



MRCE provided foundation engineering services for the new FDA Laboratory in Jamaica where arresting vibrations was the key challenge in designing the 175,000-square-foot laboratory space.

FDA Northeast Laboratory and Offices

Jamaica, Queens, NY

Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers (MRCE) served as the geotechnical and foundation engineer in the Design/Build competition and on the successful team for the construction of the new laboratory building for the Food & Drug Administration, located adjacent to the York College campus in Jamaica, Queens. The building houses three divisions of the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs' Northeast Regional Operations: Northeast Region Field Office; Northeast Regional Laboratory; and New York District Office. The 277,000 sf. facility, the Food and Drug Administration's largest regional laboratory, is also the largest FDA laboratory in the country except for headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. It is used to test pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food products for government approval, including samples arriving at nearby Kennedy International Airport.

During the Design/Build competition, MRCE provided bid assistance for the proposed foundation support for the new building. During construction, MRCE served as the geotechnical engineer. Arresting vibrations was the key challenge in designing the 175,000-square-foot laboratory space, which is affected by close proximity to Long Island Railroad tracks and substantial vehicular traffic. Services include borings and test pits, groundwater study, and a soils report.

Date of Completion: 2001

Client: Hines Properties, Inc., Robert Shults, Jr., Vice President – Construction, (212) 230-2300

Architects: Gruzen Samton/HLW International Associated Architects

Cost of Construction: \$80 million

Size: 277,000 square feet

Owner: United States Food and Drug Administration