

Centre d'expérimentations du Pacifique



In 1996, after France brought its nuclear testing to a final halt and closed its test sites in French Polynesia, it has been taken the decision to clean up and dismantle all facilities. Infrastructure for the *Centre d'expérimentations du Pacifique* (CEP) was thus taken down and the Mururoa and Fangataufa sites were cleaned up to eliminate all radiological risks for people staying on atolls.

In 1998, a team of international experts working under the auspices of the IAEA found that the atolls did not represent any radiological risks for current or future Polynesian populations. They also indicated that landslides, already improbable, would not create hydraulic risks for the atolls. The experts concluded there was no need for remediation or monitoring of the sites. France nonetheless decided to continue its radiological and geomechanical monitoring.

Dismantling infrastructure and buildings

Infrastructure was dismantled and buildings that were useless or likely to quickly deteriorate in an ocean environment were destroyed.



1987, "Darse Denise" zone



1998, after CEP was closed

Facilities with residual risks – the decontamination unit, the solid waste treatment laboratory, the measurement laboratory and the disposal area for radioactive sources – were cleaned up and dismantled. Non-recoverable equipments were cut apart, placed in metal drums and embedded in concrete.



Shafts for underground testing

The shafts do not represent a current or future risk for atolls occupants.

After unnecessary equipment protruding above-ground has been removed, tops of the test shafts on the coral ring were filled with aggregate, plugged with concrete and topped with a reinforced slab. The same method has been used for the underwater shafts.

Reinforced concrete buildings

Facilities with a significant amount of concrete and found uncontaminated have not been dismantled. Equipments has been removed and access routes were blocked.



1966, "Frigate" zone



1998, after CEP was closed

Waste

Drums containing clean-up and dismantling waste from the facilities have been placed in two shafts specifically for disposal purposes and bored to a depth of 1200 metres. The most radioactive waste was placed in drums in the lower, volcanic part of the shafts. The least radioactive waste were placed in the upper, sediment part, either in drums or in bulk. Cement plugs several meters thick were poured between the layers of waste for added protection. In 1996 and 1997, when the site closed, the shafts were plugged with an aggregate of coral and cement.