

Economic Profile

Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory
West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

CONTINUED USE



Nuclear Naval
Research Facility

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection

The Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory facility in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, covers about 208 acres and is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. The facility has supported the design and maintenance of reactor plants for nuclear-powered U.S. Navy vessels since 1949. Previously, it served as an airfield from 1926 to 1948. A small area in the northern part of the facility, known as the Inactive Waste Site, was used until 1964 for the disposal of household and construction wastes. The facility's research and industrial activities contaminated site soil and groundwater with volatile organic compounds, metals and other pollutants.

The DOE cleaned up the facility under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program, with oversight by EPA, which included soil and groundwater cleanup. Institutional and engineered controls are in place to protect the remedy, with oversight by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Currently, Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC runs Bettis Lab under a DOE contract. It supports 2,000 jobs and about \$289 million in annual wages.



EMPLOYEES

2,000



ANNUAL WAGES

\$289 million

For more information about RCRA and the economic benefits of site reuse, visit www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-hazardous-waste-cleanups.





THROUGH CRUCIAL TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND A QUALITY WORK ENVIRONMENT, THE BETTIS LAB CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MANY COMMUNITY BENEFITS.

In 1997, EPA selected the facility's remedy based on public comments and available cleanup options. The remedy, which was completed in 2010, included in-place groundwater treatment and the excavation and disposal of contaminated soil. In 2011, EPA issued a Final Remedy in which it selected a long-term monitoring plan to ensure the remedy's effectiveness and set institutional controls to prevent exposure to any remaining contamination. In 2013, EPA issued a final permit requiring the facility to restrict access to site soil and groundwater, maintain a vegetative cover over the Inactive Waste Site and other areas, and continue environmental monitoring efforts. In a 2023 Long-Term Stewardship Assessment, EPA determined that the facility has been meeting its obligations under the permit.

The Bettis Lab is part of the naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, a joint U.S. Navy-DOE program. Engineers at the lab design reactors, aircraft carriers and other cutting-edge naval technology. The facility supports high-paying jobs and has internship and fellowship programs that supplement undergraduate and graduate educations in nuclear, electrical, mechanical and materials engineering. Research opportunities include reactor physics, materials science and radiation shielding.

In 2020, union workers at the Bettis Lab enhanced their health and safety program through a contract. It included wage increases, bonuses and benefits improvements. The contract established a joint labor-management safety committee. This has led to a more collaborative approach, with management emphasizing the value of the union's safety resources. The union also received safety training focused on communication, hazard mapping and committee effectiveness.

Cleanup under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program and ongoing environmental monitoring has enabled the Bettis Lab to continue its pioneering research in nuclear-powered naval technology while supporting 2,000 jobs and about \$289 million in annual wages.



The Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory offers many types of research opportunities in engineering, physics and chemistry.



Since 1949, the facility has supported the design and maintenance of nuclear reactors used in U.S. Navy vessels such as submarines and aircraft carriers.