

**EPA FACT SHEET
FOR A CORRECTIVE ACTION PERMIT RENEWAL
To
Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory
West Mifflin, PA
EPA ID No. PA0890090004**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to renew the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit, EPA ID No. PA0890090004, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Naval Reactors Laboratory Field Office (Permittee) for its facility located on 227 acres in West Mifflin Borough, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (Facility). The Facility's RCRA permit addresses the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA). EPA has prepared this fact sheet in accordance with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 124.8.

I. PURPOSE OF THE PERMITTING PROCESS

When proposing to renew a RCRA permit, EPA is required to prepare a draft permit which sets forth in one concise document all applicable requirements which the Agency intends to require the Facility to comply with during the ten (10) year duration of EPA's permit. The permitting process allows EPA, interested citizens, and other governmental agencies the opportunity to evaluate the ability of DOE to comply with the applicable hazardous waste management requirements promulgated under RCRA, as amended by HSWA. The public is given forty-five (45) days to review and comment on the draft permit conditions prior to EPA taking any final action on EPA's draft permit.

II. PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION

Section 7004(b) of RCRA and 40 C.F.R. § 124.10 require that the public be given 45 days to comment on each draft permit prepared under RCRA. The comment period will begin 01/14/2026 and end on 02/28/2026. Any person interested in commenting on this draft permit must do so within the 45-day comment period.

All persons wishing to comment on any of the permit conditions should submit the comments (including any supporting material, references, and factual grounds) to:

Christine Kimak
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
4 Penn Center
1600 JFK Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Email: kimak.christine@epa.gov

In the event EPA receives a request for a public hearing within the 45-day comment period, a hearing will be scheduled at a location convenient to the population center nearest to the Facility. Public notice of the hearing will be given at least 30 days before the hearing. Any request for a public hearing, accompanied by written opposition to the draft permit should be addressed to Christine Kimak at the address referenced above. For further information or to view the administrative record for this draft permit, contact Christine Kimak via phone at (215) 814-2798 or email at kimak.christine@epa.gov.

Handicapped persons with a need for special services should contact EPA far enough in advance of the hearing to enable the services to be secured. When making a determination regarding the issuance of this permit to DOE, EPA will consider all written comments received during the comment period, oral and written statements received during the public hearing (if held), the requirements of the hazardous waste regulations of 40 C.F.R. Parts 124, 260-264, 268, and 270, EPA's permitting policies, and HSWA.

When EPA makes a final permit decision to either issue, deny, or modify this draft permit, notice will be given to DOE and each person who submitted written comments or requested notice of the final decision. The final permit decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after the service of notice of the decision unless a later date is specified or review is requested under 40 C.F.R. § 124.19. If no comments request a change in this draft permit, the final permit shall become effective immediately once issued.

This draft permit contains conditions requiring DOE to implement corrective measures at the Facility to prevent exposure to hazardous constituents to human health and the environment.

III. FACILITY BACKGROUND

The Facility is situated on an approximate 227-acre tract of land in the Borough of West Mifflin and is located approximately eight miles southeast of the downtown section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A heavily wooded area borders the Facility on the east. An industrial district is located along the northern boundary of the Facility. Commercial and residential developments border the Facility on the south and west.

DOE used the Facility to design, develop, test, and provide operational support of nuclear reactor propulsion plants for naval surface and submarine vessels. An area at the Facility known as the Inactive Waste Site (IWS), which covers approximately 3.5 acres in the northern portion of the Facility, was reportedly used until 1964 to dispose of household waste and excavation materials from construction projects. The area of the IWS is currently unused and covered with vegetation.

IV. EPA INSPECTIONS, EVALUATIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS

Initial environmental investigations from 1983 to 1989 found that operations at the Facility resulted in contamination of soils and groundwater with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In response, DOE conducted a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) and Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to address releases of hazardous wastes and/or constituents at and from the Facility.

On November 10, 2011, EPA issued a Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC), in which it selected the implementation and maintenance of several remediation measures, and institutional and engineering controls as the Final Remedy for the Facility. The remedial measures and institutional and engineering controls specified in the FDRTC have been implemented, but several components of the Final Remedy have ongoing obligations.

DOE is implementing the ongoing obligations of the Final Remedy under the Facility's RCRA Storage Permit, No. PA0890090004 (DEP Permit), issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to DOE. EPA has determined that protection of human health and the environment has been achieved at the Facility and will continue to be achieved at the Facility as long as DOE complies with its DEP Permit and the ongoing obligations described below.

V. REMEDY ACTIVITIES IN EPA PERMIT

EPA is requiring that DOE comply with the following ongoing obligations as required in the EPA Permit:

1. Restrict and control access to, and subsurface work in, the vicinity of two inactive, underground, 40-inch Coke Gas Lines (Inactive Gas Lines) to prevent potential exposure of on-site workers to hazardous wastes and hazardous constituents and to prevent disruptions to the integrity of the Inactive Gas Lines.
2. To the extent consistent with its obligations and authorities under law, the Permittee shall pursue placement of a notice in the deed prohibiting installation of on-site drinking water wells, should the Facility property be transferred from Federal ownership.
3. Maintain cover and warning signs at the Inactive Waste Site, Bettis Landfill, and the Trash Chute Area. Maintain cover at the former Underground Waste Oil Storage Tank (UST/WOT) areas, specifically at the five following UST/WOT locations: Hangar 3, AT Building, F Shop, CY Building and J-Building. Note: The term "cover" includes but is not limited to vegetation, gravel, landscaping materials, concrete and/or asphalt.
4. Notify EPA in writing a minimum of seven days in advance of any changes to the Facility involving soil disturbances (i.e., excavation) for the Inactive Waste Site, Bettis

Landfill, the five UST/WOT areas, Trash Chute area, and the Inactive Gas Lines. For emergent situations, it is acceptable to provide written notification within seven working days of any changes to the Facility involving soil disturbances for the previously specified areas. In these emergent situations, it may be necessary to provide additional recovery information beyond seven days. Note: For the purpose of this item, soil disturbances do not include soil sampling, soil boring, and/or minimal soil disturbances of twelve inches or less below the ground surface.

5. Continue to conduct periodic environmental monitoring of the following media to detect changes in concentrations of chlorinated VOCs:

- Material deposited in storm sewer system outfalls;
- On-site wells; and
- Surface water and sediments in Bull Run Stream.

VI. CHANGES TO EPA PERMIT

The following changes were made from the original EPA Permit, which have been incorporated into the draft permit renewal:

1. Section B.3 (item #3 above) was modified to identify the multiple types of cover that exist at Bettis.

2. Section B.4 (item #4 above) was modified to provide flexibility for emergent situations and clarification on what qualifies as a soil disturbance.

3. Section B.6 was eliminated to remove the continual obligation to monitor the Matheson Valley former Valley National Gas property since the purchase of that property was completed by Bettis.

4. The Environmental Monitoring Schedule (Attachment C) was modified to reduce the number of monitoring wells requiring groundwater sampling due to wells meeting their Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for all VOCs for at least seven years.

5. The Environmental Monitoring Schedule (Attachment C) was modified to eliminate the sampling of material deposited in storm sewer system outfalls at the stilling basin location following its elimination.