



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Buffalo District

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February 2012

Dear Interested Citizen,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would like to inform you of recent activities at the Former Guterl Specialty Steel Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site, previously known as the Simonds Saw and Steel Company. The Corps has completed our annual groundwater monitoring as well as a data gap analysis at the site, which was performed to identify gaps in existing data obtained through the Remedial Investigation process, and collect additional data to be used in the preparation of the Feasibility Study .

The focus of this investigation was to evaluate the existing site data to identify data gaps in soil, groundwater, surface water and address sediment, and buildings and utilities, including radiological, structural, and asbestos data. Activities performed during the data gap analysis included a site inspection, review of documents and data pertaining to the Guterl Site, and recommendations of areas where additional data are needed to support the development of remediation alternatives. The following fact sheet and Frequently Asked Questions will discuss the results of the annual groundwater monitoring and data gap analysis, how they affect human health and the environment, and how the Data Gap Investigation will relate to the Feasibility Study and future activities planned for the Guterl Site.

Respectfully,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP Team

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FORMER GUTERL SPECIALTY STEEL SITE
Data Gap Investigation Fact Sheet and 2011 Groundwater Report



Site Description

The Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site (Guterl Site) is located 20 miles northeast of Buffalo, New York, in Lockport, Niagara County, New York. The 70-acre site is being investigated under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) and is comprised of a combination of parcels that make up three general areas: the 52-acre Allegheny Ludlum Corporation property [also referred to as the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (NCIDA) property], the 9-acre Landfill Area, and the 9-acre Excised Area. The FUSRAP investigation also included areas adjacent to these properties: a privately owned lot to the north of the landfill, a railroad right-of-way to the north of the NCIDA property, and a stretch of the Erie Canal directly southeast of the site.

The Allegheny Ludlum Corporation operates a specialty steel manufacturing facility in the southwest portion of the property. The 9-acre landfill area ceased operations as a waste disposal area in 1981. The 9-acre Excised Area that contains the buildings once used to roll uranium metal is abandoned and chain link security fence surrounds the dormant buildings.

The northern portion of the Guterl Site includes large fields that occupy the former storage areas and landfill sites, and are littered with construction and commercial operations debris. The southwest portion of the site contains limited wooded and scrub/shrub area habitats. Other small, unmanaged open areas occur randomly in the eastern portion of the site around the abandoned buildings and a rail spur.

Land use near the Guterl Site is mixed, consisting of private residences and light industries. To the south-southeast of the Guterl Site, the Erie Canal separates the Guterl Site from private farmlands.



Aerial view of the Guterl Site looking southwest

Site History

Between 1948 and 1956, the New York Operations Office of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) managed contracts with Simonds Saw and Steel, a previous owner of the property, to roll uranium steel billets into rods. The uranium metal billets were received from off-site sources via rail car and were shipped back off-site via rail car after rolling to contract specifications. Records indicate that Simonds Saw and Steel processed between 25 million and 35 million pounds of natural uranium metal and approximately 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of thorium metal between 1948 and 1956.

The U.S. Department of Energy declared the Guterl Site eligible for FUSRAP in 2000. Under FUSRAP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District is evaluating the Guterl Site consistent with the processes and guidance established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Under FUSRAP, the Corps completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) in August 2010. Activities performed during the RI field data collection consisted of

sampling and analysis of soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, and building materials (including contents of utilities). Surface water sampling locations are shown on Figure 1 with blue triangles. Sampled media were analyzed for radionuclides (thorium and uranium).

The RI concluded that:

- There are currently no imminent threats to human health or the environment due to FUSRAP-related materials (thorium and uranium) on the Guterl Site.
- Some degree of thorium and uranium contamination was detected in the Excised Area including all the buildings, the soil, and the utility surface water/sediments. The most heavily contaminated buildings in the Excised Area are Buildings 6 and 8, the primary buildings used for receiving, heating, rolling, packaging, and shipping uranium metal.
- Shallow bedrock groundwater on the Guterl Site is impacted by FUSRAP-related materials.
- Surface water and sediment samples collected from the Erie Canal (shown on Figure 1) did not indicate impacts from thorium or uranium. Analytical results for surface water are identified in Table 1, which can be found on the Corps' Guterl Site Web page: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/guterl/>.

Following the RI, the Corps performed a data gap analysis to identify any gaps in the existing RI data which needed to be filled in order to prepare a Feasibility Study, the next stage in the CERCLA evaluation. No additional data collection was recommended for soil, surface water, sediment or buildings. Because deeper groundwater below the site was not sampled during the RI, additional data collection was recommended to determine the full vertical and horizontal extent of the groundwater contamination.



Guterl Site Field Work

Current Activities

A Data Gap Investigation (DGI) is currently underway to address the data gaps identified during the RI. The DGI includes installation of 17 additional groundwater monitoring wells, aquifer testing, additional groundwater sampling and analysis, sampling of groundwater seeps, and supplemental groundwater and seep monitoring for one year following the start of the investigation.

During the 2011 monitoring event, samples were taken at all groundwater wells and the water seepage into the Erie Canal. The sample analysis included monitoring for isotopic uranium (U-234, U-235, U-238), total uranium and geochemical parameters. Analytical results for the 2011 DGI sampling event are summarized in Table 2, which can be found on the Corps' Guterl Site Web page: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/guterl/>.

Groundwater seep samples were collected in August and December 2011 at eight locations near the Guterl Site along the Erie Canal (Figure 1). Seeps 001 and 002 were sampled in August 2011 and Seeps 003-008 were sampled in December 2011. The results indicate that Seeps 001 and Seeps 005-008 show low-level impacts of FUSRAP-related material (uranium).



ESRI Bing Hybrid Basemap
WGS 84

Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Lockport, New York

Figure 1



Map Publishing Date
February 2012



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Erie Canal Seep Sample Locations, August and December 2011

1:1,200

- Legend**
- Guterl Seep Locations
 - ▲ Remedial Investigation Sediment and Surface Water Sample Locations



ESRI Bing Hybrid Basemap
WGS 84

Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Lockport, New York

Figure 2



Map Publishing Date
February 2012



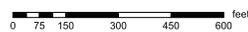
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Legend

- Guterl Deep Well Locations
- Guterl Shallow Well Locations
- Guterl Seep Locations
- Surface Water Sample Location

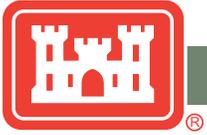
Guterl Site Map

1:2,500



Reference Map





A surface water sample of the Erie Canal was collected in January 2012 across from the seep sample locations (Figure 2). The results do not indicate impacts of uranium contamination in the Erie Canal itself.

Groundwater samples were taken at 51 wells within and adjacent to the Guterl Site (Figure 2). The results indicate that multiple wells show low-level impacts of uranium. The results are consistent with historical data as shown in Table 2, which can be found on the Corps' Guterl Site Web page: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/guterl/>.

Conclusions

Groundwater is not a source of potable water, and since there is no exposure to groundwater directly under the site, there is no risk to human health from the impacted groundwater. Remedial Investigation sampling in 2007 showed no uranium in the surface water or sediments of the Erie Canal. A confirmatory sample in 2012 also showed no impacts of uranium in the surface water of the Erie Canal. Sampling is being conducted to monitor the uranium now moving via the groundwater seeps towards the Erie Canal. The low levels of uranium in the seeps should not have an adverse impact to recreational users of the canal.

Next Steps

The Corps will be using the information obtained in the RI and DGI to conduct a Feasibility Study to evaluate actions that may be taken to reduce the risk from exposure to the FUSRAP-related contamination.

The Corps will continue its annual groundwater monitoring program to support the CERCLA process and to provide groundwater monitoring data that can be used to assess contaminant movement. The groundwater data will be used in the Feasibility Study to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives for the

site. In addition, the Corps will continue to conduct additional sampling of the seeps and surface water in the Erie Canal.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the canal a source of drinking water?

The drinking water for the Town of Lockport is drawn from the Niagara County Water District water intake, located in the west branch of the Niagara River. Annual water quality testing is performed by the Niagara County Department of Health, and annual reports outlining the results of this testing are posted at: <http://www.niagaracounty.com/departments.asp?City=Water+District>.

According to the Niagara County Department of Health, emergency drinking water for the City of Lockport is supplied from the Summit Street intakes located in the Erie Canal immediately southeast of the Guterl Site. These emergency water intakes have not been used since 1997.

Does uranium affect fish in the Erie Canal?

Although groundwater seeping into the canal shows low levels of uranium, the uranium is diluted significantly as it reaches the canal water. Furthermore, uranium is not a contaminant that typically bioaccumulates in fish, so it is unlikely to cause a fishing advisory for the canal.

During the Corps' Remedial Investigation of the Guterl Site, 12 collocated surface water and sediment samples were obtained from the Erie Canal, across from and upstream and downstream from the site in 2007. At that time, none of these samples indicated that the Erie Canal had been impacted by radioactive contamination; only background or ambient levels of radiation were measured in the Canal. An additional surface water sample obtained from the Erie Canal in January 2012 confirmed that the Erie Canal water is not showing impacts from uranium.

Would uranium impact recreational boaters?

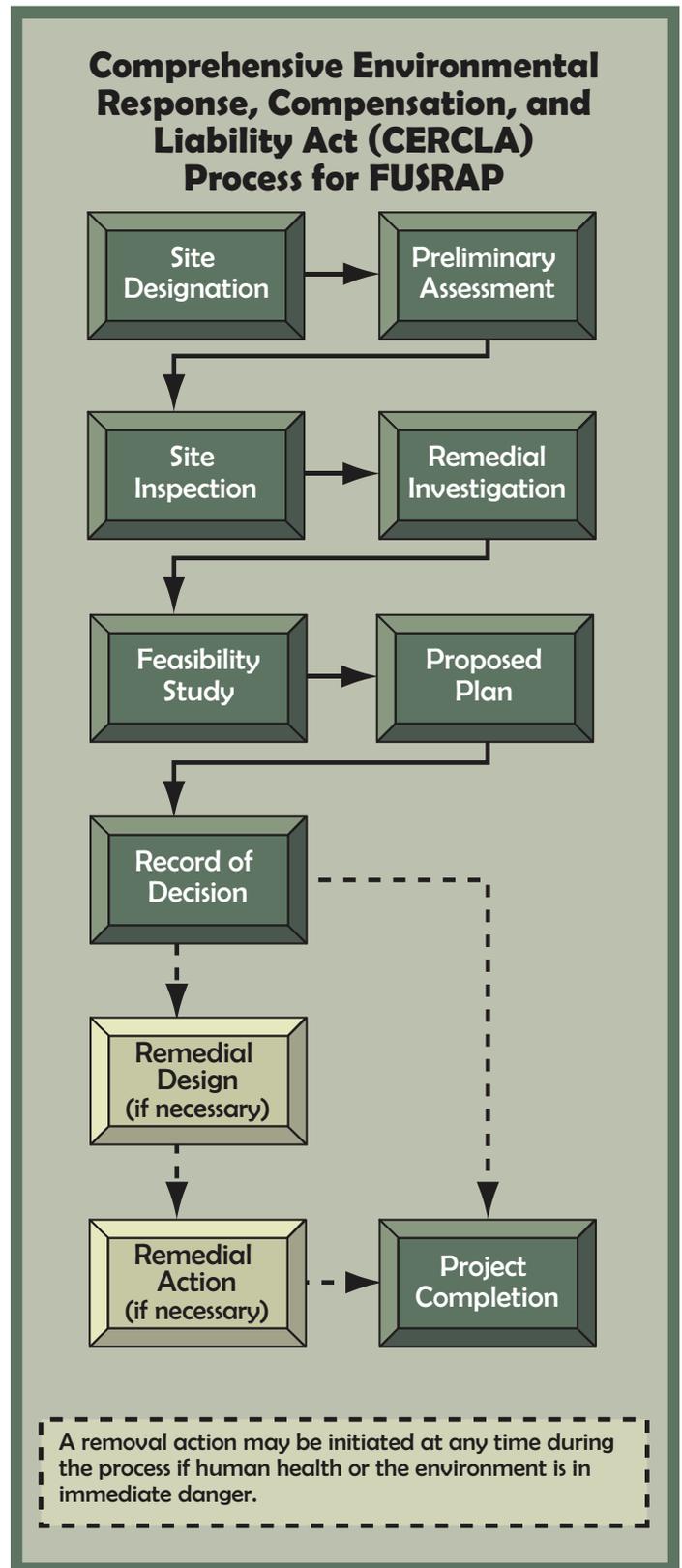
Uranium impacts in the seep water sampled will not have an adverse impact to someone using the water for recreational purposes (e.g., swimming, boating). During the Corps' Remedial Investigation of the Guterl Site, 12 collocated surface water and sediment samples were obtained from the Erie Canal, across from and upstream and downstream from the site in 2007. At that time, none of these samples indicated that the Erie Canal had been impacted by radioactive contamination; only background or ambient levels of radiation were measured in the Canal. Although groundwater seeping into the canal shows low levels of uranium, the uranium is diluted significantly as it reaches the canal water. An additional surface water sample obtained from the Erie Canal in January 2012 confirmed that the Erie Canal water is not showing impacts from uranium.

Has groundwater seepage from the Guterl Site contaminated the Erie Canal?

In August and December 2011, groundwater seeping into the Erie Canal was sampled and analyzed for radioactivity. The results show low-levels of uranium in some of the groundwater seeps. Further sampling will be conducted to monitor those seeps and determine if variations in uranium concentrations will impact the Erie Canal.

What is the Corps of Engineers going to do about contamination entering the canal?

The Corps must follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The Corps will be using the information obtained in the Remedial Investigation and Data Gap Investigation in the Feasibility Study phase in the Feasibility Study phase of the project to obtain additional information regarding the location of contamination on the site. This information will be used to determine the appropriate remedial action alternative to clean up the site. Further sampling will be conducted to monitor those seeps and also determine whether or not uranium from the site could be impacting the Erie Canal in the future.





For more information:

For more information, please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line: 1(800) 833-6390

The Buffalo District Web Page address for the Guterl Site is: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/guterl

Electronic mail can be sent to us at: fusrap@usace.army.mil

To reach the team by mail:

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Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Guterl Site.



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