**Brief History of Eberline / Thermo Fisher Facility**

**5981 Airport Road, Santa Fe, NM**

January 29, 2023

**1953** Eberline Instrument Co. began manufacturing radiation detectors at 5981 Airport Road, Santa Fe, NM.

**April 3, 1974** The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Governor of New Mexico, Bruce King, signed an agreement that authorized New Mexico as an “Agreement State,” in order for New Mexico to regulate radioactive materials and operations in the state. <https://scp.nrc.gov/special/regs/nmagreements.pdf>

**1979** Thermo Electron Corp. bought Eberline Instrument Co.

**Early 1990s** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opened a Superfund investigation of the site.

**2001** Santa Fe County purchased the 22 acres north and east of the former Eberline radiation detection equipment plant under the Open Space and Trails Program.

**2007** Manufacturing ceased. In that same year, 800 sealed radiation sources containing plutonium or cesium were removed from the site. Cesium-137 was removed from three wells on the Eberline site.

**2007, 2008 and 2009** Eberline submitted notices of decommissioning to the New Mexico Environment Department Radiation Control Bureau (NMED RCB).

**2009** EPA reopened the Superfund investigation. Eberline submits Historical Site Assessment (HAS) and Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP).

**2010** Eberline submitted plan to the NMED RCB to remove 16 Curies of Cesium 137.

**2012** 320 cubic feet of contaminated subsoil was removed from the site.

**2015** Proposed $2.5 to $3 million financial assurance because radiation was detected in building.

NMED RCB revoked ThermoFisher’s license to transport Americium-241 from Eberline to Los Alamos.

**2016** 8.6 Curies of Americium-241 removed to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Eberline submitted a proposed decommissioning plan to NMED RCB.

June 20, 2016 “State Orders Radioactive Material Removal from Warehouse,” by Staci Matlock, Santa Fe New Mexican. <https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/state-orders-radioactive-material-removed-from-warehouse/article_ce673373-5c4e-5f4a-b392-44b0ad398dc7.html> The drum contained 2.1 grams of americium. It was shipped to LANL.

**2017** “Nuclear Neighborhood: A company that made equipment to detect radiation left toxic material in a shuttered Santa Fe building,” by Aaron Cantú, Santa Fe Reporter. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/news-coverstories/2017/09/28/nuclear-neighborhood-2/>

**2018** October 29, 2018 “Congressman Requests Records on Airport Road Nuke Facility,” by Aaron Cantú, Santa Fe Reporter. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/2018/10/29/congressman-requests-records-on-airport-road-nuke-facility/>

Congressman Ben Ray Lujan wrote letters to the NMED RCB and EPA “to account for the full extent of contamination since the [Eberline / ThermoFisher] building shut its doors more than a decade ago.”

“The county plans to build a children’s park right next door.”

Lujan wrote, “The public deserves to be kept informed about what’s going on in their community, and so far there are too many unanswered questions here.”

“Since its closure, Thermo Fisher has repeatedly misrepresented the amount of nuclear materials stored at the site. And the state has made almost no effort to update the surrounding community about potential health risks associated with the site.”

NMED RCB replied, “[We expect] to received decommissioning plans in March 2019, and upon approval, ThermoFisher and Eberline would have 24 months to decommission the site in accordance with New Mexico radiation protection regulations.”

**2019** ThermoFisher proposed screening levels for radionuclides (Americium, Plutonium, Strontium) hundreds of times any background values. Proposed screening levels for Cesium at ten times background.

May 30, 2019, updated June 8, 2019 “Nuclear Equipment Site to Close,” by Amanda Martinez, Rio Grande Sun. <https://www.riograndesun.com/news/nuclear-equipment-storage-site-to-close/article_ff895b04-82e5-11e9-9d74-b71686dbec81.html>

November 20, 2019 “Flyover Country: Airport Road might see zoning redo as residents, business owners say the area isn’t serving them,” by Katherine Lewin, Santa Fe Reporter. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/coverstories/2019/11/20/flyover-country/>

“The park next to the old Eberline facility will see no changes for now. Santa Fe County purchased the 22 acres north and east of the former radiation detection equipment plant in 2001 under the Open Space and Trails Program. Since the surrounding land’s annexation, the county has not moved forward with the plans, and the property remains vacant.” P. 14.

“Miguel Acosta, executive director of EarthCare, a local nonprofit that operates on the Southside, says residents have faced inequity since long before he arrived 12 years ago.” P. 12.

“Acosta hopes a piece of empty land at the intersection of Airport Road and South Meadows Road, which is zoned commercials, could become a source for fresh food as well as a gathering place for Southsiders.

“While Acosta says the landowner talked to residents about placing apartments and a drive-thru restaurant there, the city Office of Economic Development says the realtor who owns the property is trying to get a Smith’s grocery store interested in the lot.” Pp. 13 – 14.

**2020** January 8, 2020 “Less Radioactive: Former Southside radioactive manufacturing facility inches along in its clean-up and re-sale,” by Katherine Lewin, Santa Fe Reporter. NMED RCB had found deficiencies in a draft decommissioning plan developed by ThermoFischer. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/2020/01/08/less-radioactive/>

**2021** ThermoFisher submitted notice of disposal for non-impacted waste, which was sent to Capitol Recycling Caja Landfill.

September 2021 “Open Space Shuffle,” by Bella Davis, Santa Fe Reporter. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/2021/09/15/open-space-shuffle/>

October 13, 2021 “Land in Limbo: City and county officials tell different stories about how a rare Southside open space may land in the hands of a developer,” by Bella Davis, Santa Fe Reporter. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/2021/10/13/land-in-limbo/>

**2022** February 16, 2022 “It Depends on Your Definition of ‘Should’: Did Santa Fe County break its own rules in South Meadows open space disposal?” by Bella Davis, Santa Fe Reporter. <https://www.sfreporter.com/news/2022/02/14/it-depends-on-your-definition-of-should/>

**2023** ThermoFisher, and its third-party contractor CN Associates, continue the characterization and surveying of the site. ThermoFisher plans to demolish the red brick building and pull up the asphalt parking lot on Airport Road. The demolition may be done under a large tent with HEPA filtration. ThermoFisher plans to sell the property.

Once the decommissioning plan and funding plan are approved by the NMED RCB, ThermoFisher will have 24 months to complete the demolition and cleanup of the site for unrestricted use and termination of its operating license.