



**FUSRAP**

## Wayne, New Jersey, Site

*This fact sheet provides information about the Wayne, New Jersey, Site. This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.*

### Site Description and History

The Wayne, New Jersey, Site (previously called the Wayne Interim Storage Site) is located at 868 Black Oak Ridge Road in Wayne Township in northern New Jersey. The site sits at the intersection of Black Oak Ridge Road and Pompton Plains Crossroad, approximately 20 miles north-northwest of Newark. The site is fenced and roughly rectangular in shape, covering approximately 6.5 acres.

In 1948, Rare Earths, Inc., began processing monazite sand to extract thorium and rare earth metals and, in doing so, buried contaminated waste materials on the site. W.R. Grace & Company acquired the facility in 1957, and processing continued until 1971, when the plant closed. Applied Health Physics, Inc., decontaminated the buildings in 1974, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission released the property for unrestricted use in 1975.

An aerial radiological survey in 1981 identified elevated radiation levels at the site and west along Sheffield Brook. Subsequent walkover surveys conducted in 1982 confirmed that concentrations of surface radionuclide contamination were greater than acceptable U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) remedial action guidelines at the time.

The Wayne site was designated for remedial action under the DOE Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in 1984. That same year, DOE purchased the site to use for storage of contaminated vicinity property material, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL).

Although thorium was the principal contaminant detected, radium, uranium, and nonradioactive metals were also identified at the site. Two types of contaminated media were present: source materials (soil, processing waste, and bulk



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*Location of the Wayne, New Jersey, Site*

waste) and building materials from an onsite structure. DOE conducted cleanup work on the site from 1985 to 1993. Additional cleanup at several offsite locations, called vicinity properties, was primarily conducted between 1985 and 1987 and completed in 1993.

Excavated vicinity property materials were placed in an interim storage pile on top of the site's process waste pits because a permanent waste disposal facility was not available at the time.

In 1997, the agency assigned to complete Wayne site cleanup, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), removed an estimated 58,000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the interim storage site and disposed of it in a licensed, offsite facility. The materials included those from the waste pit and affected soil and debris from beneath the footprint of the former pile. USACE began a long-term groundwater monitoring program in 2002 that continued through 2006.

Preparations for site closeout included a document review, which identified two vicinity properties in need of additional cleanup. Both had been remediated in the 1980s to criteria that were less stringent than those specified in the Record of Decision. The additional work was completed under an Explanation of Significant Difference to the Record of Decision.

The results from 5 years of groundwater monitoring indicated that site activities did not degrade groundwater quality, which meant the site met the criteria for unrestricted use. EPA Region II completed an inspection in September 2003 and verified that remedial action was completed at the Wayne site and its vicinity properties.

In 2010, USACE characterized and removed contaminated soil in the Pompton Plains Crossroad and Black Oak Ridge Road rights-of-way where culverts funneled Sheffield Brook beneath the roads.

## Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, predecessor to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites where work was performed to develop the nation's nuclear weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiological surveys for more than 600 sites connected to the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup. The Wayne site was designated for remediation under FUSRAP by the U.S. Congress in 1983. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to the USACE in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M) of remediated FUSRAP sites.

The Wayne site was initially remediated to interim soil criteria for Decontamination and Decommissioning Program sites. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on October 29, 1984.

Additional remediation was performed under the *2000 Record of Decision for the Wayne Interim Storage Site* and the *2003 Record of Decision Explanation of Significant Difference for the Wayne Interim Storage Site*. USACE activities were conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

Responsibility for the Wayne site transferred from USACE to the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) in 2007.

## Current Site Conditions

In 2006, DOE transferred the property to Wayne Township for park and recreational use under the National Park Service's Land to Parks Program. The township has constructed a public playground and dog park on the site.

EPA deleted the site from the NPL in 2012.

## Legacy Management Activities

LTS&M requirements consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

## Contacts

In case of an emergency at the site, contact 911.

Documents related to FUSRAP activities at the Wayne site are available on the LM website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/wayne/Sites.aspx>.

For other information on site history or current long-term stewardship activities, please contact us at:

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