



By the Numbers SPRU Site Cleanup

The Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) is an inactive facility located at the Naval Reactor's (NR) Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL) in Niskayuna, New York, near Schenectady. The Mohawk River forms the northern boundary of this site. KAPL was created as a general-purpose laboratory for the former U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Built in the late 1940s, the buildings supported the SPRU mission to research the chemical process to extract plutonium from irradiated materials. Equipment was flushed and drained, and bulk waste was removed following the shutdown of the SPRU facilities in 1953. Today, residual contamination is present in concrete, tanks, and equipment in buildings H2 and G2 and interconnecting pipe tunnels. In 2010, cleanup of radioactivity and chemical contamination in the SPRU Lower Level Railroad Staging Area, Lower Level Parking Lot, and SPRU North Field areas was completed. Currently, the workforce is decontaminating and decommissioning the two contaminated buildings, the H2 tank vaults, a pipe tunnel between G2 and H2, and associated contaminated soil.

9,700 GALLONS
of contaminated sludge waste
treated through solidification.

14 SHIPMENTS
of sludge waste shipped
off-site for permanent disposal.

More than
650 samples collected
during soil remediation
of the SPRU Lower
Level and North Field
land areas.

TWO
primary contaminants
of concern are
cesium-137 and
strontium-90.

In 2013
the workforce built tent
enclosures and ventilation
systems using High Efficiency
Particle Air filters around the
contaminated buildings G2
and H2 so that radiological
work could be conducted in
a controlled environment.



**OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

