



News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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CORPS ASSIGNED POTENTIAL SITE

BUFFALO - The Buffalo District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has been assigned the Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation (Simonds Saw and Steel Company) in Lockport, N.Y., as a site eligible for potential inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate, and clean up or control sites throughout the United States that were part of the Nation's early atomic energy program.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy, once a site is identified for potential inclusion, responsibility for action is then transferred to the Corps. A letter received by the Corps from the Department of Energy states that the former Manhattan Engineer District and the former Atomic Energy Commission used the Former Guterl Specialty Steel Site for atomic energy defense activities from 1948 to 1956. The facilities were used for foundry work on uranium and thorium metal.

Congressman John LaFalce said: "Based on my previous conversations about the former Guterl Steel site with Lt. Col. Glen DeWillie and his staff at the Buffalo District Corps of Engineers, especially at the meeting in my Buffalo office three weeks ago, as well as their ongoing work at nearby sites in Tonawanda and Lewiston, I am pleased that the Buffalo District Corps of Engineers has been assigned jurisdiction over the Guterl site. I look forward to working closely with the Buffalo District to ensure that immediate action is taken to assess the site, and, if warranted, include the site in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program for prompt and thorough remediation."

The Buffalo District is mandated by Congress to follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Process for the site. This process outlines the steps that must be taken to reach a final decision for the site and requires open involvement between the Corps, stakeholders and the community. The first step under this process is to perform a Preliminary Assessment. The purpose of a Preliminary Assessment is to review and evaluate available information to determine the need for further investigation of the site to ensure the protection of human health, welfare, and the environment.

The District received funding for the Preliminary Assessment and has begun a thorough review of available documentation regarding the Former Guterl Steel Site. If at any time the analysis of available information determines that there is a threat to human health, welfare and the environment, a removal action can be initiated. The final Preliminary Assessment report is scheduled to be released in Spring, 2001.

The District would like to hear from previous employees at the site. Anyone willing to volunteer information regarding past activities at the site may call 1-800-833-6390.

Congress assigned management of FUSRAP to the Corps in 1997. Significant progress is being

made on the eight initial sites assigned to the District for remedial action in 1997 under FUSRAP. The District has completed cleanup of two sites, is currently performing cleanup actions on two sites, and is continuing investigations of four sites.

The district has recently been assigned seven sites as potentially eligible for inclusion in the Program, the Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation in Lockport, N.Y. and six sites in Ohio. The Ohio sites include the former Harshaw Chemical Site in Cleveland; Dayton Unit III, the former Bonebrake Theological Seminary; Dayton Unit IV, the former Runnymede Playhouse; Dayton Unit I and the Old Warehouse in Dayton, Ohio, and the Scioto Laboratory in Marion, Ohio.

Buffalo District encourages public involvement in the decision-making process for each site. An Administrative Record File will be developed for the former Guterl Steel Site and placed in a local library. Interested citizens may also be added to site mailing by calling the Corps' toll free number at 1-800-833-6390. Letters may be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Attention: FUSRAP Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207. E-mails may be addressed to fusrap@usace.army.mil.

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