Brookhaven National Laboratory

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| --- | --- |
| **Brookhaven National Laboratory** | |
| [Brookhaven National Laboratory logo.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Brookhaven_National_Laboratory_logo.svg) | |
| [High Flux Beam Reactor - Brookhaven (7494424838).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:High_Flux_Beam_Reactor_-_Brookhaven_(7494424838).jpg)  View of Brookhaven National Laboratory campus, with the High Flux Beam Reactor in the foreground | |
| [**Motto**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motto) | "Passion for discovery" |
| **Established** | 1947 |
| **Research type** | Nuclear and high-energy physics, materials science, nanomaterials, chemistry, energy, and environmental, biological, and climate sciences |
| [**Budget**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budget) | Over US$550 million (2015) |
| [**Director**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Director_(business)) | Doon Gibbs |
| [**Staff**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Employment) | 2,750 |
| **Location** | [Upton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton,_New_York), [Suffolk County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffolk_County,_New_York), [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(state)), United States https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[40.875°N 72.877°W](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&params=40.875_N_72.877_W_region:US-NY_type:landmark)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[40.875°N 72.877°W](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&params=40.875_N_72.877_W_region:US-NY_type:landmark) |
| [**Campus**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campus) | 21 km2 (5,265 acres) |
| **Operating agency** | Brookhaven Science Associates, LLC |
| **Website** | [www.bnl.gov](http://www.bnl.gov/) |
| **Map** | |
| [Brookhaven National Laboratory is located in New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:USA_New_York_location_map.svg)  Brookhaven National Laboratory  Location in New York | |

**Brookhaven National Laboratory** (**BNL**) is a [United States Department of Energy national laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Energy_national_laboratories) located in [Upton, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton,_New_York), on [Long Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Island), and was formally established in 1947 at the site of [Camp Upton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Upton), a former [U.S. Army base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Army_installations). Its name stems from its location within the [Town of Brookhaven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven,_New_York), approximately 60 miles east of [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City). It is managed by [Stony Brook University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stony_Brook_University) and [Battelle Memorial Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battelle_Memorial_Institute).

Research at BNL specializes in nuclear and high energy physics, energy science and technology, environmental and bioscience, nanoscience and national security. The 5,300 acre campus contains several large research facilities, including the [Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relativistic_Heavy_Ion_Collider) and [National Synchrotron Light Source II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Synchrotron_Light_Source_II). Seven [Nobel prizes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_prize) have been awarded for work conducted at Brookhaven lab.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-1)



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Overview[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Overview)]

BNL is staffed by approximately 2,750 scientists, engineers, technicians, and support personnel, and hosts 4,000 guest investigators every year.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-2) The laboratory has its own police station, fire department, and [ZIP code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZIP_code) (11973). In total, the lab spans a 5,265-acre (21 km2) area that is mostly coterminous with the hamlet of [Upton, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton,_New_York). BNL is served by a rail spur operated as-needed by the [New York and Atlantic Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_and_Atlantic_Railway). Co-located with the laboratory is the Upton, New York, forecast office of the [National Weather Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Weather_Service).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-3)

**Major programs**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Major programs)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Long_Island_Road_Map.gif)

Location of Brookhaven National Laboratory relative to New York City

Although originally conceived as a nuclear research facility, Brookhaven Lab's mission has greatly expanded. Its foci are now:

* [Nuclear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_physics) and [high-energy physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-energy_physics)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-4)
* Physics and chemistry of materials[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-5)
* Environmental[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-6) and climate research
* Nanomaterials
* Energy research
* [Nonproliferation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonproliferation)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-7)
* [Structural biology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural_biology)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-8)
* [Accelerator physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accelerator_physics)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-9)

**Operation**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Operation)]

Brookhaven National Lab was originally owned by the [Atomic Energy Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Atomic_Energy_Commission) and is now owned by that agency's successor, the [United States Department of Energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Energy) (DOE). DOE subcontracts the research and operation to universities and research organizations. It is currently operated by Brookhaven Science Associates LLC, which is an equal partnership of [Stony Brook University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stony_Brook_University) and [Battelle Memorial Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battelle_Memorial_Institute). From 1947 to 1998, it was operated by [Associated Universities, Inc.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated_Universities,_Inc.) (AUI), but AUI lost its contract in the wake of two incidents: a 1994 fire at the facility's high-beam flux reactor that exposed several workers to radiation and reports in 1997 of a [tritium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tritium) leak into the groundwater of the [Long Island Central Pine Barrens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Island_Central_Pine_Barrens) on which the facility sits.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-10)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-11)

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: History)]

**Foundations**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Foundations)]

Following [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), the [US Atomic Energy Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Atomic_Energy_Commission) was created to support government-sponsored peacetime research on atomic energy. The effort to build a [nuclear reactor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_reactor) in the American northeast was fostered largely by physicists [Isidor Isaac Rabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isidor_Isaac_Rabi) and [Norman Foster Ramsey Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Foster_Ramsey_Jr.), who during the war witnessed many of their colleagues at [Columbia University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University) leave for new remote research sites following the departure of the [Manhattan Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_Project) from its campus. Their effort to house this reactor near [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) was rivalled by a similar effort at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology) to have a facility near [Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston,_Massachusetts). Involvement was quickly solicited from representatives of northeastern universities to the south and west of [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) such that this city would be at their geographic center. In March 1946 a nonprofit corporation was established that consisted of representatives from nine major research universities — [Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University), [Cornell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornell_University), [Harvard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University), [Johns Hopkins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johns_Hopkins_University), [MIT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology), [Princeton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princeton_University), [University of Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Pennsylvania), [University of Rochester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Rochester), and [Yale University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale_University).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-12)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Soldier_records,_Camp_Upton_LOC_23546348723.jpg)

Soldiers during [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) at the [Camp Upton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Upton) site, which would in 1947 be repurposed as BNL

Out of 17 considered sites in the Boston-Washington corridor, [Camp Upton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Upton) on [Long Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Island) was eventually chosen as the most suitable in consideration of space, transportation, and availability. The camp had been a training center from the [US Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) during both [World War I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) and [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II). After the latter war, Camp Upton was deemed no longer necessary and became available for reuse. A plan was conceived to convert the military camp into a research facility.

On March 21, 1947, the Camp Upton site was officially transferred from the [U.S. War Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._War_Department) to the new [U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Atomic_Energy_Commission), predecessor to the [U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Energy).

**Research and facilities**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Research and facilities)]

**Reactor history**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: Reactor history)]

In 1947 construction began on the first [nuclear reactor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_reactor) at Brookhaven, the [Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_Graphite_Research_Reactor&action=edit&redlink=1). This reactor, which opened in 1950, was the first reactor to be constructed in the United States after World War II. The [High Flux Beam Reactor](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=High_Flux_Beam_Reactor&action=edit&redlink=1) operated from 1965 to 1999. In 1959 Brookhaven built the first US reactor specifically tailored to medical research, the [Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_Medical_Research_Reactor&action=edit&redlink=1), which operated until 2000.

**Accelerator history**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=8" \o "Edit section: Accelerator history)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Satoshi_Ozaki_1991.jpg)

[Satoshi Ozaki](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Satoshi_Ozaki&action=edit&redlink=1) posed with a magnet for the [Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relativistic_Heavy_Ion_Collider) in 1991

In 1952 Brookhaven began using its first [particle accelerator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle_accelerator), the [Cosmotron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmotron). At the time the Cosmotron was the world's highest energy accelerator, being the first to impart more than 1 [GeV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GeV) of energy to a particle. The Cosmotron was retired in 1966, after it was superseded in 1960 by the new [Alternating Gradient Synchrotron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternating_Gradient_Synchrotron) (AGS). The AGS was used in research that resulted in 3 [Nobel prizes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_prize), including the discovery of the [muon neutrino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muon_neutrino), the [charm quark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charm_quark), and [CP violation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CP_violation).

In 1970 in BNL started the [ISABELLE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISABELLE) project to develop and build two proton intersecting storage rings. The groundbreaking for the project was in October 1978. In 1981, with the tunnel for the accelerator already excavated, problems with the superconducting magnets needed for the ISABELLE accelerator brought the project to a halt, and the project was eventually cancelled in 1983.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-13)

The [National Synchrotron Light Source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Synchrotron_Light_Source) operated from 1982 to 2014 and was involved with two Nobel Prize-winning discoveries. It has since been replaced by the [National Synchrotron Light Source II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Synchrotron_Light_Source_II).

After ISABELLE'S cancellation, physicist at BNL proposed that the excavated tunnel and parts of the magnet assembly be used in another accelerator. In 1984 the first proposal for the accelerator now known as the [Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relativistic_Heavy_Ion_Collider) (RHIC) was put forward. The construction got funded in 1991 and RHIC has been operational since 2000. One of the world's only two operating heavy-ion colliders, RHIC is as of 2010 the second-highest-energy collider after the [Large Hadron Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_Hadron_Collider). RHIC is housed in a tunnel 2.4 miles (3.9 km) long and is visible from space.

On January 9, 2020, It was announced by Paul Dabbar, undersecretary of the US Department of Energy Office of Science, that the BNL eRHIC design has been selected over the conceptual design put forward by [Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson_National_Accelerator_Facility) as the future [Electron–ion collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electron%E2%80%93ion_collider) (EIC) in the United States. In addition to the site selection, it was announced that the BNL EIC had acquired CD-0 (mission need) from the Department of Energy.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-14) BNL'a eRHIC design, proposes upgrading the existing Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, which collides beams light to heavy ions including polarized protons, with a polarized electron facility, to be housed in the same tunnel.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-15)

**Other discoveries**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=9" \o "Edit section: Other discoveries)]

In 1958, Brookhaven scientists created one of the world's first [video games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_game), [Tennis for Two](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennis_for_Two). In 1968 Brookhaven scientists patented [Maglev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maglev), a transportation technology that utilizes [magnetic levitation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnetic_levitation).

Major facilities[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=10" \o "Edit section: Major facilities)]

* [Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relativistic_Heavy_Ion_Collider) (RHIC), which was designed to research [quark–gluon plasma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quark%E2%80%93gluon_plasma)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-16) and the sources of proton spin.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-17) Until 2009 it was the world's most powerful heavy ion collider. It is the only collider of spin-polarized protons.
* [Center for Functional Nanomaterials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_for_Functional_Nanomaterials) (CFN), used for the study of [nanoscale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanoscopic_scale) materials.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-18)
* [National Synchrotron Light Source II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Synchrotron_Light_Source_II) (NSLS-II), Brookhaven's newest user facility, opened in 2015 to replace the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS), which had operated for 30 years.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-19) NSLS was involved in the work that won the 2003 and 2009 [Nobel Prize in Chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Chemistry).[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-Bnl.gov-20)
* [Alternating Gradient Synchrotron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternating_Gradient_Synchrotron), a [particle accelerator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle_accelerator) that was used in three of the lab's [Nobel prizes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize).[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-21)
* [Accelerator Test Facility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accelerator_Test_Facility_(New_York)), generates, accelerates and monitors [particle beams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle_beam).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-22)
* [Tandem Van de Graaff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tandem_Van_de_Graaff), once the world's largest [electrostatic accelerator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrostatic_accelerator).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-23)
* Computational Science resources, including access to a massively parallel [Blue Gene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Gene) series supercomputer that is among the fastest in the world for scientific research, run jointly by Brookhaven National Laboratory and [Stony Brook University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stony_Brook_University).[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-24)
* Interdisciplinary Science Building, with unique laboratories for studying high-temperature superconductors and other materials important for addressing energy challenges.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-25)
* [NASA Space Radiation Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Space_Radiation_Laboratory), where scientists use beams of ions to simulate cosmic rays and assess the risks of space radiation to human space travelers and equipment.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-26)

Off-site contributions[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=11" \o "Edit section: Off-site contributions)]

It is a contributing partner to [ATLAS experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ATLAS_experiment), one of the four detectors located at the [Large Hadron Collider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_Hadron_Collider) (LHC). It is currently operating at [CERN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERN) near [Geneva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva), Switzerland.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-27)

Brookhaven was also responsible for the design of the SNS accumulator ring in partnership with [Spallation Neutron Source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spallation_Neutron_Source) in [Oak Ridge, Tennessee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_Ridge,_Tennessee).

Brookhaven plays a role in a range of neutrino research projects around the world, including the [Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daya_Bay_Reactor_Neutrino_Experiment) in China and the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment at [Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermilab).[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-28)

Public access[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=12" \o "Edit section: Public access)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:National_Synchrotron_Light_Source_II.jpg)

Exterior of [National Synchrotron Light Source II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Synchrotron_Light_Source_II) facility in 2012, during a Brookhaven National Laboratory "Summer Sundays" public tour.

For other than approved Public Events, the Laboratory is closed to the general public. The lab is open to the public on several Sundays during the summer for tours and special programs. The public access program is referred to as 'Summer Sundays' and takes place on four Sundays from mid-July to mid-August, and features a science show and a tour of the lab's major facilities.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-29) The laboratory also hosts science fairs, science bowls, and robotics competitions for local schools, and lectures, concerts, and scientific talks for the local community. The Lab estimates that each year it enhances the science education of roughly 35,000 kindergarten to 12th grade LI students, more than 200 undergraduates, and 550 teachers from across the United States.

Controversy and environmental cleanup[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=13" \o "Edit section: Controversy and environmental cleanup)]

In January 1997, ground water samples taken by BNL staff revealed concentrations of tritium that were twice the allowable federal drinking water standards—some samples taken later were 32 times the standard. The tritium was found to be leaking from the laboratory's High Flux Beam Reactor's spent-fuel pool into the aquifer that provides drinking water for nearby Suffolk County residents.

DOE's and BNL's investigation of this incident concluded that the tritium had been leaking for as long as 12 years without DOE's or BNL's knowledge. Installing wells that could have detected the leak was first discussed by BNL engineers in 1993, but the wells were not completed until 1996. The resulting controversy about both BNL's handling of the tritium leak and perceived lapses in DOE's oversight led to the termination of AUI as the BNL contractor in May 1997.

The responsibility for failing to discover Brookhaven's tritium leak has been acknowledged by laboratory managers, and DOE admits it failed to properly oversee the laboratory's operations. Brookhaven officials repeatedly treated the need for installing monitoring wells that would have detected the tritium leak as a low priority despite public concern and the laboratory's agreement to follow local environmental regulations. DOE's on-site oversight office, the Brookhaven Group, was directly responsible for Brookhaven's performance, but it failed to hold the laboratory accountable for meeting all of its regulatory commitments, especially its agreement to install monitoring wells. Senior DOE leadership also shared responsibility because they failed to put in place an effective system that encourages all parts of DOE to work together to ensure that contractors meet their responsibilities on environmental, safety and health issues. Unclear responsibilities for environment, safety and health matters has been a recurring problem for DOE management.

Since 1993, DOE has spent more than US$580 million on remediating soil and groundwater contamination at the lab site and completed several high-profile projects. These include the decommissioning and decontamination of the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor,[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-30) removal of mercury-contaminated sediment from the Peconic River, and installation and operation of 16 on- and off-site groundwater treatment systems that have cleaned more than 25 billion gallons of groundwater since 1996.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-31)

Shortly after winning the contract to operate the lab in 1997, BSA formed a Community Advisory Council (CAC) to advise the laboratory director on cleanup projects and other items of interest to the community. The CAC represents a diverse range of interests and values of individuals and groups who are interested in or affected by the actions of the Laboratory. It consists of representatives from 26 local business, civic, education, environment, employee, government, and health organizations. The CAC sets its own agenda, brings forth issues important to the community, and works to provide consensus recommendations to Laboratory management.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-32)

Nobel Prizes[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=14" \o "Edit section: Nobel Prizes)]

**Nobel Prize in Physics**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=15" \o "Edit section: Nobel Prize in Physics)]

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* 2009 – [Venkatraman Ramakrishnan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venkatraman_Ramakrishnan) and [Thomas A. Steitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_A._Steitz) – [Ribosome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ribosome)[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-38)

See also[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brookhaven_National_Laboratory&action=edit&section=17" \o "Edit section: See also)]

* [Center for the Advancement of Science in Space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_for_the_Advancement_of_Science_in_Space)—operates the US National Laboratory on the ISS.
* [Tennis for Two](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennis_for_Two)[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-39)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookhaven_National_Laboratory#cite_note-40)
* [Goldhaber fellows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldhaber_fellows)

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