

Existing Updates:

Biweekly update 5/08/25

Removal work is underway at the Fairmont Brine site. Activities include:

- Removed contaminated material from inside the upper complex building, and packaged material for offsite disposal.
- Conducted bench scale tests for on-site waste solidification
- Removed contaminated filter cake material from 5 of the 6 roll-off containers on the site. The material was repackaged into shippable containers and secured on-site.
- Empty roll-off containers were secured and staged onsite for future disposal
- Conducted air monitoring for radiation and particulates throughout the duration of site activities.
- No air exceedances have been observed indicating that no airborne contamination is leaving the site.
- All personnel, tools, and vehicles, were screened prior to exiting the hot zone to ensure contamination does not exit the zone.

Security cameras have been installed at the site allowing for 24/7 video surveillance.

The EPA and contractor personnel regularly screen AFR Drive with radiation monitoring equipment.

EPA will begin packaging TENORM contaminated materials for disposal in the near future pending waste characterization results.

Biweekly update 4/18/25

EPA and it's contractors continue to perform Site preparations and removal work at the Fairmont Brine Site. Site activities have included the following tasks:

- Conducted waste characterization sampling of the six roll-offs containing filter cake material on the site
- Sampled the liquids and solid material in the ten frac tanks, and sampled solids and liquids from the concrete basin. Waste characterization results will determine disposal facility eligibility
- Assessed and characterizing on-site debris
- Cleared access areas into the upper complex building to allow for removal of filter cake material from the floor and process areas of the upper complex building.
- Constructed a staging area for debris screening.
- Began segregating material from inside the upper complex building for offsite disposal.

Security cameras have been installed at the site allowing for 24/7 video surveillance.

The EPA and contractor personnel regularly screen AFR Drive with radiation monitoring equipment.

EPA will begin packaging TENORM contaminated materials for disposal in the near future pending waste

characterization results.

Previous site updates have been archived and made publicly available under the “Documents” tab. The most recent document can be found here: [Archived Site Updates 3.14.25](#)

March 14, 2025

The EPA and its contractors continue preparation and stabilization activities at the site. Site activities include the following:

- Installation of office trailers and power sources for the trailers.
- Grading near the upper impoundment to reduce the likelihood of runoff and erosion occurring.
- Installation of a ramp onto the concrete loading pad for ease of equipment and personnel access.
- Installation of silt fencing along AFR Road to control runoff and erosion.
- Establishing and installing barricades along site work zones such as the exclusion zone, contamination reduction zone, and support zone.
- Installation of additional signage at the entry gate to the site.

Other updates include:

- Security cameras have been installed at the site allowing for 24/7 video surveillance.
- The EPA and contractor personnel regularly screen AFR Road with radiation monitoring equipment.
- Additional preparation work will continue in the following weeks.

February 28, 2025

The EPA and its contractors mobilized to the site the week of February 24, 2025. The EPA and contractors are conducting site preparation tasks prior to conducting the removal of hazardous substances (TENORM) from the site. Work being performed includes the installation of security cameras, leveling and grading surfaces for office trailers, cleanup and disposal of non-contaminated site debris, and establishing air monitoring locations to collect background readings from the site. Additional preparation work will continue on-site in the following weeks.

November 2024 - Community Meeting

Join the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and our Unified Command partners for a community meeting. The purpose is for community members to meet and engage with the EPA site team and our partners to discuss next steps for the Fairmont Brine Processing site.

- **Thursday, November 14, 2024**
6:00—7:30 PM
- **West Virginia State Office Building**
416 Adams St, Fairmont, WV 26554

July 2024 - Radiological Survey Final Report

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) performed a radiological survey of the Fairmont Brine Processing (FBP) site. The NCRFO is a specialized team in EPA that is stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the radiological survey is to assist EPA Region 3 in identifying areas where radiation was found elevated at the Fairmont Brine Site.

The radiological survey involved scanning all physically accessible areas of the site with a scanning system to find anomalies (i.e., areas of high radioactivity) and to identify any radionuclides that are not naturally occurring. The NCRFO scanned 100% of the accessible parts of the Fairmont Brine Site.

In this report, an anomaly is defined as a location with radiation readings at least three times background. Background is identified as the levels of radiation that naturally occurs in the environment. The report highlights areas of anomalies, as well as areas approaching the threshold of anomalies. However, no unexpected radionuclides were detected. The findings indicate that all radioactivity at the site is from Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM).

The radiological survey guided development of the sampling plan at the Fairmont Brine Site. Laboratory results from sampling will also be posted online when available.

April 2024

A list of FAQs has been uploaded to the documents section of this web page.

March 2024

Continued assessment work was performed during the week of 3/25/2024 to assess radiation at the Site. This assessment included surveying and sampling.

EPA's National Center for Radiological Field Operations (NCRFO) provided a specialized team and equipment to perform surveying at the Site. The team utilized two complementary scanning systems to detect anomalous radiation levels above background. High-purity germanium (HPGe) detectors were used at those anomalous areas to identify any potential non-Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) radionuclides. Preliminary results indicate all the radionuclides on Site are TENORM.

The NCRFO team used their equipment to guide the OSCs in selecting sampling locations. EPA's START contractor collected the samples.

A combination of water, sediment, and surface soil samples were collected. Water samples were collected from both the upper and lower impoundments, the concrete basin in the pre-treatment area, the eastern pond, and a seep identified along AFR drive.

January and February 2024

EPA continues to monitor and regularly check in on the Site. EPA and its contractors were on-site the week of 2/26/24 to implement additional Site security measures. Security measures included installing new / additional fencing panels and locks on gates around the Site. Additionally, a roll-off dumpster was secured and covered with tarps. EPA is in the process of scheduling a comprehensive site assessment with the EPA National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO), and EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors.

EPA is continuing to work with our state and local response partners to plan future activities at the Site.

December 2023

West Virginia Department of Health [also known as WVDH (formerly known as WV DHHR)] has reviewed data from radiological testing which occurred in 2019 as part of routine compliance testing and conducted new tests of both raw (untreated) and finished (treated) drinking water at the Morgantown Utility Board water treatment facility in October 2023. This facility is operated by the only West Virginia public water system downstream of the former Fairmont Brine along the Monongahela River. All testing results for regulated radionuclides are well below EPA drinking water standards. This data provides strong evidence that the radioactivity at the former Fairmont Brine site has had no effect on public drinking water supplies.

EPA mailed informational postcards to addresses within 1.5 miles of the site on 12/12/2023. The postcards provide residents with current information regarding the site and contact information to address potential concerns. A digital version of the postcard is uploaded in the documents section of this website.

November 2023

Based on current radiological data obtained at the Fairmont Brine site, none of the data collected suggests that there are measurable health impacts to the public resulting from the May 2023 fire. Individuals that would like to discuss specific health concerns may reach out to the West Virginia Department of Health (WVDH), Bureau for Public Health's Office of Environmental Health Services Radiological Health Program at 304-558-2981.

The only verified assessments of the site at this time are those which have been undertaken by responding federal and state agencies. These assessments did confirm the presence of radioactivity originating from radium 226, with the highest dose rate at 3 mrem per hour in one location. This dose rate, although one of concern, would not cause immediate health effects. However, exposure over a lifetime to lower levels can cause an increase in cancer risk. [For general information about relative doses from radiation sources, click here.](#)

Current and future actions to restrict access to the site are also meant to mitigate long term exposures from radiation to trespassers, responders, and the public. By mid-November a fence was

erected as a safety protocol to ensure the areas in which the most elevated levels of radium 226 contamination were found remain undisturbed by preventing any unauthorized access. [Click here to learn more about radiation contamination versus exposure.](#)

September-October 2023

EPA and its contractors have posted "NO TRESPASSING" signs at the Site. Trespassers will be reported to law enforcement. **EPA has established a public phoneline** for additional questions and concerns pertaining to the site at **(800) 438-2474**. The phone line is staffed Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST.

[Click here to read the October 2023 press release](#) with more information about the response and public resources.

May-August 2023

EPA is assisting the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP) with their response to the fire at FBP. EPA is coordinating with WV DEP, the WV Department of Health (WVDH), and Marion County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to take actions to mitigate the release or potential release of hazardous substances from the facility. [Click here for more information on how EPA responds to hazardous waste sites](#)