equip-

ment and vacuum systems is highly desirable. Will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of a wide variety of electronic and electromechanical systems. Alternating Gradient Synchrotron Department.

DD4775. TECHNICAL POSITION - (term appointment) Requires broad experience in electronics to work in a networking, computer and instrumentation equipment group. (reposting) Alternating Gradient Synchrotron Department.

Plant a Tree Today!

Additional tree seedlings have been made available for planting at the firebreak on the Lab's north boundary. So, at 5 p.m. today, rain or shine (except for thunderstorms) you can help continue the effort in which over 1,000 seedlings have already planted as part of the Global ReLeaf project. Remember to wear appropriate clothes, tick repellent and sunscreen.

To get to the planting site, drive to the intersection of Railroad Street and Fifth Avenue, and follow the signs.

Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals

Subramaniam Eswaramoorthy.....Bio.
Peter P. Cernigliaro.....AGS
Paul E. Kovach.....RHIC

Departures

Hans de Boer.....ES&H Services
Armand Di Filippo.....NLSL
Randi S. Lewis.....Reactor
Peter Wochner.....Physics

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