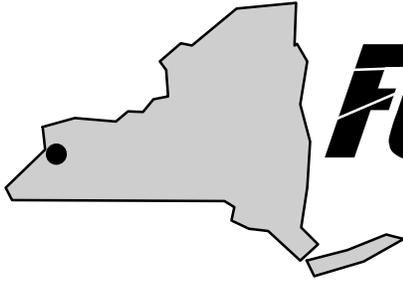




US Army Corps
of Engineers®



FUSRAP Fact Sheet

Ashland 1 Site Tonawanda, New York

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Buffalo District • January 2001

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 to identify and cleanup contaminated sites used in the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Management of the program was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) from the U.S. Department of Energy in October 1997.

History of Ashland 1

As part of the nation's early atomic energy program, the former Linde Air Products Division of Union Carbide processed uranium ores at its facility in Tonawanda. This work was conducted under contract to the Manhattan Engineer District (MED), a predecessor of the Department of Energy, from 1942 to 1946.

From 1944 to 1946, uranium processing wastes were transported from Linde to a 10-acre area known then as the Haist property, now called Ashland 1. These materials consisted of about 8,000 tons of low-grade uranium ore tailings. In 1960, the property was transferred to Ashland Oil for use in the company's oil refinery activities.

In 1974, the company built two storage tanks on the property and moved excavated soil containing MED-related low-level radioactive residues and inorganic constituents to an area now known as Ashland 2. Other general plant refuse and chemical by-products were also deposited on the property in an industrial landfill. In 1982, Ashland Oil closed and covered the industrial landfill with clay and soil; the property became covered with grass and shrubs over time.



Nature of Site Contamination

The primary radioactive materials at the Ashland 1 Site are uranium-238, radium-226, thorium-230, and their decay products. Some chemical residues from MED activities are also present. A baseline risk assessment was conducted to determine the potential effects of these materials on human health and the environment on and near the site and to evaluate the need for cleanup actions. The assessment indicated that while risks from waste materials were not excessive, the site needed to be remediated to ensure protection from radioactive residues under some possible future land use scenarios.

Activities

USACE released a Proposed Plan for public comment on November 10, 1997. After considering public input, a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Ashland 1 (Including Seaway Area D) and Ashland 2 Sites was signed on April 20, 1998. Under the ROD, soils exceeding the site-specific derived guideline of 40 picoCuries/gram thorium-230 were to be excavated and shipped off-site for disposal at an appropriately licensed or permitted facility, and the site restored with backfill, loam, and seed. The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, meets Federal and State requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, and meets commitments to the community.

Remediation of the Ashland 1 Site began in June 1999. Soil exceeding the clean-up guideline is placed into intermodal containers adjacent to the excavation areas. Prior to transfer to the loading area, the intermodal containers are scanned to ensure that there is no contamination on their exterior surfaces. The intermodal containers are then moved to the rail siding at the southern end of the Ashland 2 Site and loaded onto flatbed railcars for shipment. Prior to shipment off-site, the intermodal containers are again surveyed to make sure there is no hazard to the public during transportation. Oversight of the work is performed by USACE on-site inspectors, quality control, safety, and technical experts.

Excavation of approximately 126,600 cubic yards of soil will be complete in January 2001. The remaining soils will be tested to ensure that the cleanup criteria has been achieved. After this has been confirmed, clean backfill will be supplied from an off-site commercial source and the site will be restored with vegetation.

For More Information

For more information, please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line. Your call will be returned promptly.

Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-833-6390

FUSRAP also has a home page on the Internet.

Home Page Address: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil>

You may also contact us by writing to:

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
FUSRAP Public Information Center
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207**

(716) 879-4438