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FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

ELIMINATION REPORT

FOR

THE FORMER NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS BUILDINGS

VAN NESS STREET

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Department of Energy

Office of Nuclear Energy

Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology

Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects (and/or predecessor agencies, offices, and divisions) has reviewed the past activities conducted for the Atomic Energy Commission and the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) (DOE predecessors) at the Former National Bureau of Standards Buildings, Van Ness Street, Washington, DC. Based on the review of decontamination operations of the Bureau of Standards, DOE has determined that the conditions at this site are such that no further remedial action is required, and the former National Bureau of Standards, Van Ness Street, Washington, DC, site will not be included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. This report presents information supporting that determination. This elimination report will be achieved by DOE through the Assistant Secretary for Management and Administration. A copy of this package will be available for public review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), at the DOE Public Reading Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC.

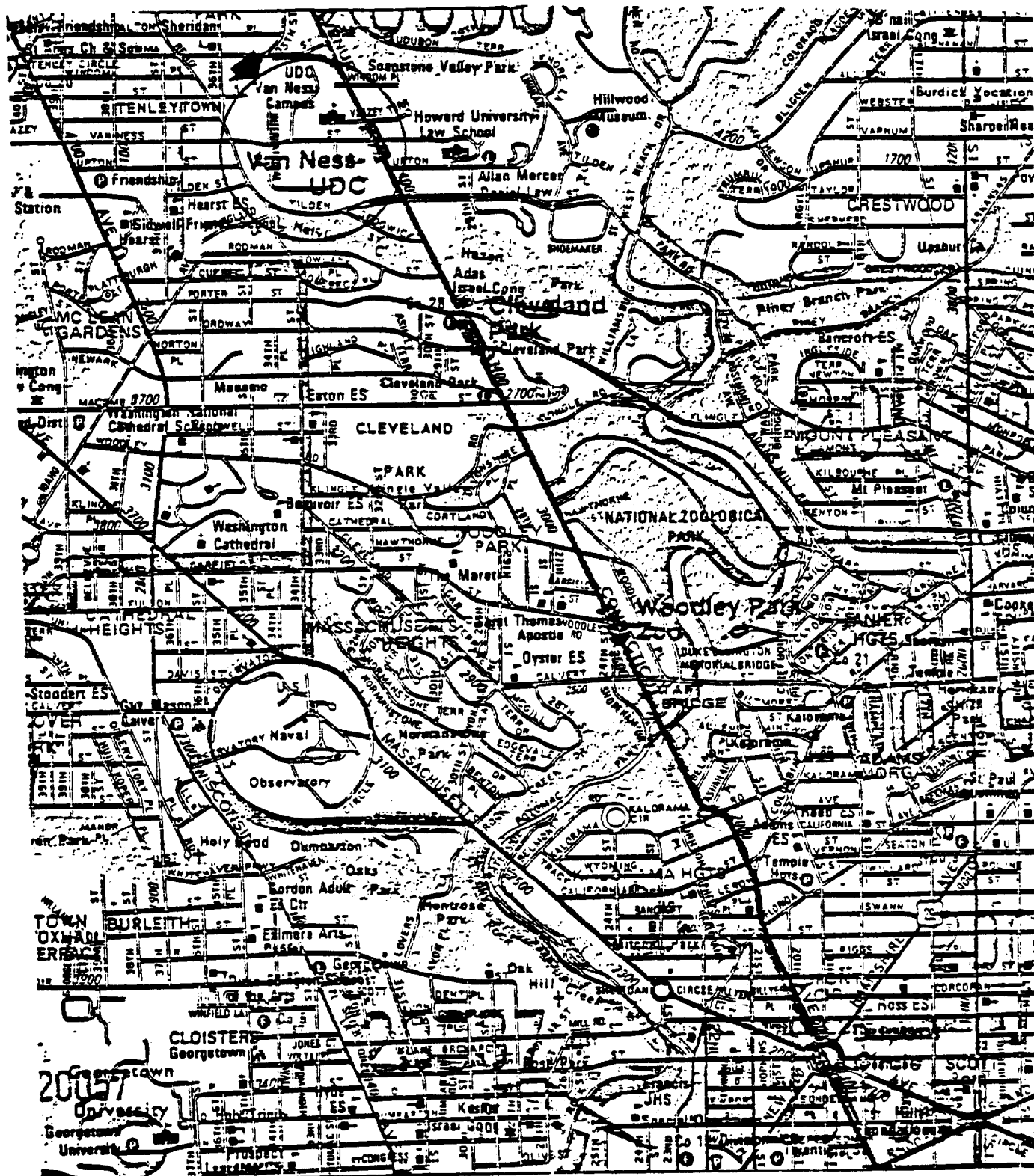
BACKGROUND

Site Function

The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) occupied this site prior to moving to Gaithersburg, Maryland. A radioactivity laboratory at the site was used from the early 1920's until 1952 for measuring all radium samples used in this country for medical purposes. In the early 1940's, NBS also performed quality analysis for the Manhattan Engineer District.

Site Description

The site contained a number of buildings. The radioactivity laboratory was located in the East Building, also referred to as Building 2, which has been demolished. The approximate former location of the site is shown in the attached figure.



Approximate Location of the Former National Bureau of Standards Facility

Following the NBS move to Gathersburg, Maryland, the buildings on this site were turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA). On February 5, 1968, six of the buildings at this site, including Building 2, were occupied by the District of Columbia for use by the Washington Technical Institute under a permit agreement with GSA.

In 1977, the site was being used by the Department of State for use as part of an International Center. The area where Building 2 was located, Lot 14 or 8, was planned for use as an open area or a street.

Radiological History and Status

During the occupancy of Building 2 by the Radiological Laboratory, many rooms, hallways, and the attic became contaminated. This contamination was the result of general NBS work in the building and no estimate can be made regarding the fraction of activity that might be related to support provided by NBS to MED. However, NBS used this facility for the analysis of radioactive material for over 30 years, and tests conducted for the MED represented only a fraction of these analyses during the early to mid-1940's. In 1952 and after NBS moved, decontamination work was completed, with the exception of three rooms that were sealed and posted with signs indicating the presence of radioactive material. In 1968, when the buildings at the Van Ness Street site were leased to the District of Columbia, a survey of the facility was performed, and extensive decontamination of Building 2 was accomplished. Approximately 100 55-gallon drums of radioactive debris and building material wastes were removed during the decontamination process. Following another re-evaluation of all areas, it was determined that, although small amounts of radioactivity remained in isolated areas, the levels were within safe limits as defined by the recommended guidelines of the U.S. Public Health Service. Building 2 was demolished during September and October 1976. The disposition of the building materials and rubble can not be determined.

ELIMINATION ANALYSIS

Because Building 2 was demolished in 1976 following decontamination and verification, and because most of the radioactive work conducted at this site was not related to DOE predecessor actions, DOE has eliminated the National Bureau of Standards, Van Ness Street, site from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. No further remedial action is warranted or possible.

REFERENCES

- Little, M.S. to Porter, J.I., "Final Report of Radiation Protection Evaluation of Washington Technical Institute Buildings, Formerly Occupied by NBS." (with attachments), April 18, 1968.
- Wallo, A., (The Aerospace Corporation) to Allen, J.P. (General Services Administration) "National Bureau of Standards Building, Washington, D.C.," April 18, 1968.