



Homeland  
Security

May 12, 2022

To: NRC Region 1 *via email* [R1DRSSMailResource@nrc.gov](mailto:R1DRSSMailResource@nrc.gov)  
Orysia Masnyk Bailey *via email* [Orysia.MasnykBailey@nrc.gov](mailto:Orysia.MasnykBailey@nrc.gov)  
Health Physicist  
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From: Carl Schopfer  
Health Physicist, Radiation Safety Officer  
National Urban Security Technology Laboratory  
Office of National Laboratories, Science and Technology Directorate  
United States Department of Homeland Security

Subject: Decommissioning of the Former Environmental Measurements Laboratory at 201  
Varick Street, New York, NY

Dear Ms. Masnyk Bailey,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is providing information concerning activities undertaken to decommission for unrestricted use certain areas within the General Services Administration's (GSA) federal building located at 201 Varick Street (the Site), New York City, NY, formerly occupied by the Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML). Since 2008, remediation activities and surveys to determine the extent of radioactive contamination have been undertaken to assure the facility is suitable for free release. The reports and supporting information provided with this letter summarize the activities performed and results of final status surveys. It has been the goal of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve unrestricted release of the former EML space that may have been impacted by its past operations and return it to GSA for other uses.

The Site is owned by the General Services Administration (GSA). The Department of Energy's (DOE) EML occupied the entire fifth floor and small areas on the first floor, basement, and on the roof of the Site. The EML facility was formerly operated by DOE as an environmental radiochemistry laboratory and, in 2003, was transferred from DOE into the newly created DHS's Science and Technology Directorate.<sup>1</sup>

DHS is requesting NRC review the attached reports to confirm the spaces identified in these reports meet the radiological criteria for unrestricted use specified in 10 CFR 20.1402 and that the formerly occupied space is suitable for free release. In addition, activities related to the removal of certain piping from use at the Site has generated low-level radioactive waste. In 2021, the GSA utilized the

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, 'The Environmental Measurements Laboratory,' 21 February 2022, <https://www.wipp.energy.gov/namp/emlegacy/>

services of a contractor to remove, size, and package potentially contaminated drain bodies and piping on the 4th and 5th floors of the Site, which was stored in seven B-25 boxes and one 55-gallon drum in the basement at the site and secured from unauthorized access. Under the terms of a later contract, the GSA hired a contractor to characterize the pipe contained in the B-25 boxes for the purposes of determining levels of residual contamination in pipe remaining in-use at the site and for identifying a suitable disposal outlet for the removed pipe. DHS has been advised by the GSA and its contractor that the removed pipe has since been disposed of at a suitable disposal facility. Characterizing the remaining in-use drainpipes is necessary to determine if additional action is necessary to control this pipe to assure the safety of workers in the building. The characterization report will be provided to the NRC when complete to aid in determining if leaving the remaining drain piping in-place meets the radiological criteria for unrestricted use specified in 10 CFR 20.1402 and that it is suitable for free release.

Attachment A, "List of Reports with an Index" is included with this letter in support of an unrestricted use/free-release designation for the formerly occupied EML space.

These documents are the property of the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T.) They do not contain sensitive or classified information and may be publicly disclosed without further approval of S&T consistent with the purpose of this request.

Feel free to contact me by phone call (202-380-8802) or email ([carl.schopfer@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:carl.schopfer@hq.dhs.gov)) if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

5/12/2022

X Carl Schopfer

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Signed by: CARL J SCHOPFER

Carl Schopfer

Health Physicist, Radiation Safety Officer  
National Urban Security Technology Laboratory  
Office of National Laboratories, Science and Technology Directorate  
United States Department of Homeland Security

cc: Alice Hong, Laboratory Director, National Urban Security Laboratory  
Stephen Vargas, Laboratory Deputy Director, National Urban Security Laboratory  
Chris Keefer, Operations Branch Chief, Office of National Laboratories

Enclosures

Attachment A, "List of Reports with Index," listing file names and descriptions

## Attachment A – List of Reports

The following reports are being provided to support free release of EML formerly occupied spaces at 201 Varick St.:

- NUSTL 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Final Status Survey (FSS)
  - Cabrera Western Half of 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Release Memo Rev 2
  - CoPhysics – Review of Cabrera EML FSS 2009
- NUSTL Final Status Survey – All Areas Except 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
  - NUSTL Final Status Survey – All Areas Except 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Annexes A – I

### Index

Files are indexed and described as follows:

Filename	Title/Description
1 of 9 - DHS NUSTL FSS Report - All Areas Except 5th Floor.pdf	Final version of the Final Status Report for all areas except the 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor and 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Addendum Environmental Measurements Laboratory US DHS, June 2012.
2 of 9 - DHS EML 5th Floor FSS Report Final Dec2008 (reduced).pdf	Final version of the Final Status Report for the 5th Floor Environmental Measurements Laboratory
3 of 9 - Annex I Instrument QAQC.pdf	Quality reports, calibration certificates, and field logs for radiological instruments
4 of 9 - Annex H FSS Results and Forms.zip 1. Annex H Final Status Survey Results and Forms.pdf 2. Survey #033.pdf 3. Survey #037.pdf 4. Survey #041.pdf 5. Survey #043.pdf 6. Survey #048.pdf 7. Survey #064.pdf 8. Survey EML-15.pdf 9. Survey EML-28.pdf	Radioanalytical Survey Results and Survey Sheets 1. Final Status Survey Results and Forms 2. Room B15 East Floor and Walls 3. D-29 Fourth Floor Men’s Room 4. Room B15 5. Basement/B15-C 6. Room B-8 7. NUSTL First Floor Space 8. Narrative on radiological surveys in rooftop ductwork 9. NUSTL First Floor Rooms 138-1 and 138-2
5 of 9 - Annex G Off-Site Lab Analy Data 1of2.zip 1. 1108251.xls 1108251_Cover.pdf 2. 1108251_HERB.pdf 3. 1108251_IGNITE.pdf 4. 1108251_INORG.pdf 5. 1108251_METALS.pdf 6. 1108251_OC-PEST.pdf 7. 1108251_PAINT.pdf	Analytical Laboratory Results These items are analytical reports on potential non-radioactive contaminants material.



<p>9 of 9 - All other files.zip</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annex A FSSP.pdf</li> <li>2. Annex B SSHP.pdf</li> <li>3. Annex C RESRAD-BUILD Evaluation.pdf</li> <li>4. Cabrera Western Half of 5th Floor Release Memo Rev 2.pdf</li> <li>5. CoPhysics - Review of Cabrera EML FSS 2009 (2).pdf</li> <li>6. DHS NUSTL FSS Report - All Areas Except 5th Floor Text Only.pdf</li> <li>7. FSS Removable Rad Sign Test Results.pdf</li> <li>8. FSS Total Rad Sign Test Results.pdf</li> <li>9. NUSTL Elevated Room Systematics.pdf</li> <li>10. RESRAD-BUILD_NUSTL_Rm_544_Surficial_Act-227_Rev1.pdf</li> <li>11. RESRAD-BUILD_NUSTL_Rm_544_Surficial_Am-241_Rev1.pdf</li> <li>12. RESRAD-BUILD_NUSTL_Rm_B-8_Surficial_Pu-239_Rev1.pdf</li> </ol>	<p>Collection of smaller size files</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final Status Survey Plan, EML DHS, January 2007</li> <li>2. Site Safety and Health Plan, EML DHS, October 2007</li> <li>3. Final Status Survey Report – All Areas Except 5th Floor and 5th Floor Addendum, June 2012</li> <li>4. Summary of Final Status Survey (FSS) for the western half of 201 Varick Street Fifth Floor EML Space, Revision 2, 2008</li> <li>5. Review of EML FSS report, 2009</li> <li>6. Final version of the Final Status Report for all areas except the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Addendum Environmental Measurements Laboratory US DHS, June 2012. Contains the report text but not the attachments</li> <li>7. Final Status Survey Report – All Areas Except 5th Floor and 5th Floor Addendum, June 2012. Radiological equipment tests and radioanalytical survey results for removable radioactivity</li> <li>8. Final Status Survey Report – All Areas Except 5th Floor and 5th Floor Addendum, June 2012. Radiological equipment tests and radioanalytical survey results for fixed plus removable radioactivity</li> <li>9. Pages C-7 though C-9 of DHS NUSTL FSS Report - All Areas Except 5th Floor.pdf</li> <li>10. RESRAD program output for Surficial Contamination, Room 544, Act-227, 2012</li> <li>11. Included in DHS NUSTL FSS Report - All Areas Except 5th Floor.pdf</li> <li>12. RESRAD program output for Surficial Contamination, Room 544, Am-241, 2012 Included in DHS NUSTL FSS Report - All Areas Except 5th Floor.pdf</li> <li>13. RESRAD program output for Surficial Contamination, NUSTL Room B-8, Pu-239, 2012 Included in DHS NUSTL FSS Report - All Areas Except 5th Floor.pdf</li> </ol>
<p>Cover Letter to NRC</p>	<p>This document, with attachment listing the reports, and an index with filenames and their descriptions</p>
<p>EML Legacy Webpage.pdf</p>	<p>Archive copy of the Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) legacy webpage</p>