

**Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory**

# **Environmental Monitoring Report**

**Calendar Year 2025**

Prepared for the U. S. Department of Energy  
by Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC

***FLUOR***<sup>®</sup>



**BETTIS ATOMIC POWER LABORATORY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

Prepared for the U. S. Department of Energy by  
Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC  
Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory  
West Mifflin, Pennsylvania 15122-0079

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**COMMON ABBREVIATIONS**

|         |                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| Ci      | curie                                     |
| lb/day  | pounds per day                            |
| μCi     | microcurie = 1.0 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> curie |
| μCi/ml  | microcuries per milliliter                |
| μg/l    | micrograms per liter                      |
| μR/hour | microrentgen per hour                     |
| mg/l    | milligrams per litermrem millirem         |
| ml      | milliliter                                |
| mg/kg   | milligrams per kilogram                   |
| pCi     | picocurie = 1.0 x 10 <sup>-12</sup> curie |
| pCi/g   | picocuries per gram                       |
| ppm     | parts per million                         |
| S.U.    | standard units                            |

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

|         |                                                                             |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACCD    | Allegheny County Conservation District                                      |
| ACHD    | Allegheny County Health Department                                          |
| ALARA   | As Low As Reasonably Achievable                                             |
| CAA     | Clean Air Act                                                               |
| CACO    | Consent Agreement/Consent Order                                             |
| CAP     | Corrective Action Permit                                                    |
| CERCLA  | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act        |
| CFR     | Code of Federal Regulation                                                  |
| CMIO    | Corrective Measures Implementation Order                                    |
| CMS     | Corrective Measures Study                                                   |
| DCE     | 1,2-dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-dichloroethylene; trans-1,2-dichloroethylene) |
| DLC     | Decision Level Concentration                                                |
| DOE     | U.S. Department of Energy                                                   |
| EHS     | Extremely Hazardous Substances                                              |
| EPA     | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency                                        |
| EPCRA   | Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act                          |
| ERA     | Environmental Resource Associates                                           |
| ESH     | Environmental, Safety and Health                                            |
| ESHMS   | Environmental Safety and Health Management System                           |
| ESVE    | Enhanced Soil Vapor Extraction                                              |
| FDRTC   | Final Decision and Response to Comments                                     |
| FFCA    | Federal Facility Compliance Act                                             |
| FMP     | Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC                                                |
| HEPA    | High-Efficiency Particulate Air                                             |
| HRS     | Hazard Ranking System                                                       |
| IWS     | Inactive Waste Site                                                         |
| MEL     | Materials Evaluation Laboratory                                             |
| MOA     | Memorandum of Agreement                                                     |
| NARAC   | National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center                                |
| NEPA    | National Environmental Policy Act                                           |
| NESHAPs | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants                    |
| NNL     | Naval Nuclear Laboratory                                                    |
| NNPP    | Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program                                            |
| NPDES   | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System                             |
| NRC     | Nuclear Regulatory Commission                                               |
| NRLFO   | Naval Reactors Laboratory Field Office                                      |
| PDA     | Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture                                      |
| PA DEP  | Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection                         |
| PA/SI   | Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection                                  |
| PAH     | Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon                                            |
| PCB     | Polychlorinated Biphenyls                                                   |
| PCE     | Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene)                                     |
| PNR     | Pittsburgh Naval Reactors Office                                            |
| QAP     | Quality Assurance Program                                                   |
| RCRA    | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act                                      |
| RFI     | RCRA Facility Investigation                                                 |
| SARA    | Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act                                |
| SIS     | Springwater Intercept System                                                |
| TCE     | Trichloroethylene                                                           |
| TLD     | Thermoluminescent Dosimeter                                                 |
| TSCA    | Toxic Substance Control Act                                                 |

|      |                                                            |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| TSDF | Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility                   |
| UDEQ | Utah Department of Environmental Quality                   |
| VNG  | Valley National Gases (currently known as Matheson Valley) |
| VOC  | Volatile Organic Compound                                  |

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The results of the 2025 radiological and nonradiological environmental monitoring programs for the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory (Bettis or Bettis Laboratory) are summarized below. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the major elements of the environmental monitoring programs.

### **Liquid Effluents (Other than to Sanitary Sewer)**

Approximately 17,732,000 gallons of non-contact cooling water, process wastewater, and stormwater runoff were released to the environment via the Bull Run (Outfall 001) Monitoring Station. Mass earthwork and infrastructure installations on a new dry extended detention basin to treat effluent from Outfall 001 were put into operation in September 2025, but they were not complete due to a lack of vegetation growth during the latter half of the year. The basin was installed to support compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit for Outfall 001. Radioactivity concentrations for all radionuclides of concern were either below decision level concentrations (DLCs) or were consistent with background levels in municipal water and precipitation. The DLC is the minimum value of the measured analyte concentration that provides a degree of confidence that a positive amount of analyte is present in the material analyzed. Monitoring data for chemical constituents in liquid effluents demonstrated that these effluents did not have any significant impact on the quality of the receiving water. These results demonstrated compliance with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) standards and the Site's NPDES Permit, with one exception. In October 2025, total suspended solids in Outfall 001 effluent exceeded NPDES permit maximum daily and average monthly limits.

Stormwater runoff via Stormwater Outfalls 003, 005, 006 and 008 and treated groundwater via Outfall 007 were released to the environment. Approximately 11,283,000 gallons of treated groundwater was released to the environment via Outfall 007. Outfall 008 effluent is treated by a dry extended detention basin prior to discharge. These discharges were made in accordance with the Site's NPDES Permit with one exception. In February 2025, a discharge of turbid water from Outfall 008 occurred due to the unexpected release of sediment from a partial blockage in the basin's outlet pipe following the removal of the structure as part of basin reconstruction activities.

### **Sanitary Sewer Discharges**

Sanitary sewage was discharged to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works. In June 2025, the Publicly Owned Treatment Works approved the West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer & Stormwater Authority Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit (2025-001 Bettis) for Bettis. Wastes discharged to the sanitary system in 2025 were in compliance with applicable permits and regulations.

## **Groundwater**

Analyses of a number of the groundwater samples from five water-bearing zones beneath the Site show low levels of strontium-90 (Sr-90) similar to that found from worldwide testing of nuclear weapons. A very small portion of the uppermost water-bearing zone contained low levels of Sr-90 due to small inadvertent laboratory releases in the 1950s and 1960s. The levels of Sr-90 are well below the 10 CFR 20 concentrations for water in unrestricted areas; therefore, these levels have no adverse effect on human health or the environment.

The results of the majority of the groundwater analyses for a variety of chemicals were less than practical quantitation limits. Some analyses indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene or PCE), which are associated with past degreasing operations performed by Bettis and possibly by prior tenants when the Site was an airfield. The presence of these chemicals is not due to current Site operations. In 2019, Bettis initiated a pilot project for the voluntary bioremediation of VOCs in an area of groundwater near Well 65. Subsequent sampling provided evidence of active dechlorination of VOCs in this area. Specifically, the concentration of PCE in groundwater sampled from Well 65 decreased from 2,200 µg/l in May 2020, to 125 µg/l in June 2021, to 10 µg/l in June 2022, and to less than 1 µg/l in June 2023, June 2024, and June 2025.

**TABLE 1**  
**RADIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM<sup>(1)</sup>**

| Media Monitored                                                                                                                        | Analysis Frequency                     | Routine Analyses                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LIQUID EFFLUENTS<br>• Bull Run Monitoring Station                                                                                      | Monthly                                | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Strontium-90                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                        | Quarterly                              | Strontium-90, Gamma                                                                                            |
| • Outfall 008                                                                                                                          | Annually                               | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Strontium-90, Gamma                                                                   |
| • Sanitary Sewer (SAN-10)                                                                                                              | Monthly                                | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                        | Quarterly                              | Strontium-90, Gamma                                                                                            |
| LIQUID INFLUENTS<br>• Municipal Water<br>• Precipitation                                                                               | Monthly                                | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                        | Quarterly                              | Strontium-90, Gamma                                                                                            |
| GROUNDWATER<br>• Wells/Springs <sup>(2)</sup>                                                                                          | Annually                               | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Strontium-90, Gamma, Uranium-233/234, Uranium-235, Uranium-238                        |
| SURFACE WATER<br>• Bull Run Stream (BR5)                                                                                               |                                        |                                                                                                                |
| STREAM SEDIMENT AND VEGETATION<br>• Bull Run Stream<br>• Northeast Area Stream<br>• Thompson Run Stream<br>• Off-site Control Location | Semiannually (Sediment)                | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Gamma                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                        | Annually (Sediment)                    | Strontium-90<br>(Bull Run and off-site control location only)                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                        | Annually (Vegetation)                  | Strontium-90, Gamma                                                                                            |
| STORM SEWER SEDIMENT<br>• Bull Run Monitoring Station                                                                                  | Semiannually                           | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Gamma                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                        | Annually                               | Strontium-90                                                                                                   |
| SOIL & RADIATION<br>• West Mifflin Park Stream Survey                                                                                  | Every Ten Years (2034) <sup>3</sup>    | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Strontium-90, Gamma, Uranium-233/234, Uranium-235, Uranium-238, Cesium-137, Cobalt-60 |
| SOIL<br>• Runoff Area Below IWS                                                                                                        | Every Two Years (2026) <sup>3</sup>    | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta, Strontium-90, Gamma, Uranium-233/234, Uranium-235, Uranium-238                        |
| RADIATION<br>• Site Perimeter                                                                                                          | Continuously                           | Gamma Radiation                                                                                                |
| • Bull Run Stream                                                                                                                      | Every Fifth Year (2026) <sup>(3)</sup> |                                                                                                                |
| • Runoff Area Below the IWS                                                                                                            | Every Fifth Year (2027) <sup>(3)</sup> |                                                                                                                |
| AIRBORNE EFFLUENT<br>• Particulate Activity                                                                                            | Weekly                                 | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                        | Quarterly                              | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta<br>Strontium-90, Gamma                                                                 |
| • Radon                                                                                                                                | Annually                               | Radon-220, Radon-222                                                                                           |
| AIRBORNE (Ambient Background)<br>• South Park, PA<br>• West Mifflin, PA                                                                | Weekly                                 | Gross Alpha, Gross Beta                                                                                        |

**NOTES:**

- (1) The monitoring methods used in this program are "grab and composite" sampling. The particulate activity in the airborne effluent is monitored on a continual basis.
- (2) Water from approximately one-third of the wells in the monitoring program is analyzed for strontium-90, uranium-233/234, uranium-235 and uranium-238 each year; all wells in the program will be analyzed for these parameters over a three-year period.
- (3) Indicates year when sampling or monitoring is next due.

**TABLE 2**  
**NONRADIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM<sup>(1)</sup>**

| Media Monitored                                                           | Analysis Frequency <sup>(3)</sup> | Routine Analyses <sup>(4)</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LIQUID EFFLUENTS<br>• Bull Run Monitoring Station                         | Semimonthly                       | Oil and grease, pH, total suspended solids, temperature, total residual chlorine, total aluminum, total antimony, total arsenic, hexavalent chromium, total copper, dissolved iron, total iron, total lead, total zinc, bromoform, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, chloroform.                                                                |
| • SIS Outfall 007                                                         | Semimonthly                       | Total aluminum, total iron, dissolved iron, pH, total suspended solids, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| • Stormwater Outfalls<br>Outfall 006 & Outfall 008                        | Quarterly                         | Oil and grease, pH, total suspended solids, total aluminum, total iron.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| • Sanitary Sewer<br>(SAN-10)                                              | Monthly                           | Ammonia-nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand (5-Day), chemical oxygen demand, chlorides, total residual chlorine, total phosphorus, propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, oil and grease, pH, phenols, total suspended solids, temperature, total cyanide, total metals (arsenic, cadmium, total chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, tin, zinc). |
| GROUNDWATER<br>• Wells<br>• SIS Springs                                   | Annually                          | Volatile organic compounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| SEDIMENT<br>• Bull Run Monitoring Station<br>• Bull Run Stream (BR1, BR5) | Annually                          | Volatile organic compounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| • Residual Materials in the Inactive Coke Gas Lines                       | Annually <sup>(2)</sup>           | Amount of deposited material                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| SURFACE WATER<br>• Bull Run Stream (BR1, BR5)                             | Annually                          | Volatile organic compounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

**NOTES:**

- (1) For all media aside from effluent at SAN-10, the monitoring method used in this program is "grab" sampling. The monitoring method used at SAN-10 is predominately composite sampling; however, "grab" sampling is employed for the parameters of oil and grease, pH, temperature, total cyanide, total residual chlorine, and phenols.
- (2) Due to the increased residual material levels observed in 2023 and 2024, the monitoring frequency in 2025 was increased at monitoring location SP-S/R.
- (3) Sampling frequency may change due to updates in permit requirements.
- (4) Routine analysis may change due to updates in permit requirements.

## **Sediment, Soil, and Vegetation**

Analyses for radioactivity in the Site's effluent streambeds demonstrated that there were no significant changes in the low levels of radioactivity from historical operations in the streambeds during 2025.

Analyses of vegetation collected in and along the Site's effluent streams did not detect any radioactivity in excess of natural background levels.

Analyses of storm sewer sediment for radioactivity indicated low levels of cesium-137 (Cs-137) radioactivity consistent with levels of Cs-137 found in the environment due to fallout and to previous results attributed to historic Bettis operations during the 1950s and 1960s. These radioactivity concentrations are less than those found naturally occurring in loose-leaf spinach.

Analyses of storm sewer sediment for VOCs at the Bull Run Monitoring Station were consistent with historical results and did not indicate a change in the expected concentrations at this location. Similarly, analyses of Bull Run stream sediment for VOCs did not indicate a change in the expected concentrations at these locations and were also consistent with historical stream sediment results at these locations.

## **Radiation**

Radiation surveys and thermoluminescent dosimetry (TLD) data around the Site perimeter demonstrated that radiation levels were typical of natural levels of radioactivity for Western Pennsylvania. Perimeter TLD data also confirmed that Site operations did not cause any measurable change in the natural radiation levels surrounding the Site.

## **Airborne Effluents**

Radioactivity in Site airborne effluents was controlled using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters to maintain particulate radioactivity releases to as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). The amount of long-lived ( $>1$  day half-life) particulate radioactivity in Site airborne effluents was approximately  $1.43 \times 10^{-6}$  curies (Ci) in 2025, or approximately equal to the amount of radioactivity contained in a typical household smoke detector. Comparison of the Site's airborne effluents with background air samples showed that the Site's average airborne particulate effluent was approximately 12.3 times lower than natural background airborne particulate radioactivity due to HEPA filtration of the ventilation systems. Additionally, the activities of all applicable individual radionuclides in Site Airborne effluents, such as Sr-90 and Cs-137, were significantly below Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 10 CFR 20 Appendix B individual radionuclide limits.

Nonradiological constituents in Site emissions for Site fuel combustion and heating units were estimated utilizing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emission factors and were well below applicable EPA and Allegheny County standards. Operation of the Site's fuel combustion and heating equipment was conducted in accordance with applicable regulations and permits.

## **Risk Assessment**

A risk assessment was approved by the EPA in 1994 as part of the Site's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI). The assessment determined the "reasonable maximum exposure" of on-site and off-site populations to chemical residues in the environment at the Site.

The assessment concluded that chemical residues in the environment at the Site did not pose significant health risks to potentially exposed populations using "reasonable maximum exposure" assumptions. The only study area where the carcinogenic risk estimate exceeded the EPA screening criterion of  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  (one chance in a million) was a small area of soil in a drainage ditch below the Inactive Waste Site (IWS), with a maximum carcinogenic risk of about  $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ . However, an individual must be exposed (skin contact, ingestion, and inhalation) for 250 days/year for 25 years to achieve this risk; a situation that would no longer be possible due to the installation of the flow separator in the ditch which covers the affected soil. The risk of personnel exposure to the chemical residues in the drainage ditch area is far less than  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ .

The 2025 monitoring results support the conclusions of the 1994 risk assessment.

## **Radiation Dose Assessment**

Radiation exposure to the general public from Site airborne releases was too low to measure and could only be estimated using conservative, EPA authorized calculational models. The resultant evaluation of all exposure pathways conservatively estimated a maximum annual hypothetical effective dose equivalent range of 0.057 to 1.06 millirem (mrem) to an individual offsite in 2025. The lower value of 0.057 mrem represents the hypothetical dose equivalent solely from Site airborne releases and is well below the EPA limit of 10 mrem per year specific to this pathway. The larger value of 1.06 mrem represents the total effective dose equivalent for all pathways and is only 1.06% of the numerical limit of 100 mrem/year established for members of the general public by the NRC and the DOE for DOE facilities such as Bettis. The annual collective effective dose equivalent to the population from Site operations within a 50-mile radius of the Site was conservatively estimated to be about 1.24 person-rem which is negligible when compared to the approximately 900,000 person-rem received by this same population from natural background radiation.

## **Chemical and Hazardous Waste**

The Bettis Laboratory is permitted to store hazardous waste and mixed waste (waste classified as both radioactive and hazardous) prior to shipment offsite for treatment and disposal. Between June 1985 and February 1995, the Bettis Laboratory operated a hazardous waste storage facility under interim status. RCRA requires that sites having interim status and/or a final permit for hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal address releases of hazardous waste to the environment. This matter was formalized in an Administrative Order on Consent (Consent Order) in August 1990. As part of the Consent Order, the EPA agreed that the conditions on-site did not require implementation of interim measures or immediate corrective actions since site conditions do not present an imminent substantial endangerment to human health or the environment.

A waste minimization program is in place to minimize the generation of chemical and hazardous wastes. These wastes were handled, controlled, and stored by trained personnel in accordance with applicable State regulations and permits. In addition, these wastes were not disposed of on the Site. In 2025, approximately 12,519 pounds of hazardous wastes were shipped off-site to permitted facilities for final treatment and disposal. Of this amount, approximately 7,405 pounds of the total hazardous wastes disposed resulted from the disposal of soil, debris, and groundwater that was generated from remediation efforts. The waste vendors utilized Federal and State permits.

## **Radioactive Waste**

The generation of low-level radioactive waste continues to be minimized by limiting the materials that could become contaminated and by implementing various waste volume reduction techniques. Radioactive waste generation increases, however, when performing increased remediation of inactive facilities. Radioactive waste generated on-site is shipped off-site for disposal or recycling. These shipments are packaged in various types of containers, which comply with U.S. Department of Transportation specifications. In 2025, approximately 171.3 cubic meters of the low-level radioactive waste were shipped to DOE-owned disposal facilities, and 9.78 cubic meters were shipped to non-DOE-owned disposal facilities. When necessary, small amounts of radioactive liquids were solidified prior to shipment off-site for disposal. In 2025, Bettis had two (2) shipments of radioactive recyclable materials, totaling 75.92 cubic meters shipped to non-DOE-owned disposal facilities. Off-site shipments of radioactive waste were controlled by written procedures to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations and the disposal sites' criteria.

## **Mixed Waste**

Mixed waste is waste that is both RCRA hazardous and radioactive. In 1995, the DOE voluntarily agreed to apply Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) requirements to the hazardous constituents of mixed waste. In addition, the U.S. DOE Naval Reactors Laboratory Field Office (NRLFO) and the EPA signed a Consent Agreement/Consent Order (CACO) for the storage and treatment of mixed wastes that are generated at the Site. Pennsylvania received mixed waste regulatory authority from the EPA in November 2000. In September 2001, the PA DEP issued a revised hazardous waste storage permit that incorporated relevant requirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Act. The CACO was terminated on January 15, 2002. In September 2017, the PA DEP issued a permit renewal that incorporated relevant requirements of the Bettis Site Treatment Plan, which addressed site-specific treatment and storage for mixed waste. The Site Treatment Plan was initially required by the CACO and was terminated at the time of the 2017 permit renewal. Mixed wastes are not disposed of on-site. A mixed waste management program is in place to minimize generation of these wastes. In 2025, there were three (3) shipments totaling approximately 9.34 cubic meters of various mixed wastes sent for treatment and disposal.

## **Environmental Assessments**

In 1988, a *Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection (PA/SI) Report* was completed for the Site to meet the requirements of Section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). During 1989, EPA completed their review of the Site's PA/SI and concluded that no further action under CERCLA was required for the Site.

In 1990, NRLFO and EPA Region 3 signed a Consent Order to conduct a RFI and Corrective Measures Study (CMS). The purpose of the RFI was to characterize the chemical residues in the environment at the Site and the purpose of the CMS was to determine site-specific remedial alternatives. The investigation of groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, and air specified in the RFI work plans was completed in 1993. The Final RFI Report, Reference (1), was approved by the EPA in August of 1994.

The RFI report stated that some of the groundwater under the Site and some soil areas contain low levels of chemical residues. Residues whose concentrations exceeded the EPA Region 3 risk-based screening levels were evaluated. The main residues evaluated were certain VOCs, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The most prevalent residue is PCE, which is the same solvent used to dry-clean clothing. The report included an assessment of risk to on-site and off-site populations from exposure to the chemical residues. EPA exposure default parameters were used for offsite commercial/industrial workers. This risk assessment concluded that there are no areas on-site or off-site which present a risk to human health that exceeds the EPA's acceptable risk criteria.

The Final CMS Report was submitted to the EPA in November 1994 and approved by the EPA in March 1995. This report recommended actions to ensure the risks to human health will remain low and to further reduce the chemical residues in the environment.

The EPA issued its preliminary recommendations for corrective measures in September 1995 and requested public comment on the recommendations. The EPA responded to public comments, issued its final recommendations for corrective measures, and terminated the Consent Order in 1997. Bettis proactively implemented or completed most of the final recommended corrective measures prior to signing a Corrective Measures Implementation Order (CMIO), which was effective on April 16, 2001. Actions covered under the CMIO include soil vapor extraction of a landfill, performance of a groundwater study below the IWS, and continuation of routine environmental monitoring. Construction of the soil vapor extraction system was completed, and the system was placed in operation in 2004. On April 6, 2011, the Enhanced Soil Vapor Extraction (ESVE) system was shut down after reaching the ALARA criteria established for the system. Both the EPA and the PA DEP agreed that the ESVE operations be permanently terminated and that the system be removed. System removal activities were completed on September 11, 2012.

The groundwater study below the IWS was completed in 2003 and the study results issued to the EPA. The Bettis Laboratory recommended installation of a flow separator in the wet-weather ditch to preclude the mixing of seepage containing trace levels of site residues with surface water that could potentially carry the seepage off-site. The EPA subsequently determined and documented in a supplemental Statement of Basis that, based on additional investigations, groundwater impacted by the IWS does not present an unacceptable risk and that further action is limited to monitoring the West Campus (previously referred to as Matheson Valley or Valley National Gases) property annually to confirm the absence or presence of water supply wells or plans to install such wells. Any use or planned use of groundwater will be reported to the EPA. To be further protective of the environment, Bettis developed plans and, in 2010, constructed the flow separator after obtaining PA DEP concurrence that this action is an acceptable measure to preclude the off-site migration of groundwater seepage and sediment. Further, sampling of water and sediments in runoff associated with the former wet-weather ditch has been discontinued following installation of the flow separator as agreed by the EPA.

Bettis completed the final corrective action of the CMIO in September 2012. Some corrective actions within the CMIO require the continuation of environmental monitoring and maintaining administrative controls; in August 2013, the EPA issued a Corrective Action Permit (CAP) that maintains these controls. On September 11, 2013, the EPA concluded that all the terms of the 2001 CMIO had been satisfied and issued a letter terminating the agreement between the EPA and the Laboratory.

## **Compliance Summary**

During 2025, Site operations remained in compliance with existing permits and applicable regulations governing use, emission, transportation, and disposal of solid, liquid, and gaseous materials and wastes with two exceptions. In February 2025, a discharge of turbid water from Outfall 008 occurred due to the unexpected release of sediment from a partial blockage in the basin's outlet pipe following the removal of the structure as part of basin reconstruction activities. In October 2025, total suspended solids in Outfall 001 effluent exceeded NPDES permit maximum daily and average monthly limits. Both events were reported to the PA DEP.

## **Conclusion**

Operations at the Bettis Laboratory in 2025 did not result in any significant release of radioactivity or hazardous materials to the environment. Operations also did not have any adverse effect on human health or the quality of the environment at the Site or in the surrounding communities.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory is owned by the U.S. DOE and is operated under contract by Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC (FMP). The first non-agrarian use of the Bettis Site was as an airfield which operated from approximately 1926 until 1948. This private airfield served mainly small, privately-owned planes. The general arrangement of buildings and roadways currently existing on-site is based on the original airfield design.

The Bettis Laboratory was organized in 1948 through the joint efforts of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, the Navy, and the Atomic Energy Commission. Westinghouse acquired title to the Bettis airfield property (approximately 146 acres) and associated buildings in May of 1949. Additional properties were purchased in 1952. In 1957, approximately 202 acres of land were deeded to the Federal Government. In 2002, approximately 5 acres of undeveloped property in a secluded area adjacent to and downhill from the Bettis Site were purchased. In 2008, an additional 0.5 acres of property was purchased on the southwest corner of the site to improve the Laboratory's security posture. In 2020, the Laboratory acquired approximately 0.7 acres of property in the southeast area of the site. In 2024, the Laboratory acquired 19.5 acres of property north of the site, previously referred to as Matheson Valley or Valley National Gases. The Laboratory's total acreage is approximately 227 as of the end of CY 2024. All grounds, buildings, and equipment on the Site are the property of the Federal Government. In 2016, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) began using "Naval Nuclear Laboratory (NNL)" to refer to the collective operations of the four U.S. DOE sites that perform NNPP work and the personnel operating at the associated locations.

The primary mission of the Bettis Laboratory has always been directed toward the design, development, testing, and operational follow of nuclear reactor propulsion plants for naval surface and submarine vessels. Specifically, the Laboratory exists to support this nation's capability to deploy and maintain a modern nuclear Navy. Key achievements of Bettis Laboratory include development of power plants for the first nuclear-powered submarine, Nautilus (SSN 571); the first nuclear-powered surface ship, the cruiser Long Beach (CGN 9); the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Enterprise (CVN 65); and the USS Seawolf (SSN 21). In addition to the primary objective of continuing work in the development of the nuclear Navy, the Laboratory has also played a role in the development of the first U.S. full-scale nuclear power plant for civilian use, the Shippingport Atomic Power Plant. Bettis Laboratory designed and developed the first light water breeder reactor (LWBR) core, which was placed in the Shippingport reactor vessel.

The Bettis Laboratory operations and environmental performance are subject to continuous oversight by NRLFO (previously the Atomic Energy Commission and the Energy Research and Development Agency) and by periodic in-depth reviews and inspections by NNPP headquarters personnel. Monitoring results confirm that the Bettis Laboratory has complied with environmental standards and guidelines and in most cases exceeded compliance with significant margin.

The Bettis Laboratory has effective environmental control programs which meet or exceed the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The Bettis Laboratory's performance in radioactivity control is well established, and the Laboratory maintains levels of control that are stricter than Federal requirements.

The Bettis Laboratory has been recognized for efforts in pollution prevention, waste reduction, and recycling as the recipient of the CY 2000 Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

The Bettis Laboratory was a contributing member to an Oak Ridge team that received a White House Closing the Circle Award in the Recycling Category for Oak Ridge's Electronic Recycle Program. The Bettis Laboratory, along with other DOE facilities, participated in an Oak Ridge program that accepted computer equipment for recycling.

Most of the work at the Bettis Laboratory does not involve chemicals or radioactivity but is conducted in office and computer spaces, employing scientists and engineers in propulsion plant design, operator training development, and procedure preparation activities. Physical work involving the development of improved materials and components for naval nuclear propulsion plants is conducted in several Bettis Laboratory facilities.

This document summarizes the CY 2025 results of the radiological and nonradiological environmental monitoring programs at the Site. This report also discusses the Site programs for handling and off-site disposal of radioactive, chemical, hazardous, and mixed waste.

## **SITE BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The Site is situated on an approximately 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. Figure 1 shows the location of the Site with respect to the surrounding communities, and Figure 2 shows the land uses immediately adjacent to the Site. A heavily wooded area borders the eastern side of the Site. Most of this property is owned by the Borough of West Mifflin and a portion of this property has been developed into the West Mifflin Community Park. A fence has been erected to prevent inadvertent access to the Site property from the park area. An industrial district is located along the northern boundary of the Site. Commercial and residential developments border the Site on the south and west. The land use of the region surrounding the Site is largely industrial and residential. The total population within a 50-mile radius of the Site based on the 2020 census is approximately 3,000,000.

### **Physiography**

Physiography refers to the natural physical landforms of an area. The Site is located within Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which is situated within the Allegheny Plateau physiographic province of North America. Stream erosion of a formerly raised plateau produced the present rugged land surface. The geologic formations are generally flat-lying or gently folded and inclined. Stream frequency and the percentage of the land found in slopes decrease with distance from the major drainage ways, such as the Monongahela River.

### **Topography**

The Site is located approximately 6,000 feet northwest of the Monongahela River. The maximum elevation at the Site is approximately 1,200 feet above sea level. The minimum elevation, approximately 975 feet above sea level, occurs on the northern site boundary. The normal pool elevation of the Monongahela River near the Site is approximately 720 feet above sea level. Thus, the developed portions of the Site are approximately 480 feet above the surface of the Monongahela River.

Surface drainage at the Site is primarily toward the east, discharging into the Bull Run Stream and its tributaries. The principal sources of water in the Bull Run Stream originating from the Site include once-through, non-contact cooling water, stormwater runoff, and process wastewater. The Bull Run Stream flows about 1.4 miles before joining the Thompson Run Stream which empties, about 2.6 miles downstream, into the Monongahela River in the City of Duquesne. A narrow, mostly sloped area that includes a small, developed portion of the Site drains northwest toward the Thompson Run Stream. The Monongahela River is used as a raw water source for public water supply serving the Site and some surrounding communities.

Because of the location and elevation of the Site, flooding from local streams or rivers is not possible. Some minor bank overflowing of the Bull Run Stream may occur downstream from the Site during heavy rainfall.

Several springs are present on the Site property. The largest of these, Buono Spring, RQ-20 Spring, and Northeast Spring, are on the eastern, undeveloped portion of the Site. These are permanent springs with varying, but very low flows that are reflective of the seasons and precipitation events. In 1997, the Springwater Intercept System (SIS) was constructed to collect these springs and other seeps. In 2017, this system was replaced with an upgraded SIS. The new system, like the old system, operates by air stripping to remove VOCs and discharging the treated water to the Northeast Area Stream via the NPDES Outfall 007.

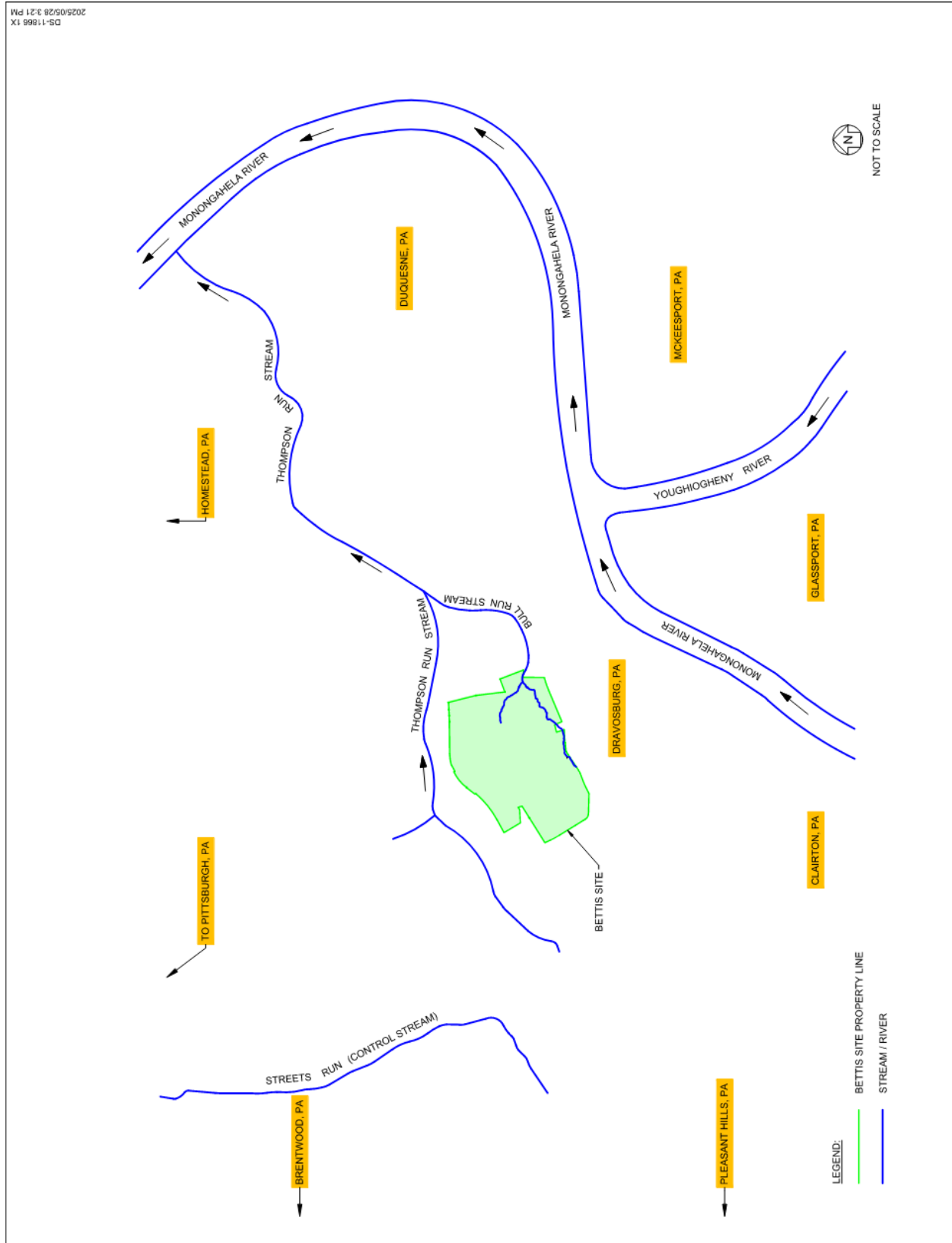
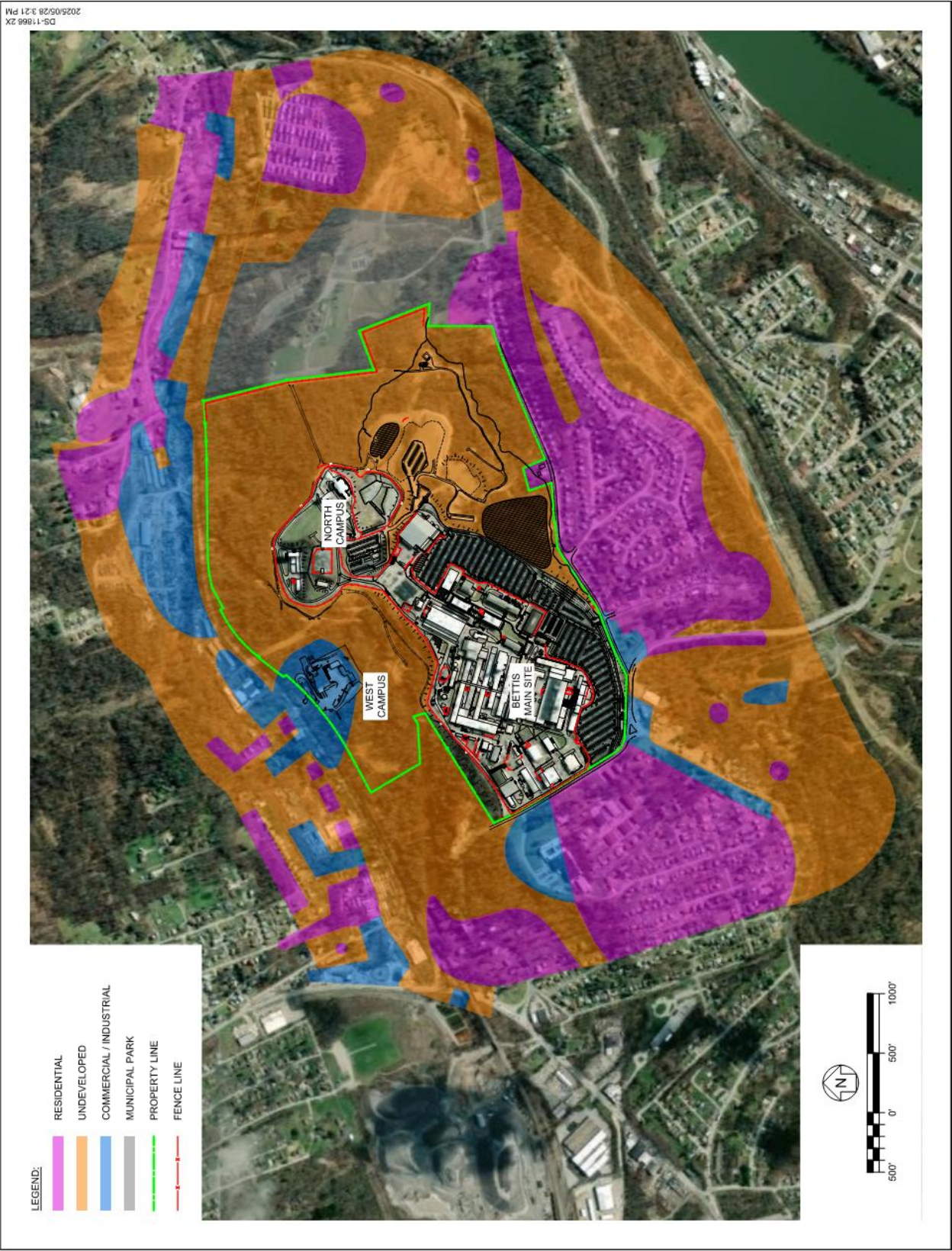


FIGURE 1: RELATIONSHIP OF THE BETTIS SITE TO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



## **Soils**

The soils at the Site are residual in origin or are the result of filling operations. The residual soils were formed by weathering of the underlying Monongahela Group bedrock. The soils on-site are classified as the Culleoka and Urban Land-Guernsey soils. The Culleoka soils are characterized as moderately deep, well-drained soils formed from shale and fine-grained sandstone bedrock. They generally occur on upland slopes, have moderate permeability, and normally have a water table below four feet throughout the year. The surface soil can be described as dark brown, granular silt loam, while the subsoil is yellowish-brown, blocky silt loam to channery clay loam. The substrata consist of yellowish-brown, massive, very channery clay loam.

The Urban Land-Guernsey soils are described as variable, consisting of disturbed land resulting from cut and fill operations and subsequent coverage with urban works. These soils occur in a complex pattern with Culleoka soils which are described above. The Guernsey soils are characterized as deep, well-drained soils with a low permeability and a winter water table within one or two feet of the surface. This soil type is formed from interbedded clay shale, shale, and limestone bedrock.

None of the Site land is utilized for agrarian purposes.

## **Regional Stratigraphy**

The geologic formations that underlie the portion of Allegheny County in which the Site is located are part of the Pennsylvanian System. The Monongahela, Conemaugh, and Allegheny Groups, all part of the Pennsylvanian System, underlie the Site. The Monongahela Group, the uppermost group, includes beds of limestone, variable shales, discontinuous layers of sandstone and coal beds. The base of the Pittsburgh Coal marks the base of the Monongahela Group. Table 3 presents a generalized description of the rock strata beneath the Site.

Some of the important beds in the Monongahela Group are the Uniontown Limestone, Benwood Limestone, Sewickley Sandstone, Fishpot Limestone, Pittsburgh Sandstone, and the Redstone and Pittsburgh Coals. Core borings taken on-site confirm that the bedrock consists of layers of limestone, shale, and sandstone.

Extensive mining of the Pittsburgh Coal seam has occurred to the west and south as well as under the Site. The Pittsburgh Coal seam lies about 200-250 feet below the developed portion of the Site. Most of the Pittsburgh Coal that can be mined has been removed. There are no current coal mining activities in this area.

## **Structural Geology**

The bedrock under the Site declines to the southeast a few feet per mile. The Pittsburgh Coal seam under the Site dips 1% to the southeast.

## **Hydrogeology**

The Site is underlain by the geologic units of the Pennsylvanian Monongahela Group. The Monongahela Group is not an important local aquifer. Well yields from the Monongahela Group range from less than one to 30 gallons per minute. Pump tests performed at the Site in the Sewickley Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone, which is one of the main water-bearing zones in the Monongahela Group at the Site, could not sustain flow rates of one to three gallons per minute.

**TABLE 3**  
**GENERALIZED SECTION OF ROCK STRATA**  
**BENEATH THE BETTIS LABORATORY**

| System                                                                     | Group       | Formation  | Strata                                                                                                    | Remarks                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P<br/>E<br/>N<br/>S<br/>Y<br/>L<br/>V<br/>A<br/>N<br/>I<br/>A<br/>N</b> | Monongahela | Pittsburgh | Cyclic sequences of shale, limestone, claystone, and coal.<br><br>Pittsburgh Coal seam is bottom stratum. | Extends from at or near surface down to Pittsburgh Coal.<br><br>Mined out about 200-250 feet below Bettis.                                 |
|                                                                            | Conemaugh   | Casselman  | Cyclic sequences of sandstone, shale, silty claystone ("red beds"), and thin limestone and coal.          | Coal deposits of this group are not normally mined. Formation is about 250-300 feet thick; base is near normal level of Monongahela River. |
|                                                                            |             | Glenshaw   | Cyclic sequences of sandstone, shale, red beds, and thin limestone and coal; fossiliferous limestone.     | Formation is 300 to 380 feet thick.                                                                                                        |
|                                                                            | Allegheny   | Freeport   | Upper Freeport Coal seam is top stratum.                                                                  | Major coal bed, 600 to 630 feet below level of Pittsburgh Coal.                                                                            |
| Pennsylvanian System Rocks extend down to about sea level.                 |             |            |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                            |

The topography of the area, such as high hills cut by major stream valleys, greatly affect the direction and depth of water tables. There may be subregional groundwater regimes where the discharge of the groundwater is to local streams. In cases where the stream channels lie below the water table, some aquifers may discharge on valley slopes.

Based on data obtained through rock coring, monitoring well drilling, geophysical logging, and groundwater elevation monitoring, the groundwater under the Site is present in five different water-bearing zones. The water-bearing areas are referred to as water-bearing zones rather than aquifers because the amounts of water present in these zones are not sufficient to meet the definition of an aquifer as defined by the American Geological Institute. The water-bearing zones in descending order are: Perched, Benwood Limestone, Sewickley Sandstone, Pittsburgh Sandstone, and Pittsburgh Coal. The Pittsburgh Coal Water-Bearing Zone represents the basal groundwater flow at the Site. These water-bearing zones are described in detail in Reference (1).

There are no springs or wells on-site or in the local, hydraulically downgradient areas which are known to be used for drinking water, industrial, or irrigation purposes.

## **Meteorology**

The Site has a humid, continental type of climate modified only slightly by the Atlantic Seaboard and the Great Lakes. Data accumulated by the Site meteorological monitoring system during 2025 indicated that prevailing winds for the Site occurred about 27% of the time from a southerly direction (south-southeast to south-southwest) and about 26% of the time from a westerly direction (west-southwest to west-northwest). Wind speeds of greater than five miles per hour (mph) occurred about 71% of the time and less than five mph about 29% of the time. The average monthly temperatures during 2025 ranged from 24 to 77°F. The annual precipitation amounted to approximately 39.4 inches of water.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND COMPLIANCE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM**

#### **POLICY**

The Bettis Laboratory is committed to operating in a manner that provides and maintains safe and healthful working conditions, protects the environment, and conserves natural resources. Bettis is committed to environmental excellence through compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations; proactive planning to integrate sound environmental, safety, and health (ESH) principles into every aspect of the work, including hazard identification and risk assessment; and a solid commitment to waste minimization and pollution prevention.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Bettis environmental monitoring program are to:

- Demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements;
- Demonstrate Site operations do not significantly impact the quality of the surrounding environment;
- Confirm the effectiveness of control methods in preventing increases in environmental radioactivity levels;
- Demonstrate that operations within Laboratory facilities have not increased radiation exposure to the general public outside these facilities;
- Provide accurate monitoring results and records of effluent releases to the environment from the Bettis Site; and
- Determine if environmental releases adversely affect the conclusions of the RFI.

#### **ORGANIZATION**

Bettis employs environmental professionals who are responsible for ensuring environmental commitments are fulfilled while also supporting the mission of the NNPP. These environmental professionals work to identify, interpret, and communicate environmental requirements to other Bettis personnel for implementation; assist Bettis organizations in meeting their environmental responsibilities; monitor environmental activities for compliance; interface with regulatory agencies; and complete required regulatory reports.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Environmental, Safety, and Health Management System (ESHMS) documents the management processes and systems to perform work in a manner protective of employees, the public, and the environment, while ensuring regulatory compliance. Environmental performance objectives, metrics, and commitments are prepared and reviewed annually. The management processes and systems are used to identify, communicate, implement, assess, and update environmental programs.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

Compliance with environmental regulations is an integral program objective and is essential for successful Site operations. Compliance with environmental regulations is demonstrated by several methods. Federal, State, and local regulatory personnel perform site visits and compliance inspections periodically. During 2025, 15 site environmental inspections/visits were performed at Bettis by Federal, State, or local agencies. A list of the inspections/visits is shown in Table 4. These inspections/visits did not identify any noncompliant issues in environmental areas. Questions or deficiencies identified during these inspections were immediately addressed or promptly corrected.

**TABLE 4****SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS/VISITS BY REGULATORY AGENCIES**

| <b>Agency<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>Area Inspected/Visited</b>               | <b>Date</b> | <b>Purpose<sup>(2)</sup></b>                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACHD                        | AT Building AMTL Corridor                   | 01/10/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | N Building W2R                              | 01/13/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | AT Building AMTL Corridor                   | 01/17/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | N Building W2R                              | 01/24/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACCD                        | Firehouse                                   | 03/12/2025  | Notice of Termination<br>Inspection for site Construction<br>General NPDES Permit<br>(PAC020496) |
| ACHD                        | N Building W3R                              | 05/21/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | N Building W3R                              | 05/30/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | N Building, Room 121 and adjacent stairwell | 06/10/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | N Building W3R                              | 06/16/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | N Building W3R                              | 06/27/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | Bettis Cafeteria                            | 07/23/2025  | Food safety inspection                                                                           |
| PA DEP                      | D Building                                  | 08/13/2025  | Hazardous waste/mixed waste<br>TSD compliance and<br>hazardous waste generator<br>inspection     |
| ACHD                        | G Building Gold Room                        | 08/14/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | AT Building AMTL Mezzanine                  | 09/26/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |
| ACHD                        | SMR Stairwell                               | 10/27/2025  | Asbestos abatement clearance inspection                                                          |

There were no Notices of Violation, Notices of Deficiencies, Notices of Intent to Sue, or other types of enforcement actions issued to Bettis in 2025. The discussion of the closeout of the Consent Orders for Corrective Measures can be found in the “Corrective Measures Implementation” section of this report.

Compliance is evaluated during internal environmental audits and evaluations performed by elements of the NNPP, including the Laboratory’s Site Assessment Organization, the (ESH) organization and other Laboratory personnel (technicians, engineers, and managers). Compliance with some requirements is demonstrated by effluent and environmental monitoring results. These results are discussed in this report. Compliance is also demonstrated in many of the environmental reports prepared each year. Approximately 70 environmental related reports are submitted to Federal, State, and local agencies annually.

## Bettis Environmental Permits

The Site has obtained or applied for the applicable environmental permits, which are listed in Table 5.

**TABLE 5**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS**

| Operation Permitted               | Unit Permitted                                                                                    | Permit Number                                            | Permitting Agency | Expiration Date            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Air Emissions                     | Bettis Site                                                                                       | Synthetic Minor Source Operating Permit 0067-OP22        | ACHD              | July 5, 2027               |
|                                   | Bettis Site Asbestos Abatement Operation & Maintenance Plan for FMP work                          | PAA2520648                                               | ACHD              | December 31, 2026 (Note 1) |
|                                   | Specific Asbestos Abatement Activities                                                            | Various                                                  | ACHD              | (Note 2)                   |
| Water Discharges                  | Bull Run Monitoring Station Stormwater Outfalls SIS                                               | NPDES Permit PA0000914                                   | PA DEP            | July 31, 2026              |
|                                   | Construction & Operation of Outfall 001 & 008 Detention Basins; Future Site Construction Activity | Water Quality Management Permit No. 0223206              | PA DEP            | (Note 3)                   |
|                                   | Operation and Maintenance of SIS                                                                  | Water Quality Management Part II Permit 0297202 A-3, T-1 | PA DEP            | (Note 4)                   |
|                                   | Cafeteria Grease Trap                                                                             | P8502-022-1226                                           | WMSSSA            | December 31, 2026          |
|                                   | Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit                                                          | 2025-001 Bettis                                          | WMSSSA            | May 31, 2030               |
| Hazardous and Mixed Waste Storage | Permitted Waste Storage Facility                                                                  | Solid Waste Permit PA0890090004                          | PA DEP            | September 13, 2027         |
| Permit for Access / Disposal      | Generator Site Access Permit                                                                      | 0402002812                                               | UDEQ              | May 7, 2027 (Note 1)       |
| Permit for Corrective Action      | Various Site Areas and Activities                                                                 | PA0890090004                                             | EPA               | August 20, 2023 (Note 5)   |
| Fuel Oil Storage                  | 5,000 gal Gasoline Tank                                                                           | 1298958                                                  | PA DEP            | October 4, 2026 (Note 1)   |
|                                   | 10,000 gal Diesel Tank                                                                            | 1298959                                                  |                   |                            |
| Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine     | Bettis Site                                                                                       | PA-20220900059                                           | PDA               | (Note 6)                   |

**NOTES:**

- (1) Permit is renewed annually.
- (2) Permits are obtained on an as needed basis.
- (3) Permit is authorized by the Allegheny County Conservation District under the terms of delegation agreements with the PA DEP (25 Pa. Code 102.41) and does not have an expiration date.
- (4) Permit is in effect as long as the SIS is operational.
- (5) Permit resubmission has been completed and awaiting issuance by EPA.
- (6) Permit does not have an expiration date.

## **Environmental Controls**

A description of key environmental control programs is provided below.

### **Clean Water Act (CWA)**

The Federal Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law regulate the chemical components and physical attributes of liquids that Bettis discharges to the surface waters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Specifically, discharges are authorized through a NPDES Permit, which is administered by the Commonwealth. The NPDES Permit has been renewed several times and covers six outfalls where Laboratory effluent is discharged to surface waters of the Commonwealth. One outfall discharged stormwater, process wastewater, and once-through, non-contact cooling water in 2025. Four outfalls discharge only stormwater runoff. One outfall discharges effluent from the SIS, which is a groundwater treatment system that is operated in accordance with a 1999 Consent Order with the PA DEP. In addition, stormwater runoff from earth disturbance activities in the Outfall 001 and 008 subcatchment areas are permitted under a Common Plan of Development that was approved by the PA DEP as part of Water Quality Management Permit No. 0223206. This permit also provides coverage for the construction and operation of two dry extended detention basins to treat effluent from Outfalls 001 and 008. Mass earthwork and infrastructure installations on a new dry extended detention basin to treat effluent from Outfall 001 and to modify the Outfall 008 basin to a dry extended detention basin were put into operation in September 2025. While the dry extended detention basins were operational in 2025, they were not complete due to a lack of vegetation growth during the latter half of the year. General NPDES Permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities, and the Allegheny County Conservation District may require project-specific Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan for earth disturbance activities outside of the Outfall 001 and 008 subcatchment areas.

The NPDES Permit specifies limits for various chemical constituents and physical attributes in effluents from the Site. Compliance with NPDES Permit limits is demonstrated by periodic samples, which are analyzed for the parameters specified in the NPDES Permit by a laboratory registered in accordance with the Pennsylvania Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act. A summary of the NPDES Permit sample analysis results is provided in the Liquid Effluents section of the Environmental Monitoring Programs of this report. The results demonstrate compliance with the NPDES Permit.

The NNPP regulates the potential radiological components of liquid discharges to the local surface waters. This authority was provided in Executive Order 12344 dated February 1982, which was codified into law via Public Law 98-525, Title XVI, Section 1634 (50 U.S.C. §2511) and Public Law 106-65, Division C, Title XXXII, Section 3216 (50 U.S.C. §2406). The Program implements a “zero discharge” policy regarding the radiological components of liquid discharges to local surface waters. Compliance is demonstrated by continuous sampling and monthly analyses of discharges that have potential for radiological constituents. A summary of the sample results is provided in the Liquid Effluents section of the Environmental Monitoring Programs of this report.

From January 2025 to June 2025, discharges of domestic wastes to the sanitary sewer system were regulated by 40 CFR 403 and the West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Authority under Resolution 69-02, and Wastewater Discharge Permit P8502-022-1226. In June 2025, the Publicly Owned Treatment Works approved the West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer & Stormwater Authority Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit (2025-001 Bettis) for Bettis. Periodic samples demonstrated compliance to all regulations. A summary of the sample results is provided in Table 10.

## **Clean Air Act (CAA)**

The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act, and the ACHD Air Pollution Control Regulation (Article XXI) regulate nonradiological Laboratory air emissions and use of ozone depleting substances. The Laboratory's air operating permit issued by ACHD is designed to regulate emissions based on applicable provisions in Article XXI, National Ambient Air Quality Standards, New Source Performance Standards, National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs), and other Federal requirements.

The asbestos program at Bettis complies with the requirements of ACHD Article XXI as well as the NESHAPs to minimize the air emissions resulting from asbestos related activities. Personnel monitoring as well as area monitoring is conducted during asbestos removal activities to demonstrate compliance with the asbestos emissions and exposure standards.

Radiological air emissions, except radon gas emissions, are regulated by the EPA under the requirements of NESHAPs (40 CFR 61 Subpart H). Radiological air emissions that could result in a dose to the public that exceeds 1% of the annual dose limit are required to be continuously sampled, and the composite samples are analyzed periodically. At Bettis, all potential radiological air emissions are continuously sampled even though the majority of the emissions do not rise to the regulatory threshold that requires sampling and analysis. Radon gas emissions are controlled by the NNPP. Table 13 of this report provides the radiological air emission monitoring results which demonstrate compliance with the EPA regulations and NNPP requirements.

## **Waste Management**

A waste is any material that is discarded, abandoned, recycled, or inherently waste-like, and includes solids, liquids, semi-solids, and gases. Wastes are evaluated and classified into one or more of the categories discussed in the following sections.

### **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)**

The federal Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by RCRA and/or the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act regulate the management and disposal of municipal, residual, hazardous and universal waste. The EPA has delegated its authority to the PA DEP for RCRA, with the exception of a few specific sections. Bettis complies with the requirements of a Solid Waste Permit for the storage of hazardous and mixed waste issued by PA DEP. Representatives of PA DEP inspect the Site annually for compliance.

Hazardous wastes are evaluated as a wastewater or non-wastewater and for the presence of underlying hazardous constituents to ensure compliance with the Land Disposal Restrictions.

Specific training is provided to personnel who handle hazardous wastes to ensure that they are knowledgeable of safe handling techniques and emergency response procedures. Hazardous wastes are accumulated in designated staging and storage areas where they are segregated and packaged for shipment. Storage and accumulation areas are inspected periodically to verify that hazardous wastes are properly stored and controlled in accordance with approved procedures. Waste is stored only as necessary to accumulate sufficient volume for shipment to a waste disposal vendor.

No hazardous wastes were disposed of on the Site. Approximately 12,519 pounds of hazardous waste were shipped off-site to permitted facilities for final treatment and disposition. Of this amount, approximately 7,405 pounds of the total hazardous wastes disposed of resulted from remediation efforts. Documentation was received from the disposal facilities verifying that the waste was received and handled in accordance with applicable requirements. The Site chose vendors with treatment and disposal methods that would reduce long-term concerns and threats to the environment.

Bettis currently recycles or reclaims (e.g., by managing as universal waste) the following items that would otherwise be disposed of as hazardous waste: spent batteries (e.g., nickel cadmium, lithium ion, lead-acid), bulbs (e.g., fluorescent, incandescent), and mercury containing equipment (e.g., thermostats, mercury switches). In 2025, approximately 12,383 pounds of spent batteries and 1,964 pounds of spent bulbs were sent off-site for recycling or reclamation.

### Federal Facility Compliance Act (FFCA)

Mixed waste is waste that meets the criteria of both hazardous and radioactive waste. Under the FFCA, mixed wastes are regulated by State and Federal hazardous waste regulations and by the NNPP for radiological constituents.

The amount of mixed waste generated is minimized using detailed work procedures and worker training. Mixed wastes are accumulated in designated storage areas where they are packaged for storage for eventual treatment in accordance with the Bettis Solid Waste Permit.

Mixed wastes have never been disposed of on-site. In 2025, there were 3 shipments totaling approximately 9.34 cubic meters of various mixed wastes sent to treatment and disposal facilities.

### Municipal and Residual Waste

The State of Pennsylvania divides non-hazardous solid waste into two major categories: residual waste and municipal waste. Residual waste is primarily from industrial operations, and municipal waste is from residential, municipal, commercial, or institutional establishments. Municipal waste includes industrial lunchroom or office waste and construction and demolition debris. In 2025, approximately 3,948 tons of municipal and 1,493 tons of residual waste were shipped off-site for disposal or recycled.

PA DEP regulates medical waste in Title 25 of the PA Code, Chapters 271, 273, and 284. PA DEP defines infectious waste (regulated medical waste) as “municipal and residual waste, which is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, immunization... of human beings...” The Bettis Medical Department is responsible for handling, storage, and off-site disposal of the wastes generated at Bettis. These wastes are disposed of by incineration or sterilization at state-licensed facilities. In CY 2025, Bettis sent approximately 35 pounds of regulated medical waste off-site for disposal.

Asbestos containing waste is managed in accordance with regulations issued by Federal, State, and local agencies. Compliance with the asbestos regulations is managed through permits and notifications as well as engineering practices to protect human health and the environment from asbestos exposure. Asbestos waste is packaged, labeled, and disposed of according to the applicable regulations.

## **Radioactive Waste**

Radioactive wastes are regulated under the authority of the NNPP. The volume of waste containing radioactivity is minimized through the use of detailed work procedures and worker training to limit the amount of material that contacts radioactivity during work in radioactive areas or on radioactive systems and components.

Detailed procedures are used during generation, handling, packaging, and transportation of radioactive waste material. Radioactive wastes shipped off-site are packaged in accordance with applicable disposal site criteria and the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in Reference (2). All other radioactive liquid wastes are solidified prior to shipment. Internal reviews are made prior to each shipment to ensure that the radioactive material is properly identified, surveyed, and packaged in accordance with Federal and disposal site requirements.

During 2025, approximately 171.3 cubic meters of radioactive waste were shipped from Bettis for disposal at DOE-owned facilities and 9.78 cubic meters were shipped for disposal at non-DOE facilities.

## **Waste Minimization, Pollution Prevention, and Recycling Programs**

The Bettis waste minimization and pollution prevention program promotes pollution prevention and waste minimization by encouraging employees to reduce the initial use of hazardous materials, energy, water, and other resources while protecting existing resources through conservation and more efficient use. The program focuses mainly on process efficiency improvements, source reduction, inventory control, preventive maintenance, improved housekeeping, recycling, and increasing employee awareness of and participation in pollution prevention. The goal of the program is to minimize the quantity and toxicity of waste generated at its source and, if waste is generated, to ensure that the treatment and disposal methods used minimize the present and future threat to people and the environment. The program consists of the following elements:

- Control of chemical acquisitions, including type and quantity;
- Maximized use of on-hand chemicals;
- Employee training in the hazards and proper control of materials used in their jobs;
- Minimized production of process wastes (Source Reduction); and
- Process evaluation/modification.

Bettis ensures pollution prevention strategies are met by reviewing chemical purchases and major construction projects to incorporate source reduction strategies for environmentally hazardous substances.

Consistent with the ESHMS, the Bettis Laboratory has established and implemented a sustainable acquisition program. Progress in sustainable acquisition is tracked annually by Bettis. Sustainable acquisition maximizes the amounts of material procured that contain recycled material or bio-based products. Environmentally preferable items reported in the Bettis program include but are not limited to: paper and paper products; vehicular (e.g., engine coolants, oils), construction (e.g., insulation, carpet, concrete, paint) and transportation products (e.g., traffic barricades, traffic cones); park and recreation products; landscaping products; non-paper office products (e.g., binders, toner cartridges, office furniture); and miscellaneous products (e.g., pallets, sorbents, and industrial drums).

Bettis also maintains an extensive recycling program which includes office paper, cardboard, newspapers, telephone books, printer cartridges, scrap metal, batteries, scrap lead, cooking oil, aluminum cans, plastic food/drink containers, asphalt, tires, oil, light bulbs, circuit boards, computer equipment, magnetic media, precious metals, concrete and wood. Bettis recycled approximately 95% of its municipal waste stream in 2025. Asphalt continues to represent a substantial portion of recyclable materials generated by Bettis.

### **Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)**

PCBs are regulated by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) under 40 CFR Part 761. PCBs were historically used as a dielectric fluid in electrical equipment, such as transformers and capacitors. PCBs were also added to certain surface coatings and other non-liquid materials due to their heat and chemical resistance. Bettis has identified PCBs in materials such as small electrical transformers, fluorescent light ballasts, applied dried paints, lubricants/machine oils, and electrical cable insulation. Bettis has removed all large PCB transformers from the site and continues to remove and replace PCB fluorescent light ballasts, where practical. Bettis employs strict controls for removal, storage and disposal of its remaining PCB containing materials.

In 2015, chemical analysis of the residue found during the inspection of an on-site historical electrical distribution system manhole indicated the presence of PCBs in excess of 50 ppm. From discovery until 2019, work was performed to remove all possible contaminated material from inside the manhole. A risk-based application was submitted and approved by the EPA in November 2019 to leave the remaining PCB-contaminated concrete and paper insulated, lead-covered cables in place in accordance with 40 CFR 761.61(c) by filling the inactive manhole with low density concrete. This action was completed in December 2019. This area continues to be managed in accordance with the risk-based application approved by the EPA.

### **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)**

CERCLA, or Superfund Act, was enacted to address the cleanup of hazardous substances, primarily at abandoned industrial sites and disposal facilities. In 1988, a *PA/SI Report* was completed for the Site in accordance with the requirements of Section 120 of CERCLA as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. This report included a Hazardous Ranking System (HRS) assessment of the areas at Bettis where chemical and radiological residues have been found in the environment and concluded that the risks posed by these residues were well below that required for inclusion of the Site on the National Priorities List for subsequent remediation.

This report was submitted to the EPA and PA DEP for review. The EPA reviewed the submittal, revised the conservative Bettis HRS score of 16.5 to zero, and concluded that no further action or remediation was required under CERCLA.

In 1990, the Pittsburgh Naval Reactors Office (PNR), now known as NRLFO, and the EPA signed a Consent Order in accordance with Section 3008(h) of RCRA. The mutual objectives of EPA and PNR were to investigate fully the nature and extent of past releases of chemically hazardous constituents at Bettis and to identify and evaluate corrective actions to prevent or mitigate the migration of these constituents by conducting an RFI and CMS. The RFI was conducted to characterize the site, and the CMS was conducted to determine site-specific remediation alternatives. Groundwater monitoring well installation and the groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment and air sampling specified in the RFI work plans were completed in 1993. The Final RFI Report was approved by the EPA in August 1994. A risk assessment as part of the CMS demonstrated that the chemical residues in the environment at the site do not present a significant risk or hazard to human health. Therefore, extensive corrective measures are not considered necessary now or in the foreseeable future.

The Final CMS Report, approved by the EPA in March 1995, proposed several actions to ensure the conclusions of the Final RFI Report remain accurate in the future, to limit potential migration of chemical residues, and to reduce the chemical residues in the environment to as-low-as-reasonably-achievable.

The Consent Order was terminated in 1997.

Bettis implemented the last three outstanding corrective measures in 2001 in accordance with a CMIO with the EPA. The CMIO is discussed in more detail below in the section titled “Corrective Measures Implementation Order (CMIO).”

On September 11, 2013, the EPA concluded that all the terms of the 2001 CMIO had been satisfied and issued a letter terminating the agreement between the EPA and the Bettis Laboratory. Refer to the Sections on “Assessment of Risk from Chemical Residues” and “Corrective Measures Implementation” for additional details on environmental remediation.

### **Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)**

Sections 311, 312, and 313 of the SARA, Title III, also known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), require periodic reporting of information on extremely hazardous substances (EHS) and toxic chemicals used or stored on-site, including persistent bio-accumulative toxic chemicals, to the State Emergency Response Commission, the local Emergency Planning Committee, and local fire departments.

Compliance with these regulations is accomplished through the Site’s Chemical Procurement and Chemical Inventory Programs. Chemicals subject to the above regulations are inventoried quarterly and the appropriate reports are submitted to the regulatory agencies as required.

Bettis has also submitted the Planning Notification and the EHS Release Notification as required by Sections 302-303 and 304, respectively, of the EPCRA.

**TABLE 6**  
**Status of Bettis Site EPCRA Reporting**

| <b>EPCRA Section</b> | <b>Description of Reporting</b>                    | <b>Status</b>                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| EPCRA Sec. 302-303   | Planning Notification                              | Notification completed for calendar year |
| EPCRA Sec. 304       | Extremely Hazardous Substance Release Notification | No reportable releases                   |
| EPCRA Sec. 311-312   | Safety Data Sheet/Chemical Inventory               | Notification completed for calendar year |
| EPCRA Sec. 313       | Toxic Release Inventory Reporting                  | Reporting not required                   |

### **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act**

Pesticides, which include herbicides, insecticides, biocides, and rodenticides, are regulated by the EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). The procurement and use of pesticides are rigidly controlled to ensure the EPA and PDA requirements are met.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

Significant construction, renovation, and demolition activities are reviewed for their impact on the environment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements as provided by the DOE. Other physical construction projects or capital equipment that have the potential for creating new emissions to the environment also receive a NEPA evaluation. Categorical Exclusions and all NEPA documentation for NNPP Sites, including the Bettis Laboratory, are available online on the DOE NEPA website located at [www.energy.gov/nepa/nepa-documents](http://www.energy.gov/nepa/nepa-documents).

### **Cultural Resources Management**

Since 1990, several studies were completed at Bettis to evaluate potential historic or archeological properties. In July 2006, the PNR Office (now known as NRLFO) and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (now known as SHPO) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that governs future construction efforts on the Bettis Laboratory site. The MOA defines actions needed to mitigate any adverse effects on areas of historic importance. Mitigative actions are in place for future work or have been completed, as appropriate, to ensure the continuing protection of the site's cultural resources.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS**

The major elements of the Site's radiological and nonradiological environmental monitoring programs are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. The various programs and the monitoring results are discussed in this section.

### **A. LIQUID EFFLUENTS**

The purpose of the liquid effluent monitoring programs is to determine the effectiveness of control methods and to measure constituent concentrations in effluents for comparison with applicable standards and natural background levels. In addition to monitoring liquid effluents from the Site, samples of precipitation and influent municipal water are monitored and used for background comparisons.

#### **Sources**

The principal sources of liquid effluents to the storm sewer system included non-contact cooling water, stormwater runoff, and process wastewater. Mass earthwork and infrastructure installations on a new dry extended detention basin to treat effluent from Outfall 001 prior to discharging to Bull Run was completed in September 2025, replacing the original Bull Run Monitoring Station. Total effluent flow through both the original and new Bull Run Monitoring Station is measured in accordance with the NPDES Permit; in 2025, the total flow was approximately 17,732,000 gallons. This comprises most of the flow in the Bull Run Stream. Stormwater runoff via Stormwater Outfalls 003, 005, 006 and 008, and treated groundwater via Outfall 007 was also discharged in accordance with the Site's NPDES Permit. Mass earthwork and infrastructure installations to modify the Outfall 008 basin to a dry extended detention basin to treat effluent prior to discharging to the Northeast Area Stream was completed in September 2025. Approximately 11,283,000 gallons of treated groundwater were discharged from the SIS through Outfall 007. The SIS consists of a groundwater collection system and air strippers that are used to remove VOCs, primarily PCE, from the collected groundwater prior to discharge. In addition, stormwater runoff from construction activities was also discharged in accordance with Water Quality Management Permit No. 0223206 obtained specifically for the discharge. Figure 3 shows the locations of these outfalls.

Water used for sanitary and cleaning purposes was discharged via the sanitary sewer system to the West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Authority, Thompson Run Sewage Treatment Plant, which discharges treated effluent to the Thompson Run Stream. In addition, approximately 39,500 gallons of processed groundwater was discharged to the Thompson Run Sewage Treatment Plant. This water contained traces of VOCs (primarily PCE), which were within allowable release limits to the treatment plant. The Borough of West Mifflin, the U.S. EPA, and the PA DEP were previously notified of the discharges as required by applicable regulations.

## **Liquid Monitoring**

The samples and analyses specified below constitute the minimum samples and analyses conducted at the Site during 2025.

**Radiological:** Representative water samples of storm sewer liquid effluents were collected at the Bull Run Monitoring Station and Outfall 008 (annually) shown on Figure 3. Monthly, the composite samples were collected and analyzed for gross alpha, gross beta, and Sr-90 radioactivity. Quarterly, composites of the monthly samples were analyzed for Sr-90 and gamma emitters. Influent municipal water and precipitation samples were analyzed similarly to the liquid effluent samples. Annually, water samples are collected from the Bull Run Stream at the Site boundary (BR5, Figure 3) and Outfall 008 and analyzed for gross alpha, gross beta, Sr-90, and gamma emitters. In addition, the water sample from BR5 is analyzed for isotopic uranium. Samples of processed groundwater were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity prior to release of the processed water to the sanitary sewer.

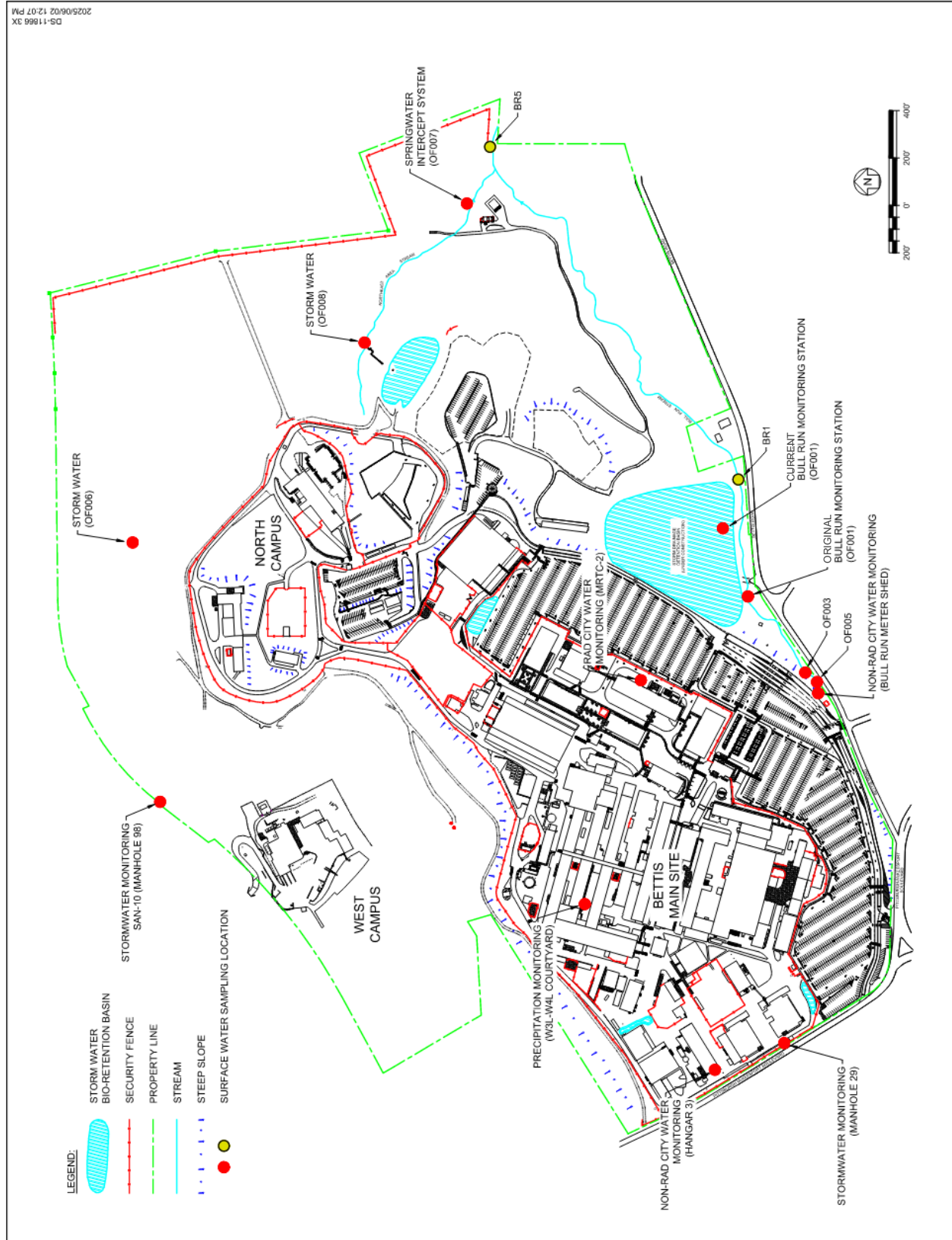


FIGURE 3: LIQUID EFFLUENT OUTFALL AND MONITORING LOCATIONS

**Nonradiological:** Semimonthly samples of storm sewer effluents discharged through the Bull Run Monitoring Station were collected and analyzed, in accordance with the NPDES Permit, for oil and grease, pH, total suspended solids, total residual chlorine, total aluminum, total antimony, total arsenic, hexavalent chromium, total copper, dissolved iron, total iron, total lead, total zinc, bromoform, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, chloroform, and temperature.

Semimonthly samples of effluent from the SIS were collected at Outfall 007 and analyzed for total aluminum, dissolved iron, total iron, pH, total suspended solids, PCE, trichloroethylene (TCE), and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE). These analyses are required by the Site's NPDES Permit.

Quarterly samples of storm sewer effluents discharged through Outfalls 006 and 008 were collected and analyzed, in accordance with the NPDES Permit, for oil and grease, pH, total suspended solids, total aluminum, and total iron.

Monthly samples of sanitary effluent were collected at location SAN-10 which includes sanitary effluent for the entire Site. These samples were analyzed for ammonia-nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand (5-Day), chemical oxygen demand, chlorides, total residual chlorine, total phosphorus, propylene glycol, and ethylene glycol, oil and grease, pH, phenols, total suspended solids, temperature, total cyanide, and total metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, tin, and zinc). Additional samples were also periodically collected and analyzed for chloride, ammonia-nitrogen, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, and chemical oxygen demand to investigate elevated concentrations.

Samples of Bull Run Stream were collected from two locations, BR1 and BR5 shown on Figure 3, and analyzed for VOCs.

## **Liquid Analyses**

**Radiological:** Liquid samples (liquid effluent, municipal water, precipitation, sanitary effluent, groundwater, etc.) were prepared for gross alpha and beta analysis by evaporation of approximately 200 ml of liquid. The alpha and beta radioactivity of the samples were measured using a low background proportional counter. A Typical DLC achieved for alpha and beta radioactivity in a 200 ml sample was  $2.0 \times 10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ .

Gamma spectrometry was also performed quarterly on composites of monthly samples to identify gamma-emitting radionuclides using a high purity germanium detector and a multichannel analyzer. Typical DLCs for Cs-137 and cobalt-60 (Co-60) in a 1000 ml sample of these composites ranged from  $3.0 \times 10^{-9}$  to  $7.0 \times 10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ .

Sr-90 analyses were performed on selected composites of monthly samples using a standard strontium radiochemical procedure. A typical DLC achieved for Sr-90 was  $8.0 \times 10^{-11}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$  for a 1000 ml sample.

**Nonradiological:** Analyses of effluent and surface water samples were performed using test methods described in References (4), (5), or other EPA-approved methods.

## Liquid Monitoring Results and Conclusions

**Radiological:** The results of the monthly analyses for alpha radioactivity in the Site's storm sewer effluents showed that the levels were below the DLC and were consistent with background alpha radioactivity levels measured in the municipal water influent and precipitation. None of the 12 alpha radioactivity measurements of the effluents exceeded the limit of Reference (6) for alpha radioactivity, based on thorium-232 (Th-232), in water in uncontrolled areas.

The results of the monthly analyses for beta radioactivity in the Site's storm sewer effluents showed that the average beta radioactivity levels were consistent with the levels measured in the municipal water influent and precipitation. The gross beta radioactivity results for a number of surface water samples may approach or slightly exceed  $1.0 \times 10^{-8}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$  due to the presence of natural potassium-40 (K-40) activity found in water samples, such as when winter de-icing materials are used. The gross beta radioactivity results were subsequently adjusted to account for the contribution of the K-40 found in storm sewer samples. However, even prior to the adjustment, none of the 12 beta radioactivity measurements of the effluents exceeded the limit of Reference (6) for beta radioactivity, based on Sr-90, in water in uncontrolled areas.

Table 7 presents the quarterly composite sample results for the Site's storm sewer effluents at the Bull Run Monitoring Station and Outfall 008 and for precipitation and municipal water samples. During 2025, there were no occasions when the gross radioactivity analyses result of the sanitary effluent was elevated relative to its local investigation level. Processed groundwater released to the sanitary sewer maintain alpha and beta radioactivity levels less than the DLC of  $3.0 \times 10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . This level is below the level allowed by the EPA in drinking water and is typical of natural levels of radioactivity.

The gross alpha, gross beta, Co-60, Cs-137, U-235, U-238 and Sr-90 radioactivity results in the sample of Bull Run Stream at location BR5 (Figure 3) were below their respective DLCs. The uranium concentrations were: uranium-234 (U-234),  $0.896 \times 10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ ; and uranium-238 (U-238),  $0.977 \times 10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . These results are consistent with natural background concentrations for uranium in surface water.

Based on the above, the control methods at the Site were effective in ensuring that the water discharged from the Site was of sufficiently high quality to preclude an adverse impact on the environment or downstream water quality. Site-generated radioactivity was not released to the Site's effluent streams or sanitary sewers.

**Nonradiological:** A summary of sample analysis results for effluent water from the Site is presented in Tables 8, 9, and 10. Analysis results for the parameters that are required to be sampled by the Site's NPDES Permit and the discharge limits for these parameters as established in the NPDES Permit are shown in Tables 8 and 9.

The results in Tables 8 and 9 show that the samples collected in accordance with the Site's NPDES Permit for the Site's outfalls were within the established discharge limits with the exception of total suspended solids in Outfall 001, which exceeded the permit limits in October 2025. Exceedance of this limit was reported to the PA DEP.

The results in Table 10 show that the analytical results from sanitary sewer effluent samples were within limits in West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Authority Resolution 69-02, Wastewater Discharge Permit P8502-022-1226, and Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit (2025-001 Bettis).

**TABLE 7**  
**LIQUID INFLUENT AND EFFLUENT RADIOACTIVITY RESULTS<sup>(1)</sup>**  
Units:  $10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$

| Sample Location                      | Activity Analysis | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bull Run Monitoring Station Effluent | Strontium-90      | < 0.0939      | < 0.0684       | < 0.0972      | < 0.0810       |
| Outfall 008 <sup>(2)</sup>           |                   | < 0.319       |                |               |                |
| Municipal Water                      |                   | < 0.0872      | < 0.0668       | < 0.0394      | < 0.0846       |
| Precipitation                        |                   | < 0.0919      | < 0.0796       | < 0.0429      | < 0.0808       |
| Bull Run Monitoring Station Effluent | Cesium-137        | < 7.33        | < 7.04         | < 7.23        | < 7.45         |
| Outfall 008 <sup>(2)</sup>           |                   | < 7.45        |                |               |                |
| Municipal Water                      |                   | < 7.06        | < 7.33         | < 7.43        | < 7.39         |
| Precipitation                        |                   | < 7.48        | < 7.48         | < 7.32        | < 7.46         |
| Bull Run Monitoring Station Effluent | Cobalt-60         | < 6.27        | < 7.73         | < 6.16        | < 5.11         |
| Outfall 008 <sup>(2)</sup>           |                   | < 6.52        |                |               |                |
| Municipal Water                      |                   | < 7.58        | < 7.30         | < 7.11        | < 5.80         |
| Precipitation                        |                   | < 6.33        | < 6.64         | < 6.68        | < 5.59         |

**NOTES:**

- (1) A "<" signifies the result was below the DLC, with the DLC being the reported value. DLC values vary slightly due to the sample size, the chemical recovery yield, count time, instrument backgrounds, and the presence of dissolved materials.  
(2) Annual sample.

**TABLE 8**  
**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)**  
**PERMIT SEMIMONTHLY SAMPLE ANALYSES RESULTS<sup>(1)</sup>**

| Parameter <sup>(3)</sup>   | Units | Limit                | Outfall 001          | Outfall 007          |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                            |       |                      | Range <sup>(2)</sup> | Range <sup>(2)</sup> |
| Oil and Grease             | mg/l  | 15.0 Avg., 30.0 Max. | < 4.8 - 8.9          |                      |
| pH                         | S.U.  | 6.0 - 9.0            | 7.29 - 8.27          | 7.91 - 8.33          |
| Total Suspended Solids     | mg/l  | 25.0 Avg., 50.0 Max. | 1.0 - 110            |                      |
|                            |       | 30.0 Avg., 75.0 Max. |                      | < 0.50 - 3.7         |
| Temperature                | °F    | 110 Max.             | 44.6 - 70.3          |                      |
| Total Residual Chlorine    | mg/l  | Monitor and Report   | 0.00 - 0.87          |                      |
| Total Aluminum             | mg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 0.030 - 1.8        | < 0.030 - 0.086      |
| Total Antimony             | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 1.0 - 2.2          |                      |
| Total Arsenic              | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | 2.0 - 9.9            |                      |
| Hexavalent Chromium        | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | <10 - 11             |                      |
| Total Copper               | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 2.0 - 81           |                      |
| Dissolved Iron             | mg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 0.050 - 0.50       |                      |
|                            |       | 7.0 Max.             |                      | < 0.050 - < 0.10     |
| Total Iron                 | mg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 0.050 - 2.0        | < 0.050 - < 0.10     |
| Total Lead                 | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 0.50 - 3.3         |                      |
| Total Zinc                 | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 10 - 370           |                      |
| Bromoform                  | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 1.0 - 13           |                      |
| Chlorodibromomethane       | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 1.0 - < 2.5        |                      |
| Dichlorobromomethane       | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 1.0 - < 2.5        |                      |
| Chloroform                 | µg/l  | Monitor and Report   | < 1.0 - < 2.5        |                      |
| Tetrachloroethylene        | µg/l  | 2.2 Avg., 5.5 Max.   |                      | < 0.50 - 2.3         |
| Trichloroethylene          | µg/l  | 5.0 Avg., 12.5 Max.  |                      | < 0.50 - < 2.2       |
| trans-1,2-dichloroethylene | µg/l  | 5.0 Avg., 12.5 Max.  |                      | < 0.50 - < 2.6       |

**NOTES:**

- (1) The updated NPDES permit, effective August 1, 2021, includes a schedule of compliance for new effluent limits. These limits take effect 4 years and 11 months from the effective date of the permit.
- (2) For analysis results that do not change for multiple samples, only one sample analysis result is provided.
- (3) Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform were removed from this table in 2025 since they are not required per the NPDES permit.

**TABLE 9**  
**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)**  
**PERMIT QUARTERLY RESULTS**

| Parameter              | Units | Limit               | Outfall 006 <sup>(1)</sup> | Outfall 008 <sup>(1)</sup> |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                        |       |                     | Range                      | Range                      |
| Oil and Grease         | mg/l  | Monitor & Report    | < 4.9 - < 5.5              | < 4.8 - < 5.6              |
| pH                     | S.U   | Monitor & Report    | 7.23 - 7.59                | 8.00 - 8.82                |
| Total Aluminum         | mg/l  | 0.75 <sup>(2)</sup> | 0.16 - 2.4                 | 0.29 - 100                 |
| Total Iron             | mg/l  | 1.5 <sup>(2)</sup>  | 0.20 - 3.2                 | 0.19 - 110                 |
| Total Suspended Solids | mg/l  | Monitor & Report    | 7.1 - 86                   | 1.7 - 7600                 |

**NOTES:**

- (1) Samples are collected once quarterly during precipitation events in which  $\geq 0.1$  inch of rainfall is recorded.  
(2) Benchmark values listed in NPDES Permit PA000914 are not effluent limitations and exceedances do not constitute permit noncompliances.

Based on the above, the control methods at the Site were effective in ensuring that the water discharged from the Site was of sufficiently high quality to preclude any adverse impact on the environment or downstream water quality.

**TABLE 10**  
**SANITARY EFFLUENT WATER QUALITY RESULTS**

| Parameter                         | Units   | Limit <sup>(1)</sup> | Concentration Range |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total Residual Chlorine           | lb./day | 3.67                 | 0                   |
| Oil and Grease                    | mg/L    | 200.00               | 17 - 76             |
| pH                                | S.U.    | 6 - 10               | 8.67 - 9.09         |
| Temperature                       | °F      | 150                  | 48.9 - 77.9         |
| Chlorides                         | lb./day | 917                  | 45.07 - 120.28      |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-Day) | lb./day | 642                  | 62.21 - 223.88      |
| Total Suspended Solids            | lb./day | 642                  | 30.14 - 66.36       |
| Chemical Oxygen Demand            | lb./day | 917                  | 149.39 - 282.03     |
| Ammonia-Nitrogen                  | lb./day | 91.74                | 18.99 - 37.16       |
| Arsenic                           | lb./day | 1.52                 | 0.00053 - 0.00083   |
| Cadmium                           | lb./day | 0.73                 | 0.00013 - 0.00021   |
| Copper                            | lb./day | 19.08                | 0.0036 - 0.087      |
| Total Cyanide                     | lb./day | 2.75                 | 0.0027 - 0.0064     |
| Lead                              | lb./day | 24.22                | 0.00020 - 0.0019    |
| Mercury                           | lb./day | 0.17                 | 0.000053 - 0.00062  |
| Nickel                            | lb./day | 14.68                | 0.0014 - 0.0028     |
| Silver                            | lb./day | 1.28                 | 0.00013 - 0.00021   |
| Total Chromium                    | lb./day | 24.95                | 0.00053 - 0.0015    |
| Zinc                              | lb./day | 22.94                | 0.030 - 0.15        |
| Phenols                           | lb./day | 110.09               | 0.0048 - 0.043      |
| Tin                               | lb./day | 1.83                 | 0.00053 - 0.00083   |
| Total Phosphorus                  | mg/l    | Monitor and Report   | 8.2 - 20            |
| Propylene Glycol                  | mg/l    | Monitor and Report   | < 10 - < 50         |
| Ethylene Glycol                   | mg/l    | Monitor and Report   | < 13 - < 65         |

**NOTES:**

- (1) Specific limits are taken from THE WEST MIFFLIN SANITARY SEWER & STORMWATER AUTHORITY NON-DOMESTIC WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT (2025-001 Bettis); if a parameter is not limited in this permit, the listed limit is from West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Authority Resolution 69-02. The limit for flash point and dissolved oxygen were removed in 2025, as it was no longer required to be sampled.

## **B. GROUNDWATER**

The purpose of the groundwater monitoring programs is to determine the impact of operations on the groundwater. The nonradiological monitoring program is also performed to monitor for the migration of chemical residues in groundwater.

The results of site groundwater investigations indicate that groundwater quality has been impacted by the release of chemical constituents at the site. Groundwater quality impacts are evident in the Perched, Benwood, and Sewickley water-bearing zones and to a much smaller degree in the Pittsburgh Sandstone water-bearing zone. Groundwater data from wells in the Pittsburgh Coal do not show evidence of chemical constituents associated with operations at the site. The groundwater quality impacts in the Perched water-bearing zone are primarily related to the past practice of discharging effluents containing chemicals into the on-site storm and sanitary sewer systems and the resultant discharge of these materials into the groundwater through leaks in these systems. Groundwater quality impacts in the Benwood Limestone and Sewickley and Pittsburgh Sandstones are related to the release of contaminants from the IWS, Bettis Landfill, and other areas that contain chemical residues and to a limited extent the migrations of the chemical residues from the overlying water-bearing zones. In general, other areas of soil contamination have not had a significant effect on groundwater quality. The water quality of springs that discharged from the water-bearing zones reflected the water quality obtained from the wells within those zones.

There are no wells or springs on-site or in the local hydraulically downgradient area which are known to be used for drinking water, industrial, or irrigation purposes. Nonetheless, Bettis Laboratory monitors the groundwater under the site to determine what, if any, effects the operations at the site have had on the quality of the groundwater. This program has involved the installation of over 100 groundwater monitoring wells. However, wells that are no longer needed for monitoring have been removed. As of 2021, 34 wells remain to support ongoing monitoring. Selected wells and various springs on-site are monitored for both chemical and radiological parameters. A portion of the chemical monitoring program has been incorporated in the CMIO EPA Permit for Corrective Action which requires routine environmental monitoring. These analyses are used to evaluate the impacts on the groundwater.

### **Sources**

The primary source of radioactivity and chemical constituents in the Site's groundwater is from operations conducted in the 1950s and 1960s. During that time, small amounts of radioactivity were released from a few isolated locations on-site as a result of minor breaches in containers and underground pipes containing radioactive materials. Since that time, vigorous efforts to prevent recurrence of these problems have been successful, and much of the soil containing residual radioactivity has been removed. However, there remain some areas of soil within the Site confines that contain small amounts of radioactivity from past Site operations. Monitoring is conducted to detect any influence of this activity on water quality.

The chemical constituents originated from infrequent spills or the past practice of on-site disposal of small amounts of spent solvents, typically degreasing agents such as PCE from Site operations. It is also possible that solvent disposal by prior tenants when the Site was an airfield may have contributed to the groundwater contamination. Since the early 1970s, these materials have been disposed of off-site.

## **Groundwater Monitoring**

The samples and analyses specified below constitute the minimum samples and analyses conducted at the Site during 2025. The existing well locations and on-site springs are shown on Figure 4. The wells monitor five water-bearing zones under the Site down to and including the Pittsburgh Coal Water-Bearing Zone. These water-bearing zones, which are illustrated and discussed in detail in the Final RFI, Reference (1), are listed below in order of increasing depth: Perched, Benwood Limestone, Sewickley Sandstone, Pittsburgh Sandstone, and Pittsburgh Coal. The on-site springs and seeps are surface discharge points for water predominantly from the Benwood or Sewickley Water-Bearing Zones.

**Radiological:** Groundwater samples from on-site and off-site springs and a discharge point for the abandoned Pittsburgh Coal Mine under the site are collected at least annually. Annual groundwater samples from wells were collected and analyzed for gross alpha, gross beta, and gamma emitters. In addition, water from approximately one-third of the wells in the monitoring program was analyzed for Sr-90 and uranium isotopes. The monitoring program is set up to ensure that all wells in the program are analyzed for Sr-90 and uranium isotopes in a given three-year period.

**Nonradiological:** Groundwater samples are collected from select wells at least annually and analyzed for VOCs.

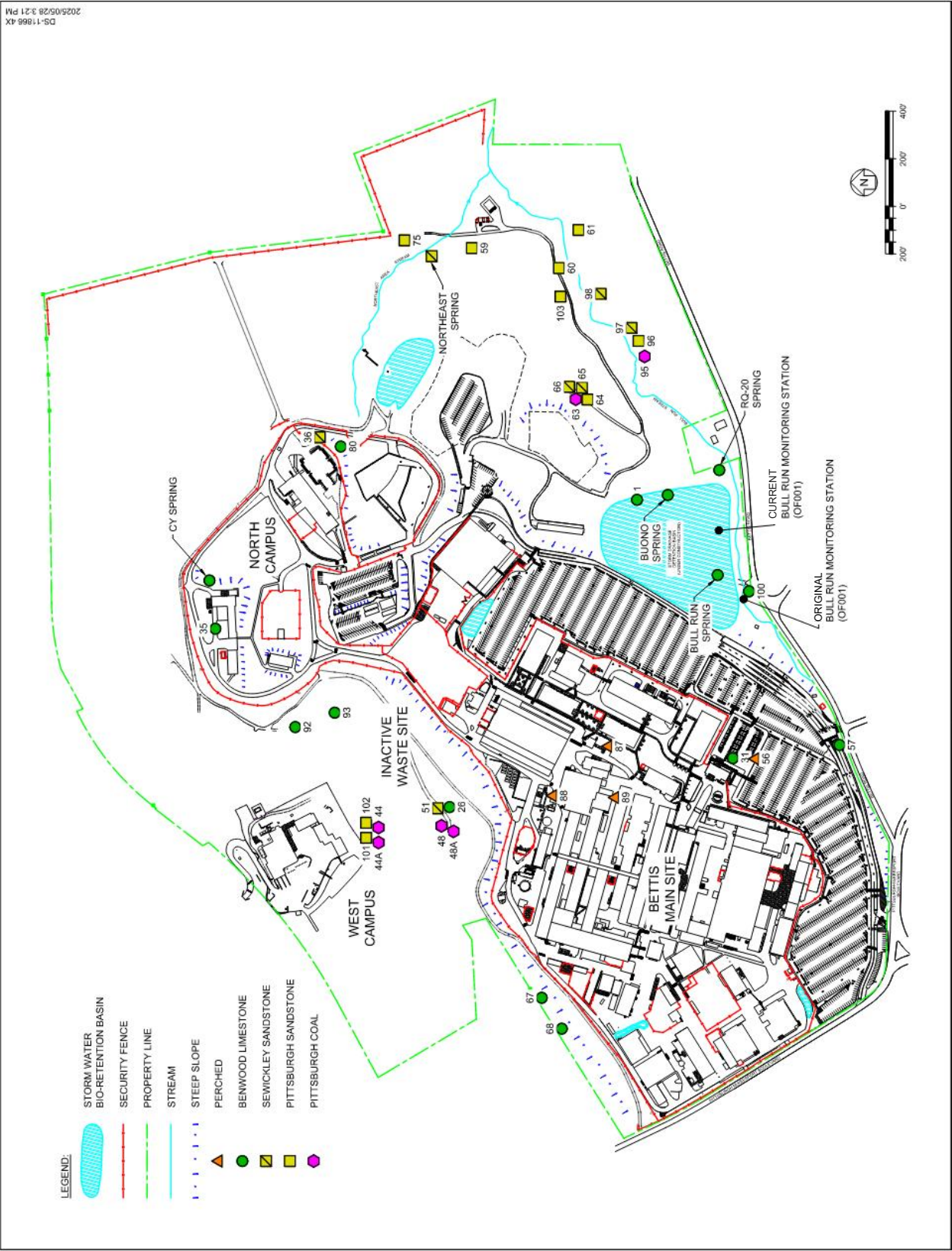


FIGURE 4: LOCATION OF WELLS AND SPRINGS

## Groundwater Analyses

**Radiological:** Groundwater analysis methods are discussed under Liquid Analyses in Section A.

**Nonradiological:** Groundwater samples were analyzed using test methods described in Reference (5).

## Groundwater Monitoring Results and Conclusions

**Radiological:** Table 11 presents the groundwater sample radioactivity data for 2025.

The radioactivity data for the Perched Water-Bearing Zone is consistent with previous results or natural levels of radioactivity in groundwater in this area, apart from Sr-90 detected in Wells 87, 88, and 89, located near the Materials Evaluation Laboratory (MEL). Wells 87, 88, and 89 were installed to monitor for migration of residual radioactivity from under the MEL. The highest Sr-90 concentration observed in these wells,  $2.41 \times 10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$  in Well 89, is 0.48% of the limit of Reference (6) for Sr-90 in water in unrestricted areas. These wells monitoring the Perched Water-Bearing Zone will continue to be sampled annually for radioactivity. The 2025 data shows that Bettis operations have not significantly affected the overall levels of radioactivity in the Perched Water-Bearing Zone.

The radioactivity data for the Benwood Water-Bearing Zone wells and springs that were sampled in 2025 are consistent with previous results or typical natural levels of radioactivity. There are eleven wells in this zone. Bettis operations have not affected the natural levels of radioactivity in the Benwood Water-Bearing Zone.

The radioactivity data for the Sewickley Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone wells and springs that were sampled in 2025 are consistent with previous results or natural levels of radioactivity. There are six wells in the Sewickley Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone, of which at least three will be sampled annually. Bettis operations have not affected the natural levels of radioactivity in the Sewickley Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone.

The radioactivity data for the Pittsburgh Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone wells that were sampled in 2025 are consistent with natural background levels. There are nine wells in the Pittsburgh Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone. Bettis operations have not affected the natural levels of radioactivity in the Pittsburgh Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone.

The radioactivity data for the Pittsburgh Coal Water-Bearing Zone wells that were sampled in 2025 are consistent with natural levels of radioactivity. The six wells in this zone will be sampled annually. Bettis operations have not affected the natural levels of radioactivity in the Pittsburgh Coal Water-Bearing Zone.

Historically, some of the water in the abandoned Pittsburgh Coal Mine under the Site discharged into the Borough of Dravosburg combined sanitary/storm sewer system. During 1998, the combined sewer system was modified so the discharge from the abandoned mine no longer enters the sanitary sewer system. Samples of this discharge were analyzed for radioactivity, and the results are presented in Table 11 as sample point DM176. The results are consistent with natural levels of radioactivity and demonstrate that Site operations have not affected the natural levels of radioactivity in this water.

In summary, the radiological operations at the Laboratory did not impact the groundwater in 2025. Overall, Site operations have not significantly affected the natural radioactivity in the water-bearing zones under the Site.

**Nonradiological:** The results of the analyses of groundwater for the chemical constituents of concern are presented in Table 12. Previous environmental monitoring results have shown that the contaminants of concern in Site groundwater are VOCs, primarily PCE and its degradation products, TCE and DCE. Groundwater samples analyzed during the RFI showed the following average total VOC level in the water-bearing zones: Perched, 0.1 mg/l; Benwood Limestone, 1.3 mg/l; Sewickley Sandstone, 5.9 mg/l; and Pittsburgh Sandstone, 0.065 mg/l. The 2025 groundwater monitoring results demonstrate that the VOC levels in the currently monitored water-bearing zones were less than those reported in the RFI.

Results of VOC water samples collected from the Bull Run Stream at locations BR1 and BR5 (Figure 3, Table 12) were less than 0.0010 mg/l for TCE and DCE. BR1 was 0.0051 mg/l and BR5 was less than 0.0010 mg/l for PCE.

The 2025 groundwater monitoring results are consistent with previous results and do not show any changes in the migration pattern of chemical residues in the groundwater, indicating that the conclusions of the RFI remain valid.

**TABLE 11**  
**GROUNDWATER RADIOACTIVITY RESULTS**  
Units:  $10^{-9}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$

| Sample Location                                | Radionuclides <sup>(1)</sup> |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------------|
|                                                | Gross Alpha                  | Gross Beta | Sr-90      | Cs-137 | Co-60 | U-233/-234 <sup>(2)</sup> | U-235  | U-238       |
| <b>Perched Water-Bearing Zone</b>              |                              |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Well 56 <sup>(4)</sup>                         | <9.57                        | <4.55      |            | <7.19  | <6.68 |                           |        |             |
| Well 87                                        | <1.83                        | 2.66±1.18  | <0.343     | <6.48  | <7.18 |                           |        |             |
| Well 88                                        | <1.81                        | 3.86±1.86  | <0.249     | <7.31  | <7.10 |                           |        |             |
| Well 89 <sup>(4)</sup>                         | <10.2                        | <7.50      | 2.41±0.471 | <7.07  | <5.70 |                           |        |             |
| <b>Benwood Limestone Water-Bearing Zone</b>    |                              |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Well 26                                        | 4.37±3.09                    | 3.35±1.81  |            | <7.80  | <6.16 | 1.14±0.611                | <0.189 | 0.977±0.563 |
| Well 31 <sup>(4)</sup>                         | <9.93                        | <4.57      |            | <7.45  | <6.82 |                           |        |             |
| Well 35                                        | <1.98                        | 2.51±1.04  |            | <7.24  | <6.49 |                           |        |             |
| Well 57 <sup>(4)</sup>                         | <9.81                        | <4.95      |            | <5.97  | <6.74 |                           |        |             |
| Well 68                                        | 2.36±2.55                    | 1.90±1.02  |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Well 80                                        | 16.8±4.01                    | 8.33±1.37  | <0.272     | <7.49  | <6.46 | 0.896±0.539               | <0.189 | 0.570±0.427 |
| Well 92                                        | <1.80                        | 2.02±1.23  | <0.266     | <7.48  | <6.65 | <0.189                    | <0.189 | <0.189      |
| Well 100 <sup>(4)</sup>                        | 91.7±15.7                    | 28.5±4.67  |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Bull Run Spring <sup>(4)</sup>                 | <9.34                        | 39.0±8.12  | <0.296     | <5.16  | <6.65 | 1.89±0.801                | <0.191 | 2.14±0.855  |
| Buono Spring <sup>(4)(5)</sup>                 | <4.57                        | 3.08±3.12  | <0.261     | <7.43  | <7.81 | 0.827±0.521               | <0.192 | 0.745±0.493 |
| RQ-20 Spring <sup>(4)(5)</sup>                 | 7.87±3.84                    | 6.28±1.37  | <0.258     | <7.09  | <6.40 | 1.07±0.595                | <0.192 | 0.577±0.432 |
| CY Spring                                      | <2.22                        | <0.807     | <0.249     | <7.49  | <6.48 | <0.192                    | <0.192 | <0.192      |
| SIS (Outfall 007) <sup>(3)(4)</sup>            | <4.34                        | 3.65±3.16  | <0.247     | <6.94  | <7.75 | 0.830±0.523               | <0.193 | 0.415±0.367 |
| <b>Sewickley Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone</b>  |                              |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Well 36                                        | 8.51±3.28                    | 6.71±1.39  |            | <7.22  | <6.36 | 0.812±0.511               | <0.189 | <0.189      |
| Well 51                                        | 13.0±3.56                    | 6.56±1.06  |            | <7.55  | <6.23 |                           |        |             |
| Well 98                                        | <1.86                        | 2.53±1.21  |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Northeast Spring <sup>(5)</sup>                | <3.27                        | 1.39±1.33  | <0.256     | <6.85  | <5.89 | 0.742±0.492               | <0.192 | 0.660±0.463 |
| <b>Pittsburgh Sandstone Water-Bearing Zone</b> |                              |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Well 60 <sup>(4)</sup>                         | 29.3±7.03                    | 15.9±2.14  |            | <7.50  | <6.20 |                           |        |             |
| Well 61                                        | 8.21±5.13                    | 3.08±3.45  | <0.345     | <7.28  | <7.15 | 0.568±0.426               | <0.189 | 0.649±0.456 |
| Well 96                                        | <1.94                        | 2.50±0.937 |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| <b>Pittsburgh Coal Water-Bearing Zone</b>      |                              |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| Well 44                                        | <1.94                        | 1.92±1.60  | <0.264     | <7.83  | <7.75 |                           |        |             |
| Well 44A                                       | <1.98                        | 3.02±1.02  | <0.255     | <7.38  | <6.52 | <0.189                    | <0.189 | <0.189      |
| Well 48 <sup>(4)</sup>                         | <2.08                        | 6.97±0.865 |            | <7.41  | <6.83 |                           |        |             |
| Well 63                                        | <1.82                        | 3.90±0.873 |            | <7.07  | <7.71 |                           |        |             |
| Well 95                                        | 2.11±2.42                    | 3.67±1.02  |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| DM176 <sup>(3)</sup>                           | <1.89                        | 3.25±1.13  | <0.313     | <6.99  | <7.10 | <0.189                    | <0.189 | <0.189      |
| <b>Background</b>                              |                              |            |            |        |       |                           |        |             |
| NETL <sup>(3)</sup>                            | <1.96                        | 2.66±2.03  | <0.260     | <7.49  | <6.44 | 0.248±0.282               | <0.192 | 0.414±0.365 |

**NOTES:**

- (1) A "<" signifies the result was below the DLC, with the DLC being the reported value.
- (2) The analytical method cannot distinguish between uranium-233 and uranium-234. The results are attributed to uranium-234 based on the source of the radioactivity.
- (3) SIS = Springwater Intercept System; DM176 = Sample of Pittsburgh Coal Mine water discharge into the Dravosburg storm sewer system. NETL = National Energy Technology Laboratory (South Park, PA).
- (4) Sample results indicated high total dissolved solids (>3,000 mg/l). The high solids can cause a high gross alpha DLC result and/or a high degree of uncertainty in the sample result.
- (5) These springs are included in the SIS. Samples were collected at access points in the drainage system.

**TABLE 12**  
**GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER**  
**NONRADIOLOGICAL RESULTS**

Units: mg/l

| Water-Bearing Zone                           | Well No. | Analytes <sup>(1)(2)</sup> |          |          |         |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
|                                              |          | PCE                        | TCE      | DCE      |         |
|                                              |          |                            |          | cis-     | trans-  |
| Benwood Limestone                            | 26       | 0.025                      | 0.028    | 0.110    | 0.0027  |
|                                              | 35       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | 0.00031J | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 57       | <0.0010                    | 0.00026J | 0.011    | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 68       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 80       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 92       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 100      | <0.0010                    | 0.00093J | 0.00029J | <0.0010 |
| Sewickley Sandstone                          | 36       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 51       | 0.230                      | 0.170    | 0.069    | 0.0020  |
|                                              | 65       | <0.0010                    | 0.0061   | 0.180    | 0.022   |
|                                              | 98       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
| Pittsburgh Sandstone                         | 60       | 0.016                      | 0.0023   | 0.00068J | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 61       | <0.0010                    | 0.00049J | 0.00068J | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 75       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 96       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | 0.0013   | <0.0010 |
| Pittsburgh Coal                              | 44A      | 0.00051J                   | 0.00034J | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
|                                              | 95       | <0.0010                    | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
| <b>Bull Run Stream Surface Water Results</b> |          |                            |          |          |         |
| BR1                                          |          | 0.0051                     | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |
| BR5                                          |          | 0.00032J                   | <0.0010  | <0.0010  | <0.0010 |

**NOTES:**

- (1) Samples were analyzed for approximately 40 volatile organic compounds. Only the results for the potential contaminants of concern are reported (PCE = Tetrachloroethylene; TCE = Trichloroethylene; DCE = 1,2-Dichloroethylene). Results for the other volatile organic compounds were typically less than the minimum quantitation level that was generally 0.001 mg/l. The reported results represent the maximum results where more than one sample was analyzed from a sample location, not including quality assurance duplicates.
- (2) Results with a "J" qualifier indicate that the result is less than the reporting limit but greater than or equal to the method detection limit and the concentration is an approximate value.

## C. AIRBORNE EFFLUENTS

The purpose of the airborne effluent monitoring program is to determine the effectiveness of control methods, to measure concentrations in effluents for comparison with applicable standards and natural background levels, and to assess the effect of any inadvertent releases to the environment.

### Sources

Sources of radioactive airborne materials included operations associated with examining nuclear fuel and reactor materials. Areas of the Site wherein unencapsulated radioactive materials were handled were equipped with filtered exhaust systems. The HEPA filters were preceded as necessary by prefilters to remove dust and large particulates. HEPA filters were tested upon installation and at least annually thereafter to ensure that high removal efficiencies (99.95%) are maintained.

Sources of airborne effluents not related to radiological operations were heating systems, such as gas and oil fueled boilers and space heaters, testing of diesel generating units, operation of diesel and natural gas emergency generators, and small-scale operations involving chemicals. Fuel burning and use of combustion equipment and other site operations are conducted in compliance with the current Site's Air Operating Permit that was issued by the ACHD. Therefore, Bettis operates in accordance with current regulations as well as the conditions identified in the current permit. Air exhausted from the Site's fume hoods was treated, where appropriate, by filtration to minimize the release of materials.

### Airborne Monitoring

The samples and analyses specified below constitute the minimum samples and analyses conducted at the Site during 2025.

**Radiological:** Radioactive airborne effluents from the Site were continuously monitored using fixed-filter air stations operated at a constant, metered sample flow rate. Particulate radioactivity in the effluents was collected on 0.8-micron millipore filters. Charcoal impregnated filters were used to monitor the appropriate exhausts for gaseous radionuclides. Select exhausts were specifically monitored for plutonium-238 (Pu-238), europium-152 (Eu-152), Sr-90 and Cs-137 as required by 40 CFR 61 Subpart H. Filters were collected and analyzed at least weekly for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity. Quarterly, the particulate filters from each exhaust were composited and analyzed for gross alpha, gross beta, Sr-90, and gamma emitters. In addition, sampling for the short half-life (55 seconds) radon-220 (Rn-220) from former thorium handling areas was performed annually using a charcoal filter cold-trap method. The Site's radiological exhaust monitoring systems were in compliance with the EPA requirements in Reference (8).

Background airborne particulate radioactivity was monitored continuously using fixed-filter air samplers positioned offsite at locations (South Park, PA and West Mifflin, PA) which are approximately 7 miles and 1.5 miles, respectively, from the Site. These air filters were collected and analyzed weekly for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity.

**Nonradiological:** There were no major chemical operations at the Site during 2025 that might generate significant quantities of airborne chemical pollutants. Estimates of particulate and gaseous emissions were used to ensure that applicable standards were met. Monitoring of nonradiological emissions was not required or necessary for most Bettis operations.

## Airborne Analyses

**Radiological:** Particulate filter samples were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity approximately two days after collection to permit the decay of the naturally occurring, short-lived radon-thoron progeny that may have accumulated on the filters. The alpha and beta radioactivities were measured using a lead-shielded, gas-flow proportional counter. Quarterly, the sample filters were composited and analyzed for gross alpha and beta radioactivity as well as gamma emitters. Typical DLCs for gross alpha and beta radioactivity were  $2.0 \times 10^{-16}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$  and  $4.0 \times 10^{-16}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ , respectively.

Gamma analyses were conducted using a high purity germanium detector and a multichannel analyzer. A typical DLC for Cs-137 was  $8.0 \times 10^{-16}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . Plutonium analyses of select composites were performed using alpha spectrometry. A typical detection level for Pu-238 was  $2.0 \times 10^{-16}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . In addition, Sr-90 analyses were performed on select quarterly filter composites from potential source areas. A typical DLC for Sr-90 was  $8.0 \times 10^{-16}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . The charcoal filters used for measuring Rn-220 releases were analyzed using the high purity germanium detector. The Rn-220 concentrations were determined from the characteristic photo-peak of lead-212 (Pb-212) which is the principal gamma-emitting product of Rn-220 decay.

**Nonradiological:** Discharges of nonradioactive airborne pollutants were not significant enough to require airborne monitoring.

## Airborne Monitoring Results and Conclusions

**Radiological:** The results of the monitoring of particulate and gaseous radioactivity effluents from the Site during 2025 are summarized in Table 13. Specific results from the airborne monitoring program are discussed below. Although comparisons of the Site's particulate airborne radioactivity results were made to background particulate radioactivity levels measured at off-site locations, no background corrections were made to the Site's release results.

The average concentration of airborne particulate gross alpha radioactivity released during 2025 was less than or equal to  $4.42 \times 10^{-16}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$  and the average concentration of airborne particulate gross beta radioactivity was less than or equal to  $1.30 \times 10^{-15}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . In comparison, the average background gross alpha and gross beta airborne particulate radioactivity measured at the off-site locations were  $1.65 \times 10^{-15}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$  and  $1.98 \times 10^{-14}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ , respectively. On average, the gross alpha airborne radioactivity concentration in air emitted from the Site was approximately 3.7 times less than the background airborne radioactivity levels. The gross beta airborne particulate radioactivity concentration in air emitted from the Site was approximately 15.2 times less than the background airborne radioactivity levels. Thus, the Site's filtration systems on the radiological exhausts are removing naturally occurring radioactivity from the air.

There were no detectable releases of Cs-137, Sr-90, Eu-152, or Pu-238 in 2025. The concentrations of these radionuclides listed in Table 13 are based on the DLC of the analyses.

**TABLE 13**  
**AIRBORNE EFFLUENT RADIOACTIVITY RESULTS**

| Radionuclide <sup>(1)</sup>              | Curies Released <sup>(2)</sup> | Half-life                            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gross Alpha Radioactivity <sup>(3)</sup> | $\leq 3.17\text{E-}07$         | 87.7 years                           |
| Gross Beta Radioactivity <sup>(4)</sup>  | $\leq 9.37\text{E-}07$         | 28.8 years/64.1 hours/<br>30.1 years |
| Cesium-137                               | $< 5.86\text{E-}08$            | 30.1 years                           |
| Strontium-90                             | $< 1.39\text{E-}08$            | 28.8 years                           |
| Europium-152                             | $< 1.03\text{E-}07$            | 13.5 years                           |
| Plutonium-238                            | $< 2.18\text{E-}09$            | 87.7 years                           |
| Radon-220                                | 134.1                          | 55.6 seconds                         |

**NOTES:**

- (1) Only parent radionuclides are listed; while progeny are not listed, they are included in dose modeling.  
 (2) A "<" signifies the result is below the DLC; a " $\leq$ " signified the result is less than or equal to the DLC.  
 (3) For dose modeling, the total gross alpha radioactivity is conservatively attributed to Pu-238 (in addition to the individual total).  
 (4) For dose modeling, equal fractions of the total gross beta radioactivity are conservatively attributed to Sr-90, Y-90, and Cs-137 (in addition to their individual totals).

Based on the results of Rn-220 effluent measurements and pathway evaluations, the concentration of Rn-220 at the location of the maximally exposed off-site receptor was estimated to be approximately  $1.39 \times 10^{-12}$   $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ . This level is 0.007% of the Reference (6) limit for Rn-220 (without progeny) in the air of uncontrolled areas. The releases of the very short-lived (55.6 seconds) Rn-220 gaseous radioactivity from the Site resulted in no adverse effect on the surrounding environment and did not result in radiation exposures above the EPA and U.S. DOE radiation dose standards.

The total airborne radioactivity released from the Site with radionuclide decay half-lives greater than one day was less than  $1.43 \times 10^{-6}$  Ci, or approximately equal to the amount of radioactivity in a common household smoke detector.

The results of the Site's airborne radiological effluent monitoring program demonstrate the effectiveness of control methods. The results also show that the amount of airborne radioactivity released was too small to result in any measurable change in background radioactivity levels in the environment. The concentrations of radioactivity released from the Site during 2025 were below the applicable limits for radioactivity in ambient air. Furthermore, the estimated radiation dose to any member of the public from the airborne radioactivity released was too low to measure and could only be determined by calculational models, which showed that the estimated dose was significantly below the radiation protection standard established by the EPA in Reference (8).

**Nonradiological:** The results of evaluations and calculations for the Site's sources of airborne chemical pollutants are summarized below.

#### Heating System Exhaust

The boilers and space heating systems at the Site were fueled primarily with natural gas. No fuel oil was combusted in 2025. The heating systems were operated in accordance with the ACHD, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control regulations and the Site's Air Operating Permit. Conservative estimates of the pollutant releases utilizing EPA emission factors were made. These calculations showed that the airborne emissions from the Site's heating systems are well below the applicable local limits identified in Reference (9).

#### Diesel Generator Compatibility Testing

The Computing Center emergency generators and diesel generator compatibility testing at the Site were fueled with No. 2 ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. These processes were conducted in accordance with the Air Operating Permit. Conservative estimates of the pollutant releases utilizing EPA emission factors were made. These calculations showed that the airborne emissions from the Computing Center emergency generators and diesel generator compatibility testing were well below the permit limits allowed in Reference (9).

#### Asbestos Removal Work

Asbestos removal work was conducted in compliance with the Federal, State, and local requirements to limit the potential discharge of asbestos fibers to the environment. During 2025, the ACHD conducted 12 clearance inspections of asbestos abatement projects and released each project work area to unrestricted public use.

Engineering controls are strictly followed and enforced at the Bettis Laboratory in accordance with regulatory requirements. Contingency plans to limit the potential release of asbestos fibers to the environment in the case of a spill have also been developed. Any issues with asbestos containing material are immediately rectified through proper notifications or abatement action. There were no instances in 2025 resulting in an uncontrolled release of asbestos fibers to the environment.

### **D. SEDIMENT, SOIL, AND VEGETATION**

The purpose of the sediment and soil monitoring programs is to monitor for the migration of existing radioactive and chemical residues. The purpose of the stream vegetation radiological monitoring program is to monitor for the potential uptake of radioactivity into stream vegetation.

#### **Sources**

The source of the radioactive and chemical residues in portions of the storm sewer system and the Bull Run Stream basin is from operations conducted in the 1950s and 1960s. A significant amount of contaminated soil along Bull Run was removed in 1976 and 1977 and disposed of off-site at a DOE burial ground.

## **Sediment, Soil, and Vegetation Monitoring**

**Radiological:** Routine sediment samples were collected semiannually from the streambeds of the Site's effluent streams and from an off-site control stream, as shown in Figure 5. Twice during the year, seven sediment samples were collected along the length of the Bull Run and Thompson Run Streams, along with one sample collected from the Northeast Area Stream on-site and one sample from an off-site control location. The sediment sample from the off-site location is a background sample since there are no known nuclear or radiological facilities in operation which could release radioactive effluents to these streams. These samples were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity, Sr-90, and gamma emitters.

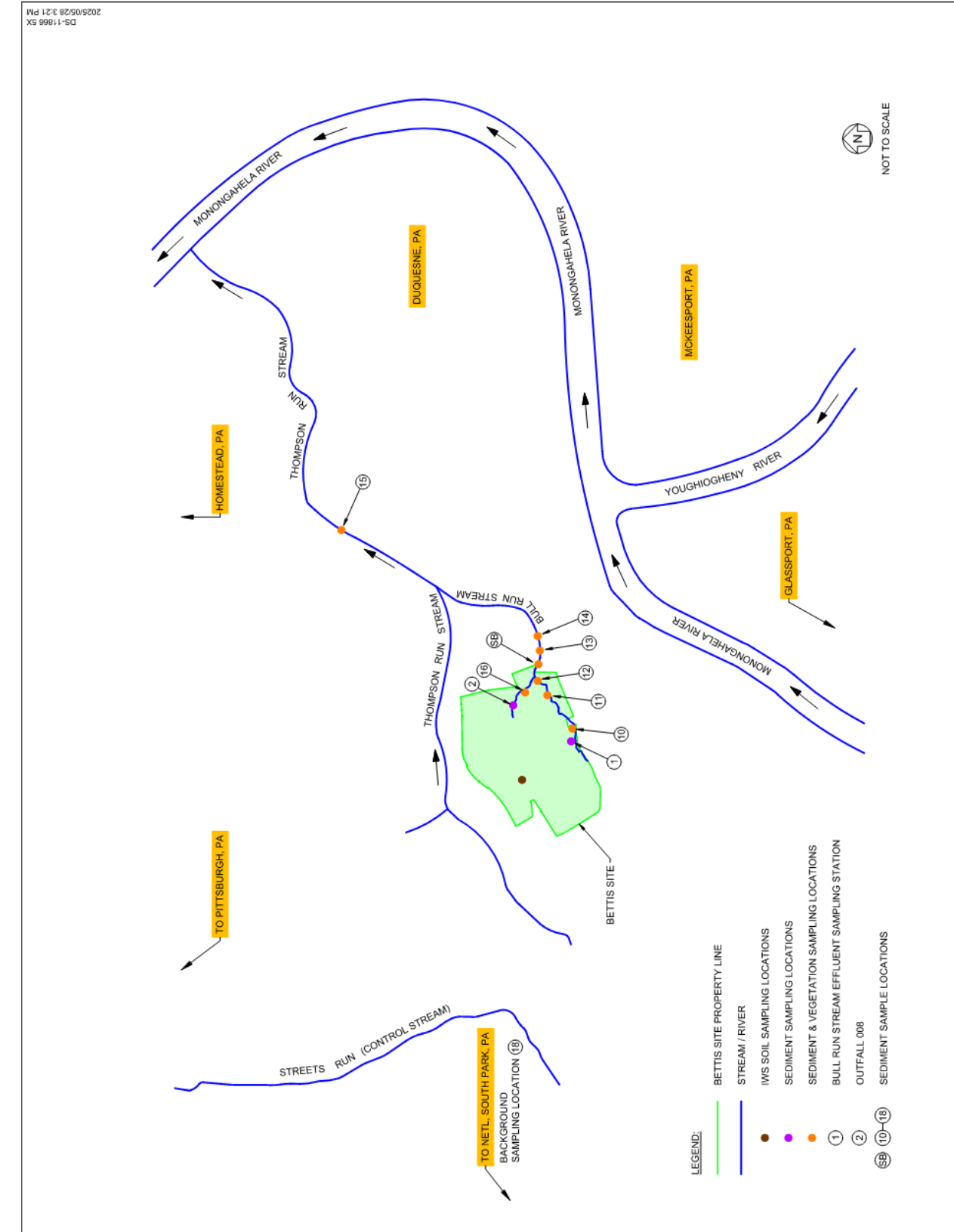
Storm sewer sediment samples were collected for the first half of the year from the stilling basin at the Bull Run Monitoring Station. This sample location is shown in Figure 5. These sediment samples were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity, Sr-90, and gamma emitters. This sampling location was removed from service during the second half of 2025 due to the discontinued use of the original Bull Run Monitoring Station. The original Bull Run Monitoring Station was replaced by a dry extended detention basin in September 2025, which is directly upstream and in close proximity of sampling location BR1.

Historically, soil samples were collected from within and below the drainage ditch at the base of the IWS. Due to the installation of the flow separator in 2010, these historic sample locations are no longer accessible. As such, soil samples are now collected biennially from the runoff area below the IWS hillside. The current soil sampling area below the IWS is shown in Figure 6. Soil samples were collected below the IWS in 2024 and are next due to be collected in 2026.

Vegetation samples were collected from select locations in and along the Site's effluent streams. The vegetation samples were analyzed for Sr-90 radioactivity and gamma emitters.

**Nonradiological:** Sediment samples were collected from the stilling basin at the Bull Run Monitoring Station as shown in Figure 3. These sediment samples were analyzed for VOCs.

Sediment samples were collected from two locations (BR1 and BR5) in the Bull Run Stream as shown in Figure 5. These samples were analyzed for VOCs.



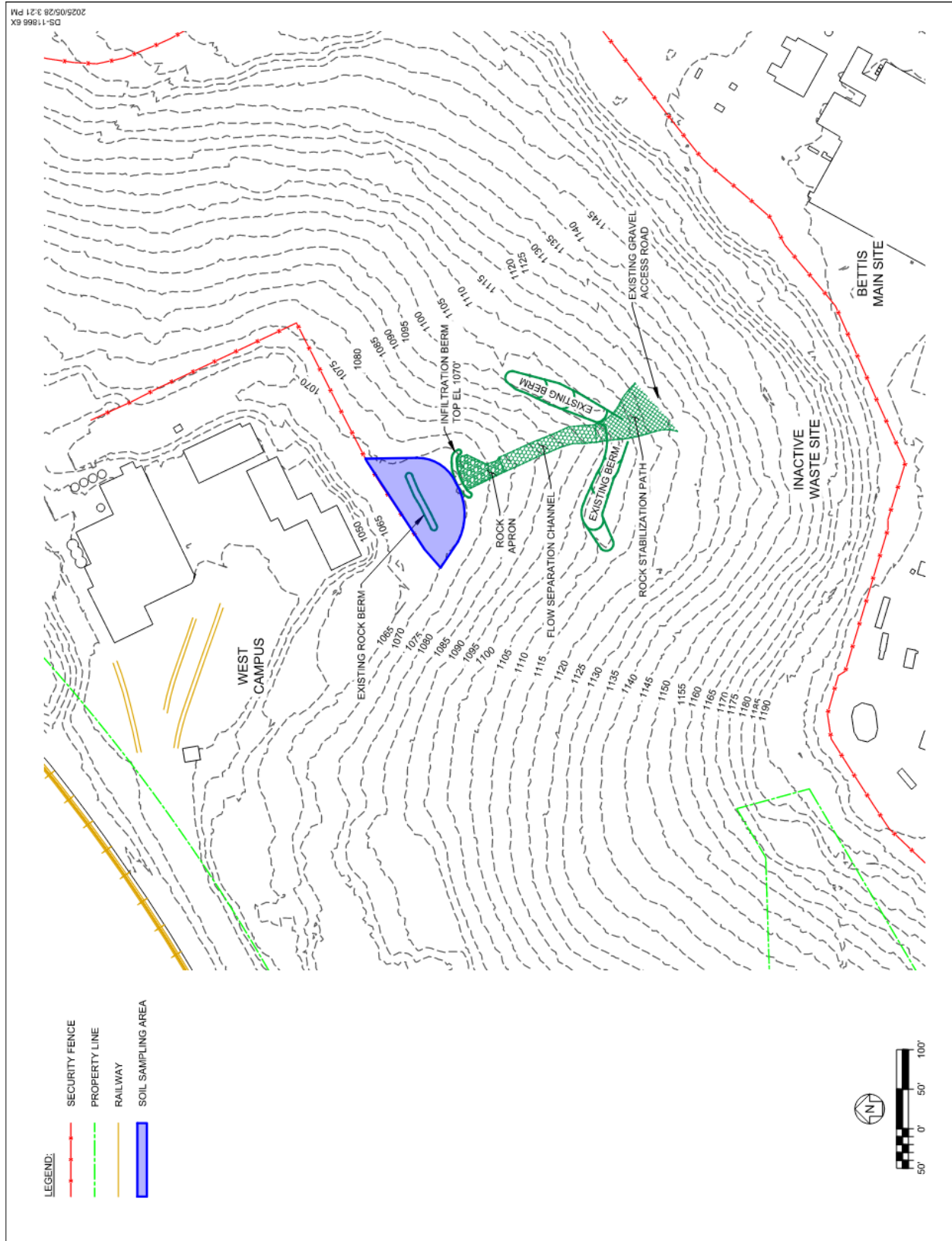


FIGURE 6: SOIL SAMPLE LOCATIONS BELOW THE INACTIVE WASTE SITE

## **Sediment, Soil, and Vegetation Analyses**

**Radiological:** Sediment samples were oven dried, milled, homogenized, and screened to remove large stones and extraneous materials. Vegetation samples were air dried, chipped, and blended. Aliquots of the homogenized sediment samples were uniformly distributed on a planchet and the gross alpha and beta radioactivities were measured by counting using a lead shielded, gas-flow proportional counter. Gamma analyses were performed on the sediment and vegetation by counting with a gamma spectrometry system. Typical DLCs for the gamma analyses were 0.1 pCi/g for sediment and 0.03 pCi/g for vegetation.

Sr-90 analyses of the sediment and vegetation samples were performed utilizing a standard strontium radiochemical procedure. The strontium was chemically separated, and the sample was analyzed for beta radioactivity using the proportional counter described above. Typical DLCs for Sr-90 ranged from 0.1 to 0.3 pCi/g.

**Nonradiological:** Analysis of sediments and soils were performed using test methods described in Reference (5).

## **Sediment, Soil, and Vegetation Monitoring Results and Conclusions**

**Radiological:** The results of the radioactivity analyses of sediment, soil, and vegetation for 2025 are summarized in Tables 14, 15, and 16 as discussed below.

The alpha and beta radioactivity levels in the Bull Run Stream, Thompson Run Stream and the Northeast Area Stream sediment samples were consistent with the gross alpha and beta radioactivity levels in the background (off-site control location) stream sediment.

Low levels of Cs-137 radioactivity, up to a maximum concentration of 1.11 pCi/g, were detected in the sediment samples from the Bull Run and Thompson Run Streams. These radioactivity concentrations are less than those found naturally occurring in loose leaf spinach and are consistent with levels of Cs-137 found in the environment due to fallout and with previous results attributed to historic Bettis operations during the 1950s and 1960s. The radioactivity levels for Sr-90 and Co-60 in the sediment from the Bull Run, Thompson Run and the Northeast Area Streams were below DLCs and were consistent with background radioactivity levels. The radioactivity levels for uranium in these sediment samples were consistent with natural levels of uranium in the soil in this area.

Cs-137 was detected in two Bull Run Monitoring Station sediment samples at concentrations up to 0.0625 pCi/g. This result is consistent with previous results and is attributed to either fallout or historic Bettis operations during the 1950s and 1960s. The radioactivity levels for uranium in the storm water outfall monitoring station sediment were consistent with natural levels of uranium in the soil in this area.

The radioactivity levels in vegetation collected in the Site's effluent streams and the Thompson Run Stream were consistent with natural levels of radioactivity in vegetation and are summarized in Table 15.

In summary, the data did not indicate any uptake of residual radioactivity in stream vegetation, nor were there any significant changes in the residual radioactivity levels in stream sediments. These results are consistent with previously reported values in prior annual reports.

IWS sediment samples were not taken in 2025 and are due to be taken in 2026.

**TABLE 14**  
**STORM SEWER AND STREAM SEDIMENT RADIOACTIVITY RESULTS**  
Units: pCi/g

| Sample Location                         | Radionuclides <sup>(1)</sup>     |                                  |                          |                                   |                                       |                                         |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                         | Gross Alpha                      | Gross Beta                       | Sr-90                    | Co-60                             | Cs-137                                | U-235 <sup>(2)</sup>                    | U-238 <sup>(2)</sup>               |
| <b>Stream Sediment</b>                  |                                  |                                  |                          |                                   |                                       |                                         |                                    |
| Bull Run/<br>Thompson<br>Run<br>Streams | < 4.00<br>to<br>16.3 ± 9.07      | 14.7 ± 4.53<br>to<br>23.4 ± 4.84 | < 0.300<br>to<br>< 0.323 | < 0.0165<br>to<br>0.0476 ± 0.0244 | 0.160 ± 0.0578<br>to<br>1.11 ± 0.0906 | 0.0950 ± 0.0409<br>to<br>0.202 ± 0.0777 | 1.25 ± 0.522<br>to<br>3.46 ± 0.468 |
| Northeast<br>Area<br>Stream             | < 3.49<br>to<br>6.68 ± 6.58      | 15.0 ± 3.11<br>to<br>25.7 ± 3.82 | < 0.353                  | < 0.0308<br>to<br>< 0.0368        | < 0.0327<br>to<br>< 0.0402            | 0.160 ± 0.0515<br>to<br>0.178 ± 0.0467  | 2.95 ± 0.293<br>to<br>3.07 ± 0.280 |
| BKG <sup>(3)</sup>                      | 12.5 ± 8.34<br>to<br>15.5 ± 9.19 | 19.1 ± 4.46<br>to<br>26.0 ± 4.82 | < 0.365                  | < 0.0258<br>to<br>< 0.0321        | < 0.0256<br>to<br>< 0.0383            | 0.193 ± 0.0802<br>to<br>< 0.213         | 2.33 ± 0.350<br>to<br>3.09 ± 0.611 |
| <b>Storm Sewer Sediment</b>             |                                  |                                  |                          |                                   |                                       |                                         |                                    |
| Bull Run<br>Monitoring<br>Station       | < 3.98<br>to<br>< 4.34           | 4.85 ± 2.74<br>to<br>6.14 ± 2.58 | < 0.350<br>to<br>< 0.361 | < 0.0268<br>to<br>< 0.0561        | < 0.0314<br>to<br>0.0625 ± 0.0370     | 0.101 ± 0.0402<br>to<br>< 0.429         | < 0.708<br>to<br>1.14 ± 0.189      |

**NOTES:**

- (1) A "<" signifies the result was below the DLC, with the DLC being the reported value.  
(2) Uranium results are from gamma spectrometry.  
(3) BKG – background sample from a control stream at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park, PA.

**TABLE 15**  
**STREAM VEGETATION RADIOACTIVITY RESULTS**  
Units: pCi/g

| Sample Location       | Radionuclides <sup>(1)</sup> |                           |                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|                       | Co-60                        | Cs-137                    | Sr-90                      |
| Bull Run/Thompson Run | <0.0706<br>to<br>< 0.162     | < 0.0623<br>to<br>< 0.139 | < 0.0203<br>to<br>< 0.0564 |
| BKG <sup>(2)</sup>    | < 0.0923                     | < 0.0954                  | < 0.0427                   |

**NOTES:**

- (1) A "<" signifies the result was below the DLC, with the DLC being the reported value.  
(2) BKG = background sample from National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park, PA.

**TABLE 16**  
**INACTIVE WASTE SITE RUNOFF AREA**  
**SOIL RADIOACTIVITY RESULTS**  
Units: pCi/g

| Sample Location                                                                     | Radionuclides <sup>(3)</sup> |            |       |        |                             |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
|                                                                                     | Gross Alpha                  | Gross Beta | Sr-90 | Cs-137 | U-233/234 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> | U-235 | U-238 |
| IWS sediment samples were not taken in 2025. They are next due to be taken in 2026. |                              |            |       |        |                             |       |       |

**NOTES:**

- (1) Uranium values reported from alpha spectroscopy.  
(2) The analytical method cannot distinguish between uranium-233 and uranium-234. The results are attributed to uranium-234 based on the source of the radioactivity.  
(3) A "<" signifies the result was below the DLC, with the DLC being the reported value.

**Nonradiological:** The results of the nonradiological sediment samples collected and analyzed in 2025 as part of Bettis' routine environmental monitoring program are summarized in Table 17 and discussed below.

The results of sediment sampling for chemical residues in the Site's storm sewer system via the Bull Run Monitoring Station, and in the Bull Run Stream are shown in Table 17. The sample locations are shown in Figure 5. The results show that PCE, the primary VOC of concern, was not detected at a measurable level in the monitoring station sediment. With exception to PCE in BR1, the channel samples did not detect PCE, TCE or DCE above their respective reporting limits. PCE at BR1 was detected at a concentration of 0.72 mg/kg. The 2025 results are consistent with previous results for these locations, with the exception of PCE at location BR1, which was elevated relative to prior years.

**TABLE 17**  
**STORM SEWER AND STREAM SEDIMENT NONRADIOLOGICAL RESULTS**  
Units: mg/kg

| Sample Location             | VOCs <sup>(1)(2)</sup> |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                             | PCE                    | TCE    | DCE    |        |
|                             |                        |        | cis-   | trans- |
| Storm Sewer                 |                        |        |        |        |
| Bull Run Monitoring Station | < 0.23                 | < 0.23 | < 0.23 | < 0.23 |
| Bull Run Stream             |                        |        |        |        |
| BR1                         | 0.72                   | < 0.26 | < 0.26 | < 0.26 |
| BR5                         | < 0.23                 | < 0.23 | < 0.23 | < 0.23 |

**NOTES:**

- (1) VOC results are presented only for the potential contaminants-of-concern.  
PCE = Tetrachloroethylene; TCE = Trichloroethylene; DCE = 1,2-Dichloroethylene
- (2) Data Qualifiers:  
"<" signifies the compound was not detected above the indicated reporting limit.

## **E. RADIATION MONITORING**

The purpose of the environmental radiation monitoring program is to measure the ambient radiation levels around the Site to confirm that site operations have not altered the natural radiation background levels at or near the site perimeter.

### **Radiation Sources**

The sources of radiation at the Site include small specimens of irradiated and unirradiated fuel materials which were handled, processed, and stored at the Site. There are no nuclear reactors at the Site.

### **Radiation Monitoring**

Environmental radiation levels were monitored in the vicinity of the Site with a network of lithium fluoride TLDs. The approximate locations of the Site TLDs are shown in Figure 7. Control TLDs were posted at locations remote from the Site to measure the natural background radiation levels typical for western Pennsylvania. The control TLDs were located in nearby communities (Murrysville, Whitehall, Green Tree, South Park, Somerset, Level Green, Jefferson Hills, Penn Hills, Franklin Park, and Robinson, PA). All TLDs were posted for quarterly exposure periods.

In addition to the TLD network, which was the primary monitoring method, an annual radiation survey is conducted around the site at the location of the TLDs. The five-year radiation survey of the on-site portion of the Bull Run Stream was performed in 2021 and is next due in 2026. The five-year radiation survey of the on-site portion of the IWS runoff area was performed in 2022 and is next due in 2027.

The 10-year radiation survey and soil sampling was performed in the floodplain area along the Bull Run Stream in West Mifflin Park in 2024 and is next due in 2034.

### **Radiation Analyses**

The environmental TLDs used in this program contain four lithium fluoride dosimeter elements that are doped with magnesium (Mg), copper (Cu) and phosphorous (P); or LiF (MCP). It is a characteristic of LiF (MCP) that radiation causes internal changes that make the material, when subsequently heated, give off an amount of light that is directly proportional to the radiation dose received. To ensure accuracy of the TLD reader results, calibration checks are performed prior to processing of the TLDs, and quality control dosimeters are interspersed with the environmental monitoring dosimeters per approved calibration and dosimetry processing procedures.

Radiation surveys were conducted using a portable  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hour}$  radiation survey meter (Ludlum Measurements, Inc. Model 12S) at approximately three feet above the ground. This meter was calibrated with Cs-137 within six months prior to use and source checked for proper operation immediately before use.

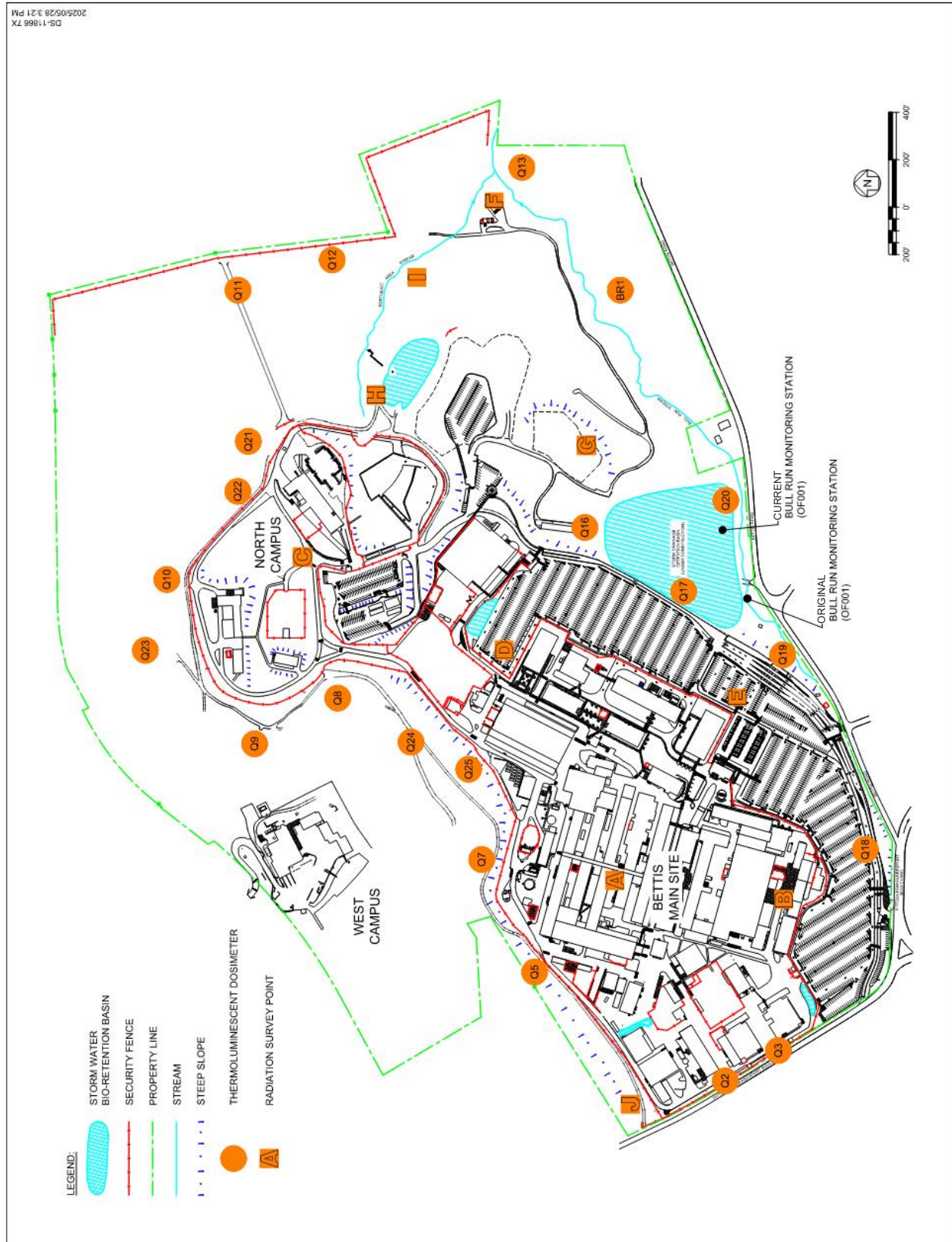


FIGURE 7: RADIATION MONITORING LOCATIONS

## Radiation Monitoring Results and Conclusions

The TLD results in Table 18 summarize the radiation levels measured during each quarter. The annual average (summation of quarterly results) radiation exposure for the on-site TLDs was 70.1 mrem. The annual average radiation exposure at the off-site locations was 74.6 mrem. The quarterly perimeter and off-site results are analyzed to identify any statistically significant difference.

The quarterly analysis demonstrated that the exposure received by an individual located at the site perimeter was not statistically different from background radiation in the surrounding area.

**TABLE 18**

### **THERMOLUMINESCENT DOSIMETER (TLD) ENVIRONMENTAL RADIATION RESULTS**

| Quarterly Exposure Period | On-Site Results |              |                | Off-Site Background Results |              |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                           | Number of Meas. | Range (mrem) | Average (mrem) | Number of Meas.             | Range (mrem) | Average (mrem) |
| First                     | 21              | 14 - 22      | 17.8           | 9                           | 16 - 23      | 18.6           |
| Second                    | 21              | 13 - 22      | 17.3           | 7                           | 16 - 24      | 18.7           |
| Third                     | 21              | 14 - 21      | 17.0           | 7                           | 15 - 22      | 17.9           |
| Fourth                    | 21              | 14 - 22      | 18.0           | 8                           | 17 - 24      | 19.4           |

The average annual radiation dose measured by perimeter TLDs was 70.05 mrem, with a calculated average dose rate of 7.99  $\mu$ R/hour based on these measurements.

The 2025 radiation monitoring results were consistent with the range of natural radiation levels of 82 to 104 mrem/year observed in an U.S. Public Health Service survey of the northwest and southwest areas of Pennsylvania, Reference (11).

Also, the radiation monitoring results were consistent with the range of natural radiation levels of 79 to 105 mrem/year determined by an aerial radiation survey, Reference (10), which encompassed a 100 square-mile area around the Site. Therefore, it was concluded that the radiation exposure to the general public at the site perimeter was not above the exposure received from natural background radiation. The data (direct radiation measurements, airborne measurements, and effluent water measurements) show that current site operations do not cause any measurable change in the natural radiation environment surrounding the Site.

In 2021, the routine radiation survey of the on-site portion of the Bull Run Stream was performed. This survey is conducted at five-year intervals and was previously performed in 2016. The results of this survey showed radiation dose rates in the streambed and adjacent floodplain areas averaged approximately 0.012 mrem/hour, which is consistent with natural background radiation levels. The next iteration of this survey is scheduled for 2026.

In 2022, a radiation survey of the runoff area in the IWS was performed. This survey is conducted at five-year intervals and was last performed in 2017. The results of the 2022 survey ranged from 0.010 to 0.012 mrem/hour and demonstrate that radiation levels in this area are consistent with background levels. The next radiation survey of this area is scheduled for the year 2027.

### **Bull Run Stream/West Mifflin Park Survey**

In April 2024, Bettis performed a 10-year environmental radiation survey of a small portion of the Bull Run Stream basin in the West Mifflin Community Park. The survey area had been previously surveyed in 1993, 2004 and 2014 by representatives of Bettis. The PA DEP participated in the 1993, 2014, and 2024 surveys.

The results of the 2024 survey demonstrated that the radiation levels and soil radioactivity concentrations do not present a health hazard to the public. The next Bull Run Stream survey is scheduled for 2034.

## **F. INACTIVE COKE GAS LINES**

Large diameter underground inactive coke gas lines are widespread throughout the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. The contents of the inactive coke gas lines under the Bettis Site are monitored to detect changes in the volume of residual materials and to monitor the integrity of the lines.

### **Sources**

There are two, abandoned, underground, 40-inch diameter coke gas transmission lines that transect the site. The lines contain coke gas residues (typically sludge from condensed coke gas) and water in some locations. The known and potential locations of the lines and monitoring ports are shown in Figure 8. The lines were used to transmit coke gas from a nearby coke production facility to various steel production facilities in the Pittsburgh area and are unrelated to activities at the Site. The sections of these pipelines that traverse the Site are only small portions of the entire length of the abandoned coke gas lines in Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities. Reference (1) contains detailed information on the lines and contents.

Sections of both lines have been removed at various times to permit building construction on-site. One section was removed in 2000 as a corrective measure (refer to the “Corrective Measures Implementation” section of this report). The sludge and water that accumulated immediately behind the cap at SP-1 was removed in 2004, and the decades-old cap near SP-1 was replaced to ensure its integrity. A section of coke gas line at SP-3 was removed in 2006 for construction in that area. SP-3A and SP-3B ports were installed in the remaining coke gas line sections.

### **Monitoring Results and Conclusions**

The amount of residual materials (sludge and water) is measured annually at the locations shown in Figure 8. For 2025, the amount of residual materials at these locations was consistent with previous measurements. Bettis modified the SP-S/R monitoring location in 2023 to minimize storm water infiltration, pumped out the water within SP-S/R in 2024, and increased the monitoring frequency at this location, including monitoring frequency adjustments to account for changes observed.

In summary, the 2025 and previous monitoring results show that two of the five monitored sections appear to be intact. Communication of the coke gas residues with the environment appears to be minor, as evidenced by the absence of noticeable contaminants in the soil during excavations at these locations. Changes in the water levels are typically small and infrequent and support this conclusion. Monitoring of the lines will continue, and actions will be taken to mitigate the possible release of residues to the environment, if necessary, even though these lines are not associated with the Bettis Laboratory.

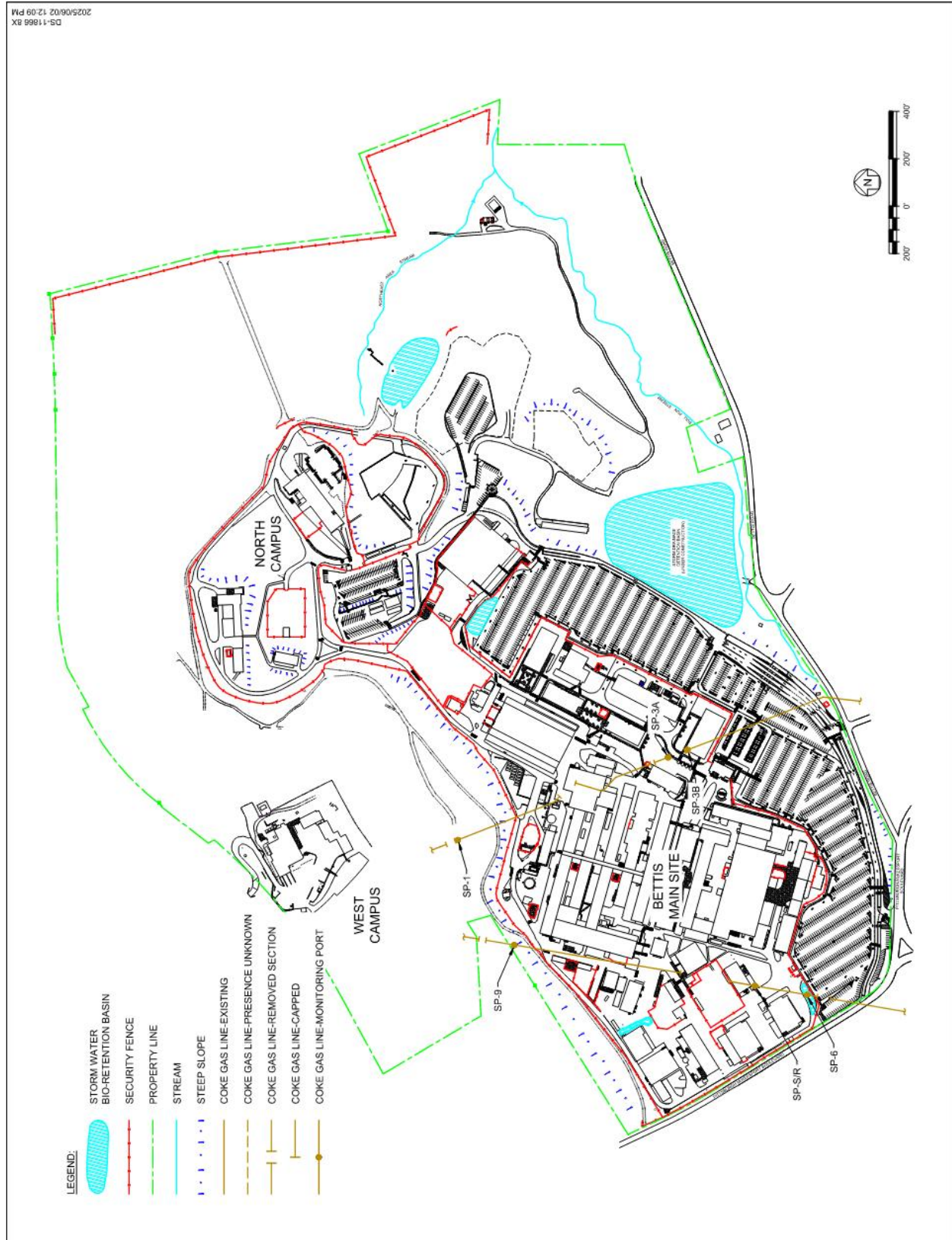


FIGURE 8: LOCATIONS OF COKE GAS LINES AND MONITORING PORTS

## ASSESSMENT OF RISK FROM CHEMICAL RESIDUES

A risk assessment was prepared as part of the Site's RFI. This assessment was prepared using the Superfund-related methodology outlined in Reference (12). The detailed assessment, presented in Reference (1), is summarized below.

The objective of the assessment was to determine the reasonable maximum exposure of on-site and off-site populations to environmental contamination at the Site. The media containing chemical residues are soil, groundwater, surface water (springs and streams), and sediment. Residues whose concentrations exceeded the U.S. EPA Region 3's risk-based screening levels were selected as potential contaminants-of-concern. The residues evaluated were largely VOCs, PCBs, and PAHs.

Risks were evaluated for realistic industrial land-use scenarios, now and in the future. EPA exposure parameters were used for off-site commercial/industrial workers who could be potentially exposed to contaminated soil below the IWS. Site-specific exposure parameters were used for pathways where standard EPA values were not available or were not appropriate. All exposure pathways judged to be complete now and in the future were quantified. Groundwater exposure was not quantified because Bettis and off-site populations that are hydrologically downgrade from the Site receive municipal water and this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

The risk assessment quantified carcinogenic risk and non-carcinogenic hazard for four potentially exposed populations:

- On-site construction workers exposed to chemical residues in soil;
- Off-site commercial/industrial workers exposed to chemical residues in soil;
- Trespassing children exposed to chemical residues in water and sediment in springs and streams; and
- Off-site children exposed to chemical residues in water in a spring and sediment in a stream.

Based on EPA criteria, the calculated carcinogenic risk and non-carcinogenic hazard values were compared with the values of 0.000001 ( $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and 1.0, respectively, which represent acceptable risk levels.

For on-site construction workers engaged in excavation activities, carcinogenic risks were quantified for all on-site locations where potential contaminants-of-concern were present. The non-carcinogenic hazard could be calculated only for two sites, and the values were several orders of magnitude below the comparison criterion of 1.0. The estimated carcinogenic risks did not exceed the comparison criterion of  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  at any location, with the highest being  $5.4 \times 10^{-7}$  for soil in the IWS (Figure 6).

The estimated carcinogenic risk to commercial workers from exposure to PCBs and PAH compounds in surface soil in the main drainage ditch below the IWS (Figure 6) was about  $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ . This risk estimate used highly conservative assumptions in calculating intake (i.e., exposure for 250 days/year for 25 years) and the actual risk was considered to be much lower. In October 2010, installation of a flow separator in the ditch covered the affected soil with gravel and additional soil, thus precluding access and exposure to the contaminants-of-concern. Under current conditions, the actual carcinogenic risk would be much lower than the comparison criterion of  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ .

Exposure to surface water and sediment in the on-site and off-site streams and springs was quantified for children, the only group that might have more than occasional contact with these media. The highest estimated risk was  $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$  for exposure to Thompson Run Stream sediment, which is below the comparison criterion of  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ . Non-carcinogenic hazards were several orders of magnitude below the comparison criterion of 1.0.

In summary, chemical residues in the environment at the Site do not pose significant health risks to potentially exposed populations using reasonable maximum exposure assumptions. The only study area with a carcinogenic risk estimate exceeding the comparison criterion was the drainage ditch area below the IWS, with a maximum carcinogenic risk of about  $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ . However, exposure (skin contact, ingestion, and inhalation) for 250 days/year for 25 years required to achieve this risk is no longer possible due to the installation of the flow separator and the potential risk to workers is far less than  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ . Non-carcinogenic risks were all significantly less than the comparison criterion of 1.0.

The 2025 results of analyses for chemical residues in the environment support the conclusions of the risk assessment.

## CORRECTIVE MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION

After approving the *Final RFI*, Reference (1), the U.S. EPA approved the *Final CMS Report*, Reference (13). The purpose of the study was to evaluate and recommend, where needed, corrective measures that would protect human health and the environment. The need for corrective measures was judged primarily from a risk assessment of the carcinogenic risks and non-carcinogenic hazards potentially posed by the chemical contaminants-of-concern at the Site. The most prevalent residue is PCE, a common degreasing chemical that is the same solvent used to dry-clean clothing. The risk assessment, discussed in the previous section, demonstrated that the chemical residues in the environment at the Site do not realistically present a significant carcinogenic risk or non-carcinogenic hazard to human health. Therefore, extensive corrective measures are not necessary to protect human health now or in the foreseeable future.

The *Final CMS Report* proposed corrective measures to ensure that risks to human health remain low and to further reduce the chemical residues in the environment. In 1997, the EPA issued its final recommendations for corrective measures. Bettis proactively implemented and completed the majority of the recommended corrective measures to the EPA's satisfaction prior to implementation of a CMIO in April 2001. These activities included the construction and operation of a SIS to collect and treat groundwater that discharges to a local stream; this system is operated under a Consent Order with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Other activities included removal of contaminated sediment and/or liquid from portions of the Site's stormwater sewer system and from underground coke gas lines (remaining from historical non-Bettis usage), removal of a localized area of contaminated soil, and removal of a breached section of an abandoned coke gas line. Institutional controls are in place to ensure personnel safety and health for activities that could involve contact with environmental media containing chemical residues. Monitoring programs for groundwater, surface water and sediment, storm sewers, and the coke gas lines are also in place to ensure the conclusions of the *RFI Report* remain valid.

The CMIO provides a standard EPA protocol for implementation of the remaining EPA corrective measures: soil vapor extraction of the Bettis Landfill, a pre-design groundwater study on the hillside below the IWS, and continuation of routine environmental monitoring.

ESVE is a process that physically removes volatile contaminants from soils by inducing airflow through the soil. The air is then passed through activated carbon filter units to capture the volatile contaminants prior to discharge to the atmosphere. The purpose of the vapor extraction corrective measure is to reduce a potential source of groundwater contamination. Construction of the vapor extraction system was completed, and the system was placed in operation in 2004. On April 6, 2011, the ESVE system was shut down after reaching ALARA criteria established for the system. Soil attainment and delineation sampling was conducted in 2011 to obtain EPA corrective measures completion approval in accordance with the CMIO. Based on the results of the soil attainment and delineation sampling, in March 2012, both the EPA and PA DEP agreed that the ESVE system can be permanently terminated, and the system can be removed. System removal activities were completed in September 2012. During the course of ESVE operation, approximately 5,500 pounds of VOCs were removed from the Landfill area. A Certification of Completion Report for the remediation of VOCs in soil at the Bettis Landfill was subsequently submitted to and approved by the EPA. The EPA has concluded that the corrective measures from the 2001 CMIO have been fully implemented and media standards have been met. The purpose of the groundwater study on the hillside below the IWS was to determine the sources and quantities of groundwater that occasionally are released to the surface as seepage and to determine if a subsurface drainage system is a necessary or appropriate remedy for this area. The study was completed

in 2003 and the study results issued to the EPA. The study concluded that seepage originates from two separate water-bearing zones and typically reabsorbs back into the ground on what is now U. S. DOE property. Bettis Laboratory recommended installation of a flow separator in the wet-weather ditch to preclude the mixing of seepage containing trace levels of site residues with surface water that could potentially carry the seepage off-site. The EPA subsequently determined and documented in a supplemental Statement of Basis that, based on additional investigations, groundwater impacted by the IWS does not present an unacceptable risk and that further action is limited to monitoring the West Campus (previously referred to as Matheson Valley or Valley National Gases) property annually to confirm the absence or presence of water supply wells or plans to install such wells. Any use or planned use of groundwater will be reported to the EPA. To be further protective of the environment, Bettis developed plans and, in 2010, constructed the flow separator after obtaining PA DEP concurrence that this action is an acceptable measure to preclude the off-site migration of groundwater seepage and sediment. Further, sampling of water and sediments in runoff associated with the ditch have been discontinued following installation of the flow separator as agreed by the EPA.

On September 11, 2013, the EPA terminated the 2001 CMIO. The remaining continual obligations of the CMIO are implemented under the CAP issued by the EPA on August 21, 2013. Routine environmental monitoring is ongoing under the requirements of the CAP, and the results are reported on an annual basis to the EPA.

## **RADIATION DOSE ASSESSMENT**

Effluent monitoring results at the Site during 2025 demonstrated that radioactivity releases were below applicable Federal radioactivity limits. Radiation exposure to the general public from airborne releases was too low to measure and could only be determined with calculational models using the airborne effluent radioactivity data. Airborne effluent radioactivity data which were below the DLCs were assumed to be present at the DLC. Therefore, a conservative assessment of the radiation dose was performed by analyzing the exposure pathways whereby radioactivity might be transmitted from the Site to the general public. The following potential exposure pathways were considered in this assessment. The first two pathways contribute more than 99% of the dose.

- Direct radiation from residual radioactivity in the Bull Run Stream basin;
- Inhalation of airborne radioactivity;
- Exposure to ground deposits from airborne radioactivity;
- Immersion in the atmosphere containing the released airborne radioactivity;
- Ingestion of food contaminated by deposition of airborne radioactivity;
- Ingestion of radioactivity in the drinking water supply; and
- Direct radiation from Site operations.

Specific radionuclide composition of the airborne releases was factored into the assessment. The effective dose equivalent for each exposure pathway was explicitly calculated for each radionuclide and applicable progeny. The air pathway calculations used wind direction data and meteorological parameters that were measured by the Site's meteorological monitoring system for 2025. The Site's meteorological monitoring system measures wind speed, gusts, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, and inches of rain. The measurements are integrated over 15-minute intervals. The system is part of the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) network developed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to model the atmospheric release of radioactive materials. The population distribution in the vicinity of the Site was based on census data from 2020. The atmospheric dispersion of the Site's radioactive airborne releases and resulting effective dose equivalent were calculated using an U.S. EPA-approved computer program described in Reference (14). The radiation dose assessment attributed to Site operations during 2025 is presented in Table 19. Radiation doses were calculated for the whole body of individuals at locations of maximum exposure to the nearest off-site receptor and for the total population within 50 miles of the Site.

The results in Table 19 show that the maximum whole body radiation exposure which any member of the public could hypothetically receive due to past and present operations ranged from 0.0574 to 1.06 mrem. Nearly all of this very low potential effective dose equivalent would be from gaseous radioactivity and from exposure to the Bull Run soil and sediments that contain residual radioactivity from operations during the 1950s and 1960s. Based on a conservative estimate that an individual would spend as much as one hour per day, every day of the year, walking along the Bull Run stream bank in the areas with radiation levels above background, the annual hypothetical dose received would be less than 1.0 mrem. This dose reflects the results of the radiation survey conducted in 2021.

**TABLE 19**  
**ANNUAL RADIATION DOSE FROM SITE OPERATIONS**

| Pathway        | Dose to Maximally Exposed Individual |           | % of DOE Limit<br>(100 mrem/yr) | Estimated Population Dose |             | Population within 80 km<br>(50 miles) | Estimated Background Radiation Population Dose<br>(person-rem) |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | (mrem)                               | (mSv)     |                                 | (person-rem)              | (person-Sv) |                                       |                                                                |
| Air            | 0.0574                               | 5.74E-04  | 0.0574 %                        | 1.23                      | 1.23E-02    | 3.0E+06                               | 9.0E+05                                                        |
| Water          | None                                 |           | -                               | None                      |             |                                       |                                                                |
| Other Pathways | <1.00                                | <1.00E-02 | <1.00 %                         | 8.74E-03                  | 8.74E-05    |                                       |                                                                |
| All Pathways   | <1.06                                | <1.06E-02 | <1.06 %                         | 1.24                      | 1.24E-02    |                                       |                                                                |

**NOTES:**

(1) The EPA limit specific to DOE facility radionuclide air emissions is 10 mrem/year.

This maximum potential effective dose equivalent is well below the most restrictive dose limits of the NRC and the U.S. DOE. The maximum potential effective dose equivalent is less than 1% of the approximately 311 mrem dose a person receives each year from naturally occurring radiation in the environment, Reference (15). Therefore, the radioactivity and the resultant radiation from Bull Run Stream sediment do not present a hazard to the public. The dose resulting from the low levels of radioactivity in the Site's airborne effluents is significantly less than the limits of the EPA in Reference (8).

In conclusion, the maximum radiation exposure to any member of the public as a result of operations at the Bettis Site during 2025 was substantially below the radiation exposure limits established by the DOE, the NRC, and the EPA. Moreover, the accumulated radiation exposure received due to Site operations during 2025 by the total population of approximately 3,000,000 within 50 miles of the Site was conservatively estimated to be 1.24 person-rem, which is negligible compared to the approximately 900,000 person-rem dose received from natural background radiation. Therefore, the radioactivity released from the Site, as a result of past and present operations, has not resulted in any significant radiation exposure to the general public.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Bettis Quality Assurance Program (QAP) is conducted to ensure the accuracy and precision of effluent and environmental sampling, analysis, and reporting.

The program consists of the following elements:

### Internal Quality Assurance Procedures

- Personnel training and qualification
- Written procedures for sampling, sample analysis, and computational methods
- Supervisors oversee work
- Engineering and environmental staff are available to assist area personnel
- Radiological, environmental, and safety audits are routinely conducted at the Bettis Laboratory by NNL site personnel from other DOE sites
- The NNPP maintains an on-site resident office that report directly to the Director, NNPP in Washington, D.C. with personnel assigned full time to audit and review environmental controls. NNPP headquarters also periodically inspects these areas in depth
- Calibration of sampling and sample analysis equipment
- Internal quality assurance sample analyses
- Data review/validation and computation check

The internal quality assurance procedures start with the training of all personnel involved in the collection and analysis of samples, in accordance with established internal policies. Personnel are not permitted to perform sampling and sample analysis until they are trained and have demonstrated the ability to properly perform their duties. Written procedures cover collection and analysis of samples, the computation of results, and the calibration of sampling and analytical equipment. Internal quality assurance procedures also provide for a system of duplicate (or replicate) analyses of the same sample, blank samples, and the analyses of spiked samples to demonstrate precision and accuracy. All measurement data are assessed to detect anomalies, unusual results, and trends.

### Participation in a Quality Assessment Program Administered by a Commercial Laboratory

Bettis participates in a QAP administered by a commercial laboratory, Environmental Resource Associates (ERA). The QAP provides an independent verification of the accuracy and precision of analyses of effluent and environmental monitoring samples. The results in the ERA QAP are summarized in Table 20. The data demonstrates satisfactory performance.

## **Subcontractor Quality Assurance Procedures**

Vendor subcontractor laboratories perform nonradioactive effluent and environmental sample analyses. Bettis maintains a QAP to ensure the accuracy and precision of the subcontractor analytical results. This includes submitting trip blanks or field blanks and replicate samples along with routine samples for analysis. If unsatisfactory results are obtained, follow-up investigations are performed to correct the problems.

## **Other Controls**

Aspects of the Bettis Laboratory environmental program are reviewed by other Government agencies. For example, both the PA DEP and the EPA have conducted inspections and assessments of RCRA programs. None of these EPA, State, or local inspections has ever detected a significant item of noncompliance in operations; minor shortcomings, if any, have been noted and have been corrected.

## **Program Audits**

Periodic audits are conducted that examine the effluent and environmental monitoring programs to ensure compliance with all procedures and applicable federal and state regulations.

**TABLE 20**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ASSOCIATES (ERA)**  
**RADIOANALYTICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE RESULTS**

| Study Dates                    | Media      | Radionuclide  | Reported Value <sup>(1)(2)</sup> | Assigned Value <sup>(1)</sup> | Acceptance Limits <sup>(3)</sup> |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MRAD-42<br>03/17/25 – 05/16/25 | Water      | Gross Alpha   | 64                               | 77.3                          | 28.2 – 107                       |
|                                |            | Gross Beta    | 107                              | 99.4                          | 49.7 – 137                       |
|                                |            | Cobalt-60     | 249                              | 255                           | 220 – 293                        |
|                                |            | Cesium-134    | 1410                             | 1600                          | 1210 – 1760                      |
|                                |            | Cesium-137    | 1080                             | 1080                          | 925 – 1230                       |
|                                |            | Plutonium-238 | 71                               | 77.2                          | 46.4 – 100                       |
|                                |            | Plutonium-239 | 59                               | 58.4                          | 36.1 – 72.0                      |
|                                |            | Strontium-90  | 630                              | 626                           | 451 – 774                        |
|                                |            | Uranium-234   | 104                              | 98.2                          | 74.8 – 112                       |
|                                |            | Uranium-238   | 107                              | 97.4                          | 75.5 – 115                       |
| MRAD-42<br>03/17/25 – 05/16/25 | Air Filter | Americium-241 | 63.6                             | 67.7                          | 48.3 – 90.3                      |
|                                |            | Cobalt-60     | 262                              | 250                           | 212 – 318                        |
|                                |            | Cesium-134    | 187                              | 232                           | 151 – 284                        |
|                                |            | Cesium-137    | 464                              | 451                           | 370 – 592                        |
| MRAD-42<br>03/17/25 – 05/16/25 | Soil       | Cobalt-60     | 3180                             | 3260                          | 2570 – 4020                      |
|                                |            | Cesium-134    | 5660                             | 6520                          | 4460 – 7790                      |
|                                |            | Cesium-137    | 4150                             | 4420                          | 3340 – 5590                      |
|                                |            | Thorium-232   | 1020                             | 1150                          | 759 – 1450                       |
| MRAD-42<br>03/17/25 – 05/16/25 | Vegetation | Cobalt-60     | 1880                             | 1720                          | 1350 – 2250                      |
|                                |            | Cesium-134    | 1820                             | 1880                          | 1250 – 2500                      |
|                                |            | Cesium-137    | 645                              | 572                           | 440 – 770                        |
| MRAD-43<br>09/22/25 – 11/21/25 | Air Filter | Americium-241 | 38                               | 39.8                          | 28.4 – 53.1                      |
|                                |            | Cobalt-60     | 339                              | 322                           | 274 – 409                        |
|                                |            | Cesium-134    | 277                              | 341                           | 221 – 418                        |
|                                |            | Cesium-137    | 397                              | 379                           | 311 – 497                        |

**NOTES:**

(1) Units are pCi/liter for water, pCi/kilogram for soil and vegetation samples, and pCi/filter for air filter samples.

(2) The reported value is the result of multiple analyses determinations.

(3) The range of acceptance limits is determined by ERA.

## HISTORICAL OPERATIONS

### Decontamination And Decommissioning Programs for Radioactivity

In September 1977, a long-term program was initiated by Bettis Laboratory to decontaminate and reduce the number of facilities and areas requiring radiological controls and to provide efficient use of the space. The Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) program tracks the amount of radiological, nonradiological, and mixed waste shipped; the total curies shipped; and total building area eliminated from radiological controls.

Small quantities of soil containing residual radioactivity are removed in conjunction with decontamination, construction, and renovation activities.

The areas with residual soil radioactivity are monitored to ensure that there is no potential for significant radiation exposure to workers or the public. Removal of soil with low concentrations of residual radioactivity is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

During 1991, the PA DEP completed a review of radiological environmental data for the site. The PA DEP concluded that the levels of residual radioactivity on and immediately adjacent to the site were far below NRC action levels and that no additional regulatory action was required. The Bettis Laboratory takes actions to release the footprint of facilities for unrestricted use in accordance with all applicable requirements as the facilities are decommissioned and removed.

### Remedial Programs for Chemical Residues

**Voluntary Chemical Remedial Programs.** Bettis Laboratory has actively addressed areas shown or suspected to contain chemical residues. Some examples of major voluntary efforts include the following: In the mid-1980s, Bettis Laboratory removed ten underground waste oil storage tanks; leaking gasoline storage tanks have been removed and replaced with a new tank with automated leak detection systems; an old airport fuel tank and a site underground fuel oil tank for an emergency generator have been removed; soil in the immediate vicinity of the tanks that contained chemical residues due to small spills or overfilling was removed and properly disposed of; approximately 200 tons of soil that contained lead from a closed outdoor firing range was removed and disposed of at an offsite licensed landfill; polyethylene beads, containing a small amount of lead, and entrained soil have been removed from an outdoor area on-site and disposed of.

Other source control activities implemented include removal of chemically contaminated sediment and/or liquid from portions of the site storm drain system; removal of liquids from underground coke gas lines; removal of a localized area of chemically contaminated soil; and removal of a breached section of an abandoned coke gas line. Institutional controls are in place to ensure personnel safety and health for activities that could involve contact with environmental media containing chemical residues. Monitoring programs for groundwater, surface water and sediment, storm drains, and the coke gas lines are in place to confirm that the conclusions of the Final RFI Report remain accurate. In March 2001, EPA formally approved the corrective measures identified above that had been implemented at Bettis.

During negotiation of the 1990 Consent Order, the PA DEP issued Bettis Laboratory a Notice of Violation concerning the presence of residual chemicals in the groundwater at the Bettis Laboratory due to past practices. One of the voluntary corrective measures implemented on-site was the installation of the SIS. During 1999, a Consent Order and Agreement for operation of the SIS was established with the PA DEP; this order closed the Notice of Violation. In addition, the EPA formally approved, in March 2001, the installation and operation of the SIS. Construction of a replacement SIS commenced in 2016, and it was fully operational in October 2017.

In 2019, Bettis initiated a pilot project for the voluntary bioremediation of VOCs in an area of groundwater near Well 65. Subsequent sampling has provided evidence of active dechlorination of VOCs in this area.

Although not required by law, Bettis has been actively removing friable asbestos containing materials from the Laboratory. In June 1991, a planned program to remove friable asbestos containing materials was initiated. This program resulted in the removal of approximately 66,000 linear feet and 31,000 square feet of friable asbestos containing material. Approximately 6,700 linear feet of radiologically contaminated asbestos remain and will be removed during future facility D&D or renovation activities.

Non-friable asbestos-containing building materials such as floor tiles and roofing materials are removed during normal operations and maintenance work or as part of construction and prior to demolition activities. Although not required by law, Bettis Laboratory has stopped using asbestos-containing building materials.

**Corrective Measures Implementation Order (CMIO).** In 2000 efforts were initiated with the EPA to negotiate a CMIO. The CMIO became effective in April 2001. The corrective measures selected by the EPA in the CMIO included in-situ soil vapor extraction at the Bettis Landfill, collection and treatment of specified springs and seeps, collection and treatment of groundwater seepage below the IWS, monitoring, institutional controls, and several focused removals of on-site contamination.

The purpose of the vapor extraction corrective measure is to reduce the VOC levels in the soils and reduce a potential source of groundwater contamination to ALARA.

Construction of the system was interrupted in 2002 by the discovery of groundwater in many of the soil vapor extraction wells. Groundwater pumping tests and additional field investigations were conducted in order to redesign the system to lower groundwater levels and improve the efficiency of soil vapor extraction. The redesigned ESVE system began operation in September 2004, treating both groundwater and soil vapor removed from the Landfill.

In April 2011, the ESVE system was shut down after reaching the ALARA criteria established for the system. In March 2012, both the EPA and the PA DEP confirmed that the system could be removed. System removal activities were completed in September 2012. These activities included carbon removal, equipment removal, well abandonment, and site restoration.

A Corrective Measures Completion Report was submitted to the EPA in January 2013 and approved by the EPA in February 2013. Soil vapor extraction efforts removed approximately 7,000 pounds of VOCs from the Bettis Landfill prior to reaching the effective limit of the in-situ soil vapor extraction technology.

Upon receipt of EPA approval of the Bettis Groundwater Regime Study for the IWS, a groundwater study on the northern hillside of the area was performed to determine the sources and quantities of groundwater that occasionally surface on adjacent properties and to determine if a subsurface drainage system is an appropriate remedy for this area. The study was completed in 2003 and concluded that seepage originates from two separate water-bearing zones and typically reabsorbs back into the ground on what is now DOE property.

Based on the groundwater study results and as an alternative to collection and treatment, the Bettis Laboratory recommended installation of a flow separator in the wet-weather ditch to preclude the mixing of seepage containing trace levels of contaminants with surface water that could potentially carry contaminants offsite. The EPA subsequently determined that based on additional investigations groundwater impacted by the IWS does not present unacceptable risk and that further action is limited to monitoring Valley National Gases (VNG) property annually to confirm the absence or presence of water supply wells or plans to install such wells. Any use or planned use of groundwater will be reported to the EPA. However, in October 2010, Bettis Laboratory proactively constructed the flow separator after obtaining PA DEP concurrence that this action is an acceptable alternative measure to collection and treatment that also precludes the offsite migration of sediment.

In November 2011, the EPA issued a revision to the 1997 Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC) to codify the new remedy for the IWS that included contacting VNG annually to confirm the absence or presence of water supply wells and/or plans for installation of such wells. The revised FDRTC also included deleting two remedy components: the construction of a groundwater treatment system and periodic monitoring of water and sediments in the runoff area below the IWS. These remedy components were deleted following the installation of the flow separator.

Bettis completed the final corrective action of the CMIO, the ESVE at the Bettis Landfill, in September 2012. Some corrective actions within the CMIO require the continuation of environmental monitoring and maintaining administrative controls.

In August 2013, the EPA issued a Permit for Corrective Action under RCRA for the Bettis Laboratory that maintains these requirements.

In September 2013, the EPA concluded that that all the terms of the 2001 CMIO had been satisfied and issued a letter terminating the agreement between the EPA and the Bettis Laboratory.

In 2016, the NNPP established a partnership with the Department of Energy-Environmental Management (DOE-EM) to remove the NNPP's legacy facilities at NNPP sites, including the Bettis Laboratory. The NNPP maintains a cradle-to-grave responsibility for its actions, and consistent with this philosophy, the NNPP is dedicating funding to support remediation and demolition of these facilities.

## Site Areas of Interest

**Inactive Waste Site (IWS).** IWS, identified in Figure 6, was used from the late 1950s to approximately 1964 mainly to dispose of plant rubbish and excavation materials. The area was also used to dispose of some waste chemicals, such as solvents, oils, and various metal-containing sludges. Asbestos-containing materials were also deposited in the area. The site was covered with dirt from on-site excavation and construction jobs, with the last use occurring in 1972. The IWS is approximately 3.5 acres in size and is located on the hillside on the northwest portion of the site away from areas frequented by the public. The maximum depth of the fill materials is estimated to be 28 feet.

In 1985, Bettis Laboratory drilled a series of borings in the IWS. The principal chemical in soil samples collected from the borings was PCE, a commonly used dry cleaning agent which was used at the Bettis Laboratory for degreasing metal parts.

There are no odors or visual evidence of environmental damage or stress, such as dead vegetation, in the area of the IWS. The vegetative growth, which consists of grasses, crown vetch, and small trees and bushes, limits direct contact with the materials and airborne releases. Asbestos air sampling and organic vapor sampling indicated levels consistent with ambient conditions. Sampling for PCBs using a standard Occupational Safety and Health Administration method indicated levels less than 1% of worker limits. The results of the soil, water, and air samples collected in 1992 and 1993 during the RFI confirmed the types and levels of chemical residues previously detected at the IWS.

In 1989, surface soil and water samples collected downgrade from the IWS on adjacent industrial properties (purchased by Bettis in 2024, previously managed by Matheson Valley in 2023 and formerly owned by Duquesne Light Company and VNG, Inc.) showed the presence of very low levels of PCBs and VOCs in the soil and VOCs and asbestos in the water. These samples were collected in a wet-weather ditch located in an undeveloped, limited access area. Subsequently, additional soil and surface water samples have been collected from this area during the RFI and as part of annual monitoring. The PCB levels found in the ditch soil, with one exception (13 ppm), have been less than 10 ppm. The levels of VOCs in the surface water and soil are the result of migration from the IWS and pose no health risk to the public since the water is not used for human consumption. VOCs in the soil exceeded the EPA screening level in less than 1% of the soil samples. The fiber sizes of the traces of asbestos found in the water were smaller than those considered to be a health risk from ingestion. The results were provided to the Duquesne Light Company and VNG. The results of soil and water sampling performed in 1992 and 1993 during the RFI generally confirmed the types and levels of chemical residues previously detected on Duquesne Light Company and VNG properties. During the 1992 and 1993 sampling, additional constituents were analyzed and some low levels of PAHs were detected. These levels of detected PAHs are consistent with background levels for the area surrounding Bettis Laboratory and, as such, do not pose any risk unique to Bettis operations (such as excavating). The Bettis Laboratory sampling program to monitor for migration of residues from the IWS continued through 2010 but then terminated as discussed in “Remedial Programs for Chemical Residues” above.

During 2002, the DOE purchased approximately 5.5 acres of adjacent VNG and Duquesne Light Company properties to provide additional alternatives to mitigate trace contaminants from past Bettis operations to control areas of contaminated groundwater seepage flow except during periods of high surface water runoff, and to control future groundwater access by members of the public. Bettis Laboratory conducted a study of the groundwater in this area as part of the CMIO negotiated with the EPA; this study is discussed further in “Remedial Programs for Chemical Residues” above.

During 2024, the Laboratory acquired 19.5 acres of property north of the site adjacent to the IWS (now referred to as West Campus, previously referred to as Matheson Valley or VNG).

**Underground Waste Oil Tanks.** In about 1960, Bettis Laboratory installed 10 steel underground storage tanks for the collection of waste oil. The tank volumes ranged from 65 to 550 gallons. Their function was to serve as collection points for used oil from which a vendor could pump the oil for offsite disposition. In 1979, use of the tanks was terminated and the tanks emptied except for minor amounts of residual material. In 1986, the residuals remaining in the tanks and the soil around the tanks were sampled. Several of the soil analyses showed the presence of residues of the same products found inside the tanks.

Each of the tanks has been removed, cleaned, and reclaimed as scrap metal. The boundary of the affected soil around the tanks was not established in 1986 but was in 1992 and 1993. Samples of soil collected from the underground storage tank excavation areas in 1992 and 1993 during the RFI revealed that only trace levels of residues remain in these areas. The source of the oil and solvents is thought to be from spillage when oil was added to the tanks rather than tank leakage. This is supported by the fact that all but one of the removed tanks appeared to be intact. The quantity of affected soil is estimated to be less than 30 cubic meters.

All tank areas are inside the Bettis security fence, limiting contact by outside persons, apart from one tank area, which has been determined to exhibit no contaminants of concern in the soil. The excavated holes have been lined with plastic and filled with clean sand. The sites are not being used for any purpose. In October 2016, an agreement between Bettis and the EPA was finalized to reflect that only five of the ten previous underground storage tank excavation areas include trace levels of oil and solvent residues. The areas are monitored annually to validate that no soil disturbances have occurred unless previously approved by the EPA.

**Petroleum Storage Tanks.** In addition to the waste oil tanks, three underground gasoline tanks, an underground airport fuel tank, and an underground diesel fuel tank have been removed. These removal actions were conducted in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations.

**F-Shop Area.** This area located immediately outside the F-Shop building, at one time contained two tanks used for vapor degreasing of metals. A soil sample collected in the area from a two-foot layer of soil above bedrock contained 1.15 ppm of PCE. The source of the solvent was thought to be from the historical disposal of small quantities of solvents used in the F-Shop degreasing units. The total quantity of solvents deposited in this approximately 1,600-square-foot area is estimated to be a few gallons. There were no physical signs of the solvents, such as odors, nor any visual evidence of environmental damage. Samples collected during the RFI confirmed the previously detected levels of VOCs.

Approximately 8.5 tons of affected soil and rock were removed and remaining soil sampled in 2000. The removal operation and analytical results were described in a closure report submitted to the EPA in December 2000 and approved by the EPA in January 2001 (“Remedial Programs for Chemical Residues” above). No further work is required in this area.

**Bettis Landfill Area.** There are currently no active waste disposal landfills at the Bettis Laboratory site. From approximately 1960 until 1987, Bettis Laboratory operated a landfill area to dispose of soil and concrete removed from site excavation and construction activities. The landfill was not used for disposal of radioactive waste.

In the fall of 1987, auger borings were drilled into the fill, and soil samples were collected for analysis. The soil analysis revealed the presence of PCE, TCE, trans-1, 2-dichloroethylene, and PCBs. The areas of the highest chemical concentrations appeared to be centered around two of the borings located in an older portion of the fill. The chemicals were found at depths of 5 feet or greater. The exact quantity of these chemicals in the landfill is unknown but is likely to be a few hundred gallons.

The total surface area of the Bettis Landfill is approximately 1.5 acres with a maximum fill depth of approximately 25 feet. There are no odors at the landfill surface or in the area surrounding the fill nor are there any visual indications of environmental stress at the landfill. Air sampling for asbestos and organic vapor indicated levels consistent with ambient. PCB sampling indicated trace amounts are detectable, but at levels less than 1% of worker limits. The results of soil and air samples collected during the RFI confirmed the types and levels of previously detected chemical residues at the Bettis Landfill.

Bettis Laboratory operated a soil vapor extraction system in this area from 2004 to 2011, as part of the CMIO negotiated with the EPA, to reduce the VOC levels in the soils. In April 2011, the soil vapor extraction system was shut down upon achieving the cleanup criteria established for the system. This system is discussed further in “Remedial Programs for Chemical Residues” above.

**Storm Drain System.** The developed portion of the site is serviced by a storm drain system that discharges primarily to Bull Run and the Northeast Area Stream. Historically, some chemicals were disposed of by discharging to the storm drain system. Sampling of manholes in certain sections of the storm drain system has resulted in the detection of chemical residues, including VOCs and PCBs in the sediment. These chemical residues have leaked into the soil/fill surrounding the storm drain system in some locations. The VOCs in these areas have leached into the upper water-bearing zones. In 1992 and 1993 during the RFI, extensive sampling of the storm drain system was performed. This sampling confirmed the presence of low-level residues in certain portions of the storm drain system. These residues pose an insignificant risk to human health. In 1997, a program was completed to remove the sediment that had accumulated in select manholes around the site.

In 2014, a project was undertaken to characterize sediment and debris in 47 yard drains and catch basins that were scheduled to be cleaned out. The sediment and debris were analyzed for RCRA hazardous constituents (e.g., metals, VOCs) and PCBs. The analytical results show the sediment and debris in Catch Basin 65B (northwest of CY Building) and Catch Basins 8.1E and 8.1D (west side of F Building) contained PCBs at concentrations exceeding 50 mg/kg. The sediment and debris in these catch basins were removed, managed, and disposed of as TSCA regulated PCB waste.

In 2024, Bettis Laboratory completed the first comprehensive storm sewer catch basin cleanout effort in the history of the Site. The sediments in approximately 197 catch basins were characterized based on site history/process knowledge and/or analytical data, past or present. Approximately half of the catch basin sediments were characterized as clean fill with the remainder characterized as residual waste or special handling residual waste. None of the sediments were characterized as hazardous, PCB, or radiological waste.

**Other Areas On-site.** Other areas on-site were investigated in 1992 and 1993 during the RFI for the presence of chemical residues. The investigations included the collection of soil and soil gas samples. Only trace quantities of chemical residues were identified in a few areas, and they pose an insignificant risk to human health and the environment.

In 1996, following completion of the RFI, small bead-like polyethylene particles, that contained approximately 7% lead by weight, were discovered in an outdoor area on Bettis Laboratory property. An investigation of the area was conducted and a report of the results submitted to the EPA. The report concluded that lead contamination was restricted to the top few inches of soil in the area where the beads were observed on the surface. An evaluation of the impact of the lead-contaminated soil on groundwater concluded that, although the lead contamination was not a threat to groundwater, removal of the beads and entrained soil for proper disposal offsite was a viable and prudent corrective measure. The beads and entrained soil have been removed and disposed of offsite.

**Surface Water and Sediment.** The results of analyses for VOCs in surface water samples collected during 1992 and 1993 from on-site and offsite streams confirm data previously obtained through historical sampling and analysis. The only surface water samples that contained site-related VOCs were collected from Bull Run downstream of the confluence with the discharges from Buono and other springs within the property boundary. VOCs associated with site operations were not detected in water samples collected from the Bull Run and Northeast Area Stream outfalls, the Northeast Area Stream, or the inactive High Temperature Test Facility drainage channel located in the northwest portion of the Bettis Laboratory site. VOCs were not detected in surface water samples collected offsite from Thompson Run. Sampling and analysis of surface water demonstrated that no other chemicals were present at measurable levels.

The discharge of low levels of VOCs occurred primarily between Buono Spring and the confluence of Bull Run and the Northeast Area Stream. The presence of VOCs in Bull Run water was attributed to the continuous discharge of water to the stream from various springs and seeps discharging from a VOC impacted water-bearing zone. The springs and seeps represented a continuous source of VOC discharge to Bull Run. Surface water sampling and analysis at on-site locations downstream of the Bull Run/Northeast Area Stream confluence and offsite locations were normally near or below the analytical method quantitation level of 0.005 ppm. These results indicated that VOCs in Bull Run surface water were not migrating offsite to a measurable degree. However, Bettis Laboratory proactively undertook measures to further reduce the potential for VOCs to migrate offsite. In 1997, the SIS was installed to collect and remove the VOCs prior to discharge to Bull Run through a newly established NPDES outfall. Monitoring results for treated groundwater discharged from the SIS indicate that the system is effective in removing the VOCs. This system is operated in accordance with a 1999 Consent Order and Agreement established with the PA DEP. Construction of a replacement SIS commenced in 2016 and it was fully operational in October 2017.

VOCs associated with site operations were not detected in sediment samples collected from Thompson Run Stream, the Northeast Area Stream, or the inactive High Temperature Test Facility drainage channel. Sediment samples collected from Bull Run and the Buono Spring discharge flow path contained VOCs. PCE was the only VOC detected in Bull Run sediment. The primary source of PCE in the sediment was the discharge of water from springs and seeps that contained low levels of PCE. The Buono Spring and several other springs and seeps are now tied into the SIS. PCE concentrations in Bull Run sediment are expected to decline. The results of sediment sampling and analyses at on-site locations downstream of the Bull Run /Northeast Area Stream confluence and offsite locations during the RFI were well below screening concentrations identified by EPA Region 3 for risk assessment thresholds. These levels indicated that PCE in Bull Run sediment was not migrating offsite to a measurable degree.

The presence of PCBs in on-site stream sediment and the inactive High Temperature Test Facility drainage channel is likely associated with historic disposal of wastes containing small quantities of PCBs to the storm drain system and subsequent discharge to the various streams and the drainage channel. PAHs detected in on-site stream and spring sediments are comparable to those present in local stream sediments unaffected by site discharges and are not associated with any site-specific operations, past or present. Sampling conducted during the RFI detected only trace amounts of one pesticide in comparable concentrations in both Thompson Run and Bull Run sediments that was not associated with site activities.

In 2015, chemical analysis of the residue found in the bottom of an on-site historical electrical distribution system manhole indicated the presence of PCBs in excess of 50 ppm. The maximum PCB concentration found in the residue was 2,060 ppm. A courtesy notification was made to EPA Region 3 regarding the event. All contaminated residue was removed from the manhole. A risk-based application was submitted and approved by the EPA in November 2019 to leave the remaining PCB contaminated concrete (up to 2,539 ppm) and paper insulated lead covered cables in place in accordance with 40 CFR 761.61(c) by filling the inactive manhole with low density concrete. This action was completed in December 2019. Periodic inspections are performed to monitor the manhole's condition.

## RADIATION AND RADIOACTIVITY

### GENERAL INFORMATION

This section provides general information on radiation and radioactivity for those who may not be familiar with the terms and concepts.

People have always lived in a sea of natural background radiation. This background radiation was and is as much a part of the earth's environment as the light and heat from the sun's rays. There are three principal sources of natural background radiation: cosmic radiation from the sun and outer space, radiation from the natural radioactivity in soil and rocks (called 'terrestrial radiation'), and internal radiation from the naturally radioactive elements that are part of our bodies. A basic knowledge of the concepts of radiation and radioactivity is important in understanding how effective control programs are in reducing radiation exposures and radioactivity releases to levels that are ALARA.

### RADIATION

In simple terms, radiation is a form of energy. Microwaves, radio waves, x-rays, light, and heat are all common forms of radiation. The radiation from radioactive materials (radionuclides) is in the form of particles or rays. During the decay of radionuclides, alpha, beta, and gamma radiation are emitted.

**Alpha radiation** consists of small, positively charged particles of low penetrating power that can be stopped by a sheet of paper. Radionuclides that emit alpha particles include radium, uranium, and thorium.

**Beta radiation** consists of negatively charged particles that are smaller than alpha particles but are generally more penetrating and may require up to an inch of wood or other light material to be stopped. Examples of beta emitters are Sr-90, Cs-137, and Co-60.

**Gamma radiation** is an energy emission like an x-ray. Gamma rays have great penetrating power but are stopped by up to several feet of concrete or several inches of lead. The actual thickness of a particular shielding material required depends on the quantity and energy of the gamma rays to be stopped. Most radionuclides emit gamma rays along with beta or alpha particles.

Each radionuclide emits a unique combination of radiations that is like a "fingerprint" of that radionuclide. Alpha or beta particles and/or gamma rays are emitted in various combinations and energies. Radionuclides may be identified by measuring the type, relative amounts, and energy of the radiations emitted. Measurement of half-life and chemical properties may also be used to help identify radionuclides.

## **Radiation and Dose**

Body tissue can be damaged if enough energy from radiation is absorbed. The amount of energy absorbed by body tissue during radiation exposure is called "absorbed dose." The potential biological effect resulting from a particular dose is based on a technically defined quantity called "dose equivalent." The unit of dose equivalent is called the rem. Another quantity called "effective dose equivalent" is a dose summation that is used to estimate the risk of health effects when the dose is received from sources that are external to the body and from radioactive materials that are within the various body tissues. The traditional unit of effective dose equivalent, which is used in the United States is also the rem, while the standard international (SI) unit is the Sievert (one Sievert is equal to 100 rem). The rem is a unit that is relatively large compared with the level of radiation doses received from natural background radiation or projected as a result of releases of radioactivity to the environment. The millirem (mrem, or one thousandth of a rem), is frequently used instead of the rem. The rem and mrem are better understood by relating to concepts that are more familiar.

Radiation comes from both natural and anthropogenic (human-made) sources. Natural background radiation includes cosmic radiation from the sun and outer space, terrestrial radiation from radioactivity in soil, radioactivity in the body, and inhaled radioactivity.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements estimates that the average member of the population of the United States receives an annual effective dose equivalent of approximately 311 mrem from natural background radiation. This is composed of approximately 33 mrem from cosmic radiation, 21 mrem from terrestrial radiation, 29 mrem from radioactivity within the body and 228 mrem from inhaled radon and its decay products. The cosmic radiation component in the United States varies from 22 mrem at Honolulu, Hawaii to 65 mrem in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The terrestrial component varies from approximately 10 mrem on the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain to about 40 mrem in the mountainous regions of the west. The dose from inhaled radon and its decay products is the most variable because of fluctuations in radon concentrations within houses due to changes in weather patterns and other factors such as changes in living habits.

The average natural background radiation level measured in the vicinity of the Bettis Site is approximately 79 mrem per year. Individual locations will vary based on soil composition, soil moisture content and snow cover.

In addition to natural background radiation, people are also exposed to anthropogenic sources of radiation, such as medical and dental x-rays and conventional fluoroscopy, computed tomography, nuclear medicine and interventional fluoroscopy. The average radiation dose from these sources is about 300 mrem per year. Other anthropogenic sources include consumer products such as building products (brick and concrete), lawn and garden fertilizer, loose leaf spinach, and bananas. Additionally, an airplane trip typically results in increased radiation exposure. A cross-country airline flight from New York to Seattle results in a dose of about 3 mrem.

## **RADIOACTIVITY**

All materials are made up of atoms. In the case of a radioactive material, these atoms are unstable and give off energy in the form of rays or tiny particles in order to reach a stable state. Each type of radioactive atom is called a radionuclide. Each radionuclide emits a characteristic form of radiation as it gives off energy. Radionuclides change as radiation occurs, and this transition is called radioactive decay. The rate at which a particular radionuclide decays is measured by its half-life. Half-life is the time required for one-half the radioactive atoms in a given amount of material to decay. For example, the half-life of the anthropogenic radionuclide Co-60 is 5.3 years. This means that during a 5.3-year period, half of the Co-60 atoms initially present will have decayed. In the next 5.3 year period, half the remaining Co-60 atoms will have decayed, and so on.

The half-lives of radionuclides differ greatly. The half-life of naturally occurring Rn-220, for instance, is only 55 seconds. In contrast, U-238, another naturally occurring radionuclide has a half-life of 4.5 billion years.

Through the decay process, each radionuclide changes into a different nuclide or atom - often becoming a different chemical element. For example, naturally occurring radioactive Th-232, after emitting its radiation, transforms to a second radionuclide, which transforms to a third, and so on. Thus, a chain of eleven radionuclides is formed including Rn-220, before nonradioactive lead-208 (Pb-208) is formed. Each of the radionuclides in the series has its own characteristic half-life and type of radiation. The chain finally ends when the newest nuclide is stable. The uranium chain starts with U-238 and proceeds through 13 radionuclides, ending with stable lead-206 (Pb-206). All of these naturally occurring radionuclides are present in trace amounts in the soil in your backyard as well as in many other environmental media.

### **Measuring Radioactivity**

The curie (Ci) is the common unit used for expressing the magnitude of radioactive decay in a sample containing radioactive material. The analogous SI unit to the Ci is the Becquerel (Bq). Specifically, the curie is that amount of radioactivity equal to  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  (37 billion) disintegrations per second and a Bq is equal to one disintegration per second. For environmental monitoring purposes, the curie is usually too large a unit to work with conveniently and is broken down into smaller values such as the microcurie ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ , one millionth of a curie or  $10^{-6}$  Ci) and the picocurie (pCi, one trillionth of a curie or  $10^{-12}$  Ci). Older wristwatches that were painted with radium to allow the numbers or segments to “glow in the dark” contained about one microcurie (1  $\mu\text{Ci}$ ) of radium on the dial. The average person has about one tenth (0.1) microcurie of naturally occurring potassium-40 in his body. Typical soil and sediment samples contain about one picocurie (1 pCi) of natural uranium per gram.

## **Sources of Radioactivity**

Of the radioactive atoms that exist in nature, some have always existed and natural processes continually form others. For example, uranium has always existed, it is radioactive, and it occurs in small but variable concentrations throughout the earth. Radioactive carbon and tritium, on the other hand, are formed by cosmic radiation striking atoms in the atmosphere. Radionuclides can also be created by people. For example, radionuclides are created in nuclear reactors and consist of fission products and activation products. The fission products are the residues of the uranium fission process that produces the energy within the reactor. The fission process also produces neutrons that interact with structural and other materials in the reactor to form activation products. Because of the nature of the fission process, many fission products are unstable and, hence, radioactive. Most fission products have short lives and are retained within the nuclear fuel itself; however, trace natural uranium impurities in reactor structural materials release small quantities of fission products to the reactor coolant.

It should be noted that a certain level of "background" fission-product radioactivity also exists in the environment, primarily due to past atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. Although the level is very low, these fission products are routinely detected in air, food, and water when analyzed with extremely sensitive instruments and techniques.

## **CONTROL OF RADIATION AND RADIOACTIVITY**

To reduce the exposure of persons to ionizing radiation to ALARA, controlling the use and disposal of radioactive materials and comprehensive monitoring programs to measure the effectiveness of these controls are required. Effluent streams that may contain radioactive materials must be treated by appropriate methods to remove the radioactive materials and the effluent monitored to ensure that these materials have been reduced to concentrations that are as low as is reasonably achievable and are well within all applicable guidelines and requirements prior to discharge.

## GLOSSARY

**Activation Products** – As cooling water circulates through the reactor, certain impurities present in the water and even components of the water itself can be converted to radioactive nuclides (they become "activated"). Important activation products present in reactor coolant water include radionuclides of corrosion and wear products (Co-60, Fe-59, Co-58, Cr-51), of impurities dissolved in the water (Ar-41, Na-24, C-14) and of atoms present in the water molecules (tritium). Of these, the predominant radionuclide and also the one with the most restrictive limits is Co-60.

**Alkalinity** – The measurable ability of solutions or aqueous suspensions to neutralize an acid.

**Alpha Radioactivity** – A form of radioactivity exhibited by certain radionuclides characterized by emission of an alpha particle. Many naturally occurring radionuclides including radium, uranium, and thorium decay in this manner.

**Background Radiation** – Radiation present in the environment as a result of naturally occurring radioactive materials and cosmic radiation. Generally treated as including widespread low-level human-made (anthropogenic) radiation sources, including fallout.

**Beta-Gamma Radioactivity** – A form of radioactivity characterized by emission of a beta particle and/or gamma rays. Many naturally occurring radionuclides such as lead-212, bismuth-212, and bismuth-214 decay in this manner.

**Calibration** – The adjustment of a system and the determination of system accuracy using known sources and instrument measurements of higher accuracy.

**Collective Effective Dose Equivalent** – The sum of the effective dose equivalents of all individuals in an exposed population within an 80-kilometer (50-mile) radius and is expressed in units of person-rem.

**Composite Sample** – A sample that is comprised of a number of grab samples over the compositing period. In some cases, the composite sample obtained may be proportional to effluent flow and is called a proportional sample or flow-composited sample.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** – Also known as "Superfund," CERCLA was enacted by Congress in 1980 to clean up inactive hazardous waste sites that presented great risk to public health and the environment.

**Confidence Interval** – Statistical terminology for the error interval ( $\pm$ ) assigned to numerical data. A two sigma ( $2\sigma$ ) confidence interval means there is 95% confidence that the true value (as opposed to the measured one) lies within the ( $\pm$ ) interval. The 95% is the confidence level (See ( $\pm$ ) value, Standard Deviation of the Average).

**Contaminant** – Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance in a location or concentration that is not naturally occurring.

**Curie (Ci)** – The curie is the common unit used for expressing the magnitude of radioactive decay in a sample containing radioactive material. Specifically, the curie is that amount of radioactivity equal to  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  (37 billion) disintegrations per second. For environmental monitoring purposes, the curie is usually too large a unit to conveniently work with and is broken down to smaller values. (See Microcurie and Picocurie.)

**Data Validation** – A systematic review of a data set to identify outliers or suspect values. More specifically, data validation refers to the systematic process of independently reviewing a body of analytical data against established criteria to provide assurance that the data are acceptable for their intended use. This process may use appropriate statistical techniques to screen out impossible or highly unlikely values.

**Decision Level Concentration (DLC)** – The quantity of radioactivity above which a decision is made that a net amount of radioactivity is present with a five percent probability of erroneously reporting net radioactivity when none is present (false positive).

**Dose Equivalent** – The quantity that expresses the biological effects of radiation doses from all types (alpha, beta-gamma) of radiation on a common scale. The unit of dose equivalent is the rem.

**Dosimeter** – See Thermoluminescent Dosimeters.

**Duplicate Sample** – A sample that is created by splitting existing samples before analysis and treating each split sample as a separate sample. The samples are then analyzed as a quality assurance method to assess the precision in the analytical process.

**Effluent** – Any treated or untreated air emission or liquid discharge to the environment, including storm water runoff.

**Field Blank** – A sample of laboratory distilled water that is put into a sample container at the field collection site and is processed from that point as a routine sample. Field blanks are used as a quality assurance method to detect contamination introduced by the sampling procedure.

**Effective Dose Equivalent** – The effective dose equivalent is the sum of the dose equivalent to the whole body from external sources plus the dose equivalents to specific organs times a weighting factor appropriate for each organ. The weighting factor relates the effect of individual organ exposure relative to the effect of exposure to the whole body. The unit of effective dose equivalent is the rem.

**Fission Products** – During operation of a nuclear reactor, heat is produced by the fission (splitting) of "heavy" atoms, such as uranium, plutonium or thorium. The residue left after the splitting of these "heavy" atoms is a series of intermediate weight atoms generally termed "fission products." Because of the nature of the fission process, many fission products are unstable and, hence, radioactive. Most fission products have short lives and are retained within the nuclear fuel itself; however, trace natural uranium impurities in reactor structural materials release small quantities of fission products to the reactor coolant.

It should be noted that a certain level of "background" fission product radioactivity exists in the environment, primarily due to atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. The level is very low but may be detectable when environmental samples are analyzed with extremely sensitive instruments and techniques.

**Grab Sample** – A single sample that is collected and is representative of the stream or effluent.

**Groundwater** – Subsurface water in the pore spaces and fractures of soil and bedrock units.

**Half-Life** – A time period associated with a radionuclide that specifies how long it takes for one half of a given quantity of radioactivity to decay away. Half-lives may range from fractions of a second to millions of years.

**High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filter** – A throwaway, extended-media, dry type filter with a rigid casing enclosing the full depth of the pleats. The filter shall exhibit a minimum efficiency of 99.97% when tested at an aerosol diameter of 0.3 micrometers aerodynamic diameter.

**High Purity Germanium Gamma Spectrometer System** – A High Purity Germanium gamma spectrometer system is a sophisticated set of components designed for characterizing and quantifying the radionuclides present in a sample. This system makes use of the fact that during the decay of most radionuclides, one or more gamma rays are emitted at energy levels characteristic of the individual radionuclide. For example, during the decay of Co-60, two gamma rays of 1.17 and 1.33 million electron volts (MeV) are emitted while the decay of Argon-41 produces one gamma ray of 1.29 MeV. The high purity germanium detector used in this system is capable of detecting and very precisely resolving differences in gamma ray energy levels and sending this information along to electronic components where it is processed and evaluated.

**Influent** – The water entering the pump, the filter or other equipment. Water going into the pump is called the influent, while water leaving the pump is called the effluent.

**Long-Lived Gamma Radioactivity** – Two very important characteristics of radionuclides are the length of time it takes for a given amount to decay away and the type of radiation emitted during decay. From an environmental standpoint, some of the most significant radionuclides are those whose "life" is relatively long and that also emit penetrating gamma radiation during decay. Two radionuclides of concern in these respects are Co-60 (a corrosion and wear activation product) and Cs-137 (a fission product). (See Half-Life, Beta-Gamma Radioactivity).

**Method Detection Limit** – The lowest value at which a nonradiological sample result shows a statistically positive difference from a sample in which no constituent is present.

**Microcurie ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ )** – One millionth of a curie ( $10^{-6}$  Ci). The typical radium dial watch might contain 1  $\mu\text{Ci}$  of radioactive material. (See Curie and Picocurie).

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – A unit of concentration commonly used to express the levels of impurities present in a water sample. A milligram is a thousandth of a gram. A milligram per liter is equal to a part per million.

**Millirem (mrem)** – One thousandth of a rem ( $10^{-3}$  rem).

**Osmotic Pressure** – The pressure produced by a solution in a space that is enclosed by a differentially permeable membrane.

**Outfall** – A point of discharge (e.g., drain or pipe) of liquid effluent into a stream, river, ditch, or other water body.

**Person-Rem** – The sum of the individual dose equivalents or effective dose equivalents received by each member of a certain group or population. It is calculated by multiplying the average dose per person by the number of persons within a specific geographic area. For example, a thousand people each exposed to 0.001 rem would have a collective dose of one person-rem.

**pH** – A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution on a scale of 0 to 14 (low is acidic, high is alkaline or caustic, 7 is neutral).

**Picocurie (pCi)** – One trillionth of a curie ( $10^{-12}$  Ci). Typical soil and sediment samples contain approximately one pCi of natural uranium per gram (See Curie and Microcurie).

**± Value (plus or minus value)** – An expression of the uncertainty in sample results. The magnitude of the (±) value depends on the number of samples, the size of the sample, intrinsic analytical uncertainties and the degree of confidence required. The (±) value assigned to data in this report is for the 95% confidence level (See Confidence Interval).

**Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)** – Halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons formed by the chlorination of biphenyl molecules. PCBs were commonly used in transformers as a dielectric fluid because of their stability.

**Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH)** – Multi-ring compounds found in fuels, oils, and creosote. These are also common combustion products.

**Practical (Minimum) Quantitation Limit** – The lowest concentration that can be reliably achieved in nonradiological samples within specified limits of precision and accuracy during routine laboratory operating conditions.

**Quantitation limit** – The lowest level at which a chemical may be accurately and reproducibly quantified. The sample quantitation limit is typically three to five times higher than the analytical method detection limit.

**Radionuclides** – Atoms that exhibit radioactive properties. Standard practice for naming radionuclides is to use the name or atomic symbol of an element followed by its atomic weight (e.g., cobalt-60 or Co-60, a radionuclide of cobalt). There are several hundred known radionuclides, some of which are anthropogenic and some of which are naturally occurring. Radionuclides can be differentiated by the types of radiation they emit, the energy of the radiation and the rate at which a known amount of the radionuclide decays away (See Half-Life).

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** – A federal law that established a structure to track and regulate hazardous wastes from the time of generation to disposal. The law requires safe and secure procedures to be used in treating, transporting, storing, and disposing of hazardous substances. RCRA is designed to prevent new, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. RCRA particularly addresses chemical issues; Atomic Energy Act regulated radioactivity is exempted from RCRA.

**Rem** – The unit of dose equivalent and effective dose equivalent. The standard international (SI) unit of dose equivalent and effective dose equivalent is the Sievert (Sv), which is equal to 100 rem.

**Standard Deviation of the Average** – A term used to characterize the uncertainty assigned to the mean of a set of analyzed data (See Confidence Interval, ( $\pm$ ) Value).

**Suspended Solids** – Particulate matter, both organic and inorganic suspended in water. High levels of suspended solids not only affect the aesthetic quality of water by reducing clarity but may also indirectly indicate other undesirable conditions present. The analysis for suspended solids is performed by passing a sample of water through a filter and weighing the residue.

**Thermoluminescent Dosimeters (TLDs)** – TLDs are sensitive monitoring devices that record accumulated dose due to radiation. The TLDs used by the Bettis Laboratory for environmental monitoring consist of small chips of lithium fluoride (LiF) encased in appropriate materials and strategically located at site perimeter and off-site locations. Thermoluminescent Dosimeters derive their name from a property that LiF crystals exhibit when exposed to radiation and subsequently heated—that of emitting light proportional to the amount of radiation exposure received (thermoluminescence). The emitted light can then be read out on special instrumentation and correlated to the amount of radiation dose accumulated. The TLDs used by Bettis for environmental monitoring are specially selected for their accuracy and consistency of results.

**Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)** – Total Dissolved Solids is used as a general indicator of water quality. As the name describes, TDS tests measure the amount of all dissolved solids in the water. These solids are primarily minerals/salts but can also include organic matter.

**Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)** – An organic (carbon-containing) compound that evaporates (volatilizes) readily at room temperature.

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