



FACTS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF THE BRANDEIS-BARDIN CAMPUS

American Jewish University (AJU) has owned the Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley since 2007. We take very seriously our responsibility to protect the health, safety and security of every person who visits this remarkable property.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

1. Extensive environmental testing over the years has been conducted at Brandeis-Bardin, dating back to 1991 and continuing until now. An in-depth review of thousands of pages of previous studies plus extensive additional testing was conducted in February 2016 by Tetra Tech, Inc., a highly regarded global, environmental engineering firm with a long history of work in site characterization and remediation. This is what Tetra Tech had to say, **“TETRA TECH’S RISK EVALUATION, LITERATURE REVIEW, AND BACKGROUND COMPARISON ANALYSIS OF ALL AVAILABLE SITE DATA INDICATE THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND RADIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AT THE BBC POSE NO UNACCEPTABLE HUMAN HEALTH RISK TO CAMPER, CAMP COUNSELORS, VISITORS, OR RESIDENTS AT THE SITE.”**

TETRA TECH USED HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT BOTH THE USE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPERTY. FOR EXAMPLE, TETRA TECH ASSUMED THAT ALL SITE USERS ARE “RESIDENTS” (ON SITE FOR 350 DAYS PER YEAR FOR 26 YEARS), EVEN THOUGH MOST CAMPER ARE LIKELY ON SITE FOR ONLY A HANDFUL OF WEEKS EACH YEAR. EVEN WITH THESE HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE ASSUMPTIONS, TETRA TECH CALCULATED BBC’S HEALTH RISK SCORE TO BE .043 IN 1,000,000, WHICH IS MORE THAN 23 TIMES LOWER (BETTER) THAN THE ACCEPTABLE EPA LEVEL (1 IN 1,000,000).

Our regular consultant, Joel Cehn, is a radiation physicist and a C.H.P. (Certified Health Physicist.) He has been conducting testing on the Brandeis-Bardin site for more than two decades and has consistently confirmed the safety of the property.

2. Prior tests, completed by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Department of Health, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and others encompassed soil, surface water, groundwater, vegetation, and milk. **ALL CONFIRMED TEST READINGS DEMONSTRATE THAT THE CAMPUS POSES NO RISK TO HEALTH OR SAFETY. IN 1995, THE EPA DETERMINED BRANDEIS- BARDIN TO BE SAFE, DECLARING “...THE THEORETICAL CANCER PROBABILITY OR RISK TO CAMPER AND CAMP COUNSELORS IS LESS THAN THE EPA’S THRESHOLD LEVEL FOR ACTION OF ONE IN 1,000,000.” THIS FINDING WAS RECONFIRMED BY TETRA TECH IN 2016.**

3. The **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)** in 1999 reported that chemicals and radionuclides have not been found in samples collected in *more distant* residential or recreational areas surrounding the SSFL, including Bell Canyon, Brandeis-Bardin [Institute], and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, at levels that would result in adverse human health effects in any human exposure were to occur in these off-site areas.
4. **The DTSC and EPA still stand by their conclusion that the site is safe.** DTSC is the state agency responsible for protecting residents from hazardous waste exposure. For nearly a decade, DTSC has reviewed the Brandeis testing data on a quarterly basis and has consistently found Brandeis-Bardin to be safe. **ON NOVEMBER 5, 2015, THE AGENCY CONFIRMED THE SAFETY OF THE BRANDEIS-BARDIN SITE AT A PUBLIC WORKSHOP. FURTHERMORE, THE DTSC STATED IN WRITING ON OCTOBER 15, 2015: “BASED ON AVAILABLE DATA, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF CONTAMINATION FROM SSFL THAT POSES AN OFF-SITE THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT.”**
5. **Runoff water emanating from SSFL does not pose a problem for Brandeis-Bardin.** Storm water diversions have been constructed on the SSFL to prevent the flow of runoff from the SSFL on or toward the BBC. The remediation activities that are being conducted at SSFL do not permit the discharge of storm water with levels of contaminants that are harmful to humans or the environment.
6. **SINCE 1964, 100 PERCENT OF THE DRINKING WATER AT BRANDEIS-BARDIN HAS COME FROM THE CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, WHICH PROVIDES WATER TO ROUGHLY THREE-QUARTERS OF VENTURA COUNTY RESIDENTS.** Although, as noted above, the ground water on our campus has been tested and demonstrated as safe to drink, **we do not use it for drinking water.** We also obtain our milk from well-known wholesale sources and not from livestock on the property.
7. A very small, remote portion of land, some two miles from the active campus area, was found years ago to have limited contamination. Even that contamination in a difficult to access area did not pose a threat to human health as confirmed in 1995 by the EPA. This property has not been part of Brandeis-Bardin for nearly 20 years. It was sold to the Rocketdyne/Boeing Company in 1997, along with a large buffer area.

AJU’S ONGOING COMMITMENT

Our interest is the safety and welfare of everyone who visits Brandeis-Bardin. Our approach is to share information and to be transparent in our communications. AJU has posted test findings conducted since we acquired the property in 2007, including the most recent study by Tetra Tech, Inc. We have also included information that dates back further, and we provided links to the government reports related to testing at Brandeis-Bardin. We will continue to communicate with the community as regular testing proceeds in the future.

Our entire staff takes our stewardship responsibilities very seriously, and we will continue to make sure that Brandeis-Bardin continues to be safe for all.

American Jewish University, the owner of Brandeis-Bardin, is committed to transparency and has shared comprehensive information about the safety of the property. We will continue to do so. Visit www.aju.edu/BBCsafety to learn more.