

NEIDL MILESTONES

**2003
september**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease awards a grant to Boston University Medical Campus (BUMC), a joint research initiative of Boston University and Boston Medical Center, to build one of two biocontainment laboratories dedicated to the study of emerging pathogens and the diseases they cause.

**2006
march**

Construction of the facility, called the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL), begins on Albany Street in the South End.

**2006
may**

Allen v. National Institutes of Health is filed in federal court alleging that the final environmental impact report and project approval process failed to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Act.

**2006
september**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and BU jointly file a notice informing the federal court that the parties had “agreed to coordinate their efforts to perform additional risk assessment and alternatives analysis.” The NIH agrees to perform a Final Supplementary Risk Assessment.

**2008
fall**

Construction of the NEIDL is complete. Over the next two-plus years, additional work is performed to ensure that the BSL-4 laboratory facilities meet rigorous standards of product design.

**2011
december**

BSL-2 research is permitted within the NEIDL.

**2012
july**

The NIH releases the Final Supplementary Risk Assessment, which addresses issues raised by the public and the courts regarding pathogen release, facility location, and environmental justice. The report concludes that the risk of infection or death resulting from accidents or malevolent acts at the NEIDL is very low to only remotely possible.

**2013
september**

US District Court Judge Patti Saris rules that the NIH’s Final Supplementary Risk Assessment adequately analyzed the risks associated with research involving pathogens at BSL-3 and BSL-4 at the NEIDL and that such research can be done safely at the Boston University Medical Campus.

**2013
october**

The Boston Public Health Commission approves BU’s application for research to begin on BSL-3 nonselect agents.

**2014
may**

The Boston City Council votes down a proposed ordinance to prohibit BSL-4 research. That same day, Massachusetts Superior Court Justice Janet Sanders rules against the plaintiffs in *Ten Residents of Boston v. the Boston Redevelopment Authority*, clearing the NEIDL’s final legal hurdle.

**2014
september**

BU submits its application to conduct BSL-4 research at the NEIDL to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**2015
october**

BU submits its application to conduct BSL-4 research at the NEIDL to the Boston Public Health Commission.

**2016
december**

After a two-year review process, the CDC approves BU’s application for BSL-4 research at the NEIDL.

**2017
december**

BU receives the BSL-4 laboratory permit from Boston Public Health Commission.

**2018
august**

NEIDL begins work with its first Level-4 pathogens, the Ebola and Marburg viruses.