



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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EXCAVATION BEGINNING ON FUSRAP ASHLAND 1 SITE

TONAWANDA -- Excavation of soil containing low levels of radioactive material will begin Friday, June 11, 1999, at the Ashland 1 Site in Tonawanda. This site is managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Buffalo District under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

The site is being remediated in accordance with a Record of Decision signed in April, 1998. An estimated 120,000 cubic yards of soils exceeding the site-specific guideline of 40 picocuries per gram Thorium-230 will be excavated and loaded for shipment. The cleanup guideline was developed to ensure that the site could be safely utilized in the future.

The excavated material will be loaded into intermodal containers and moved by truck to a rail siding at the southern end of the Ashland 2 site. The intermodal containers, each holding approximately 20 tons of material, will then be transferred to flatbed railcars for shipment to International Uranium Corporation's White Mesa Mill, located near Blanding, Utah.

Once excavation is complete, the soils remaining will be tested to ensure that the cleanup criteria has been achieved. After this has been confirmed, backfill will be supplied from an off-site commercial source and the site will be restored with vegetation. The excavation and site restoration is scheduled to be complete in three years, subject to the availability of funds. Surveillance activities and environmental monitoring will continually be in effect throughout the remediation. Attention is focused daily on ensuring the protection of the public and site workers during this operation.

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