BREA Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller
Contact Information:
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA
BNL Bldg. 400A
BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting
Upton, NY 11973

Present Arnie Moodenbaugh, Donna Chiossoni, Anita Cohen, David Cox, Betty Elder, Ronnie Evans, Les Fishbone, Roger Hackenburg, Mark Israel, Yousef Makdisi, Amy Manowitz, Laura Miller, Mona Rowe, Frank Scheifele, Steve Shapiro, Brett Siegel, Barry Siskind, Ed Sperry, Gwyn Williams, Charles Weilbrenner, Marty Van Lith

Laura Buscemi-Robles, Tiffany Martin, Jennifer Morries

Officers 2024-2026: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Due to the sudden passing of Andy Feldman, this is now an open position; Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Louise Hanson,

At the pre-meeting, the BREA Board reviewed and approved the March 10, 2026 minutes. Laura will send them to be posted on the BREA website.

BREA President Arnie Moodenbaugh called the meeting called to order at 1:09 pm.

1. Treasurer's Report. Louise Hanson.
   a. Louise was unable to attend. Arnie presented the report. Mark motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Les Fishbone. Motion passed.

2. Membership Report. Betty Elder.
   a. 205 members, 189 paid, 457 in 'arrears',
   b. Les Motioned to approve, seconded by Arnie. Approved.

3. Worker Health Protection Program WHPP. Jennifer Morries and Laura Buscemi-Robles will give information about this program to provide a thorough free medical exam. The exam is designed to evaluate DOE contractor employees and ex-employees for workplace related diseases. Follow-up treatments and financial compensation are provided when appropriate.

a. One of the members tried unsuccessfully to get national coverage. Laura sent an email and he will try again and then will update her. When there are problems, Tiffany and Laura said they recommend people call the National Supplemental Screening Program to get scheduled for a screening (phone number provided below).
b. Barry got some good hearing aids from the program. In addition to radiation exposure, do mercury contamination and mercury vapors also get addressed by the program? After a person receives a physical from them, that question is asked on their form and they will address the issue. It is on the Occupational History questionnaire.
c. Tiffany reminded us that they are still doing the exams, etc. They also have early lung cancer screening available on the island now.
d. Jennifer Morries discussed the new lung cancer screening. She mentioned that without screening it is usually fatal, but the screening catches it an earlier stage, before symptoms, so treatment is much more effective.
    i. WHPP ELCD Program toll-free (1-866-CAT SCAN) 1-866-228-7226
    ii. National Supplemental Screening Program (NSSP) 1-866-812-6703
e. International early launch cancer interaction program is now operating on Long Island. The program is occupational, second-hand smoking isn't addressed at this time.
f. The Department of Energy is the agency that provides funding.
g. People will receive a call to schedule another exam after the three-year deadline, but not in the NSSP.

Plans for May BREA newsletter. Mona Rowe

h. May/June issue will be on scams. She has some personal views because members have expressed problems. Marty Van Lith received a Navia letter (it went to those who have health reimbursement accounts) which said Navia was hacked and the hackers got social security, bank accounts, etc. It started at the end of December 2025, and people were notified Jan. 26, 2026.
i. Seniors are susceptible! Big advice: stop – think – reflect – DON'T RUSH.
j. Action: Artie will send Mona his President's message, etc.

4. Community Advisory Council. Thursday, March 12. Mark Israel

a. Two CAC meetings to report: 3/12 and 4/9.
b. ***Action***: Mark will send Laura his notes.

i. CAC notes from both meeting are provided as Appendices to these minutes.

5. Recruitment of retiring employees to BREA. Arnie emailed the listed departures from RHIC. Discuss changes in dues scheme to improve enrollment.
   a. Ask new members if they are aware of people who will soon retire
   b. Possible changes in dues scheme: try to make it easier for new members to join and have a less complicated dues structure.
   c. There currently is no method for retirees to send payments via online formats such as Venmo and Zelle. BREA banks with Teachers Federal Credit Union (TFCU), which doesn't accept these forms of payment due to their high risk.

6. Possible Spring events for members. We are planning to hold a hybrid in-person/ZOOM meeting May 12 at BNL. Other plans?
   a. Arnie and Adam are planning to meet in person for the people in this area for the May meeting, but RHIC will have a meeting on that date in Bldg. 100. Arnie has sent an email to Adam to go ahead with it, and we can meet in Berkner.
   b. Could hold an in-person meeting in the new building, Adam is located there now. We may try it again later.
   c. Arnie hopes to have something set up in time to include it in the May/June newsletter.
      i. ***Action***: He will provide an update either way.

7. New Business
   a. Brookhaven National Laboratory Director search is complete, and they have sent their recommendation to Battelle. It will need approval from BSA. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of Energy. Recently BNL has been moving internal people up rather than bringing in people from the outside.
   b. Navia comment: Arnie knows someone who had an Advantage Plan who had to submit receipts to get their $180/mo and they had problems. He doesn't have an update.

Mark motioned to adjourn, Laura seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.

The next meeting will be May 12th at 1:00 pm.

Appendix A: March12 2026 CAC Meeting notes

Environmental Update– Jason Remien, Manager Environmental Protection Division, and Brian Barth, Manager, Groundwater Protection Group

Jason announced the retirement of Doug Pacquette after approximately 40 years of service at BNL.

He then presented an updated dashboard showing the status of key environmental programs at BNL. These included Drinking Water, Liquid Effluents, Non-Rad Emissions, Spill Response, Radiological Air Emissions Underground and Aboveground Storage Tanks, Waste Management, and several other areas. (Detail slides will be provided for inclusion on our BREA website). All of the environmental areas are doing well. Some metrics were also provided.

Jason discussed Natural Resource Management including Deer Management and Forest Management Programs. Current deer population is estimated at 450-600 because of their high reproductive rate. Acceptable population is between 80 and 250, with our target max at 250. Ther was one week of culling that took place, but only 12 deer were taken. Additional culling weekends are scheduled for March and April. All deer meat is tested for Cs-137 before releasing for consumption. Over 31,000 lbs. have been donated to food pantries to date under this program.

With respect to Forest Management, 66 acres of forest have been mechanically thinned in preparation for controlled burns to improve forest health and reduce risk of future, dangerous wildfires.

Jason presented that there were two assessments/inspections conducted at BNL. The NEPA and Cultural Resources Assessment concluded that the program is sound and effectively implemented. There were no findings, one strength, and several opportunities for improvement. The Quarterly Sewage Treatment Plant Inspection resulted in no corrective actions, and the rating of "satisfactory."

Jason discussed the 2025 Federal Environmental Management System (EMS) Program change. The federal requirement for an EMS was rescinded and the requirement to maintain an externally certified EMS has been removed from BNL's contract. DOE HQ and BNL's peer group of Battelle Laboratories have agreed to maintain their existing EMS's and our peer review assessment programs. But we are reviewing the program to make it leaner by ensuring compliance and maintaining stakeholder involvement.

Brian Barth presented the update on Groundwater Protection. He reviewed status of the VOC Remediation System, Radiological Remediation, PFAS Remediation System. (Detailed slides will be provided for the BREA website)

Demolition is being planned for Building 526, and its basement and foundation. Building 526 had historically been a Low-Mass Criticality Facility from 1955 – 1960 for nuclear research, and

later, for research of high efficiency heating systems. First sampling is being performed to characterize the soil beneath the building and determine if PFAS is present.

Scientific Presentation – Arthur Sedlacek discussed work being performed on a BNL Cloud Chamber in order to create a programmable atmosphere for environmental research. Discussed how clouds regulate the earth's energy balance and control the hydrologic cycle that drives weather systems and storm formation. Arthur described how clouds are formed, and the essential ingredients such as water vapor, cooling air, and saturation. Aerosols provide "seeding" beyond the energy barrier when relative humidity reaches 100%. If this can be replicated in a closet-sized cloud chamber, controlled rain/precipitation patterns could be predicted and observed.

Appendix B: CAC Meeting Notes for April 9, 2026

John Hill, Interim Laboratory Director Gave an excellent presentation entitled "Charting Our Future" of BNL from 2026 through 2036. He emphasized that the outstanding science of today, through 2025, points to the BNL of tomorrow with the RHIC PHENIX Detector data collected, AI-accelerated scientific calculations in the areas of Particle Physics, Electrical Grid, and X-ray Imaging. The pillars for 2026 include:

-Understanding the Building Blocks of the Universe

-Leading in Discovery with Light-Enabled Science

-Developing Next-Generation Information Science and Capabilities

-Advancing Energy Security and Essential Resources Independence, and

-Optimizing Operations to Enable the Laboratory's Mission

The key components of the 2036 vision are:

-EIC makes it possible to watch the proton's quarks and gluons in motion

-Low-latency AI controls BNL's facilities and data, integrates facilities across the DOE complex

-BNL leads the world in embodied AI for scientific facilities

-NSLS II U delivers broad impact across science ecosystems

-BNL-derived distributed quantum computers accelerate DOE mission work

-Brookhaven and Stony Brook-enabled secure U.S. quantum network expands the country, and

-Mission-ready infrastructure.

Impacts of this vision for 2036 will be:

-U.S. leads the world in nuclear and accelerator physics. QCD dynamics in nucleons are understood

-On-shored U.S. microelectronics manufacturing is world-leading and drives energy-efficient AI machines

-U.S. achieves quantum supremacy. Quantum computers commercially available for useful calculations

-U.S. achieves scientific and AI supremacy. BNL scientist uses AI agent to win physics prize

-AI accelerates scientific productivity of DOE user facilities by a factor of 10 or greater

-Neuromorphics enable 10x scaling or greater AI computing with no increase in power requirements

These impacts, and the process of achieving them, support development of the next generation workforce.

Science Presentation: Resumption of Operations for Radioisotope Research and Production Laboratory (RRPL) -Dmitri Medvedev, Interim Chair, Isotope Research and Production Department

Dmitri discussed how BNL is the birthplace of Nuclear Medicine. In the 1950's Walter Tucker and Margaret Greene developed a generator system for producing Tc-99m, and Powell Richards suggested its use for medical imaging. In 1972, BNL pioneered the use of high energy proton beams for isotope production (BLIP). In 1976, BNL chemists Al Wolf and Joanna Fowler synthesized the fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) molecule. In 1980, BNL scientists first reported high FDG uptake in tumors, leading to FDG/PET for managing the cancer patient. In 1991, BNL Suresh Srivastava commercialized Ultra Tag Red Blood Cell kit which is widely used in nuclear medicine. In 2023, BNL isotope team was among those who received a Secretary of Energy Achievement Award for their efforts to meet a growing demand for actinium-225 (Ac-225), a medical isotope. Several other radionuclide generator systems were developed at BNL.

What is NOT CHANGING: The nature of work, materials, and mission. Research and production of isotopes for medicine and industry to ensure secure, resilient and innovative domestic supply of critical isotopes essential for national health, prosperity and security.

What IS CHANGING: Work now managed under a Nuclear Safety Basis as applies to Hazard Category 3 Nuclear Facility, following nuclear safety requirements stipulated in Federal Regulation 10 CFR….a more formal safety structure and documentation requiring additional support of managers, analysts, specialists and engineers.

The purpose is to strengthen safety and regulatory alignment; provide additional assurance to workers and community; and support the mission of producing critical isotopes to ensure our Nation's prosperity and independence from foreign supply.

Environmental Compliance and Groundwater Protection Update: Jason Remien, Manager, Environmental Protection Division

Jason provided an updated status dashboard of the key BNL environmental programs and some related metrics. There were no substantial changes. (Detail slides will be provided for the BREA website).

Some additional updates:

BNL received approval from Suffolk County Department of Health Services to put the new water tower in service. Plans are underway to remove the former tower in May or June.

Another week of Deer Management was completed. 84 additional deer were taken….total to date is 112. One more weekend scheduled in April.

Groundwater Update comments:

- 2025 Groundwater Status Report is underway
- 2026 CERCLA Five Year Review draft submitted to DOE on April 6th
- Design plans for Middle Road/South Boundary extraction wells expected in April-May
- Initiating characterization efforts in support of Current Firehouse/Building 170 extraction well design for late April
- Building 526 demolition preparation continues; environmental sampling completed April 7th
- BNL is coordinating efforts with SCWA and SCDHS regarding Well #1on the SCWA William Floyd Wellfield that was found to have 11ppt PFOS in late 2025. This supply well had been shut down, but has no impact on meeting demand.