



Niagara Falls Storage Site Feasibility Study Technical Memorandum Development

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District**

Building Strong®

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

December 2010

Development of Interim Waste Containment Structure Remedial Alternatives
Technologies Development and Screening Technical Memorandum

Purpose

This fact sheet announces that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be developing a technical memorandum to identify and evaluate various remedial alternatives for the Interim Waste Containment Structure (IWCS) Operable Unit at the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) as part of the IWCS Feasibility Study. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, a Feasibility Study evaluates technologies and alternatives that may be used to remediate the site. This technical memorandum will identify the remedial alternatives that will undergo a detailed analysis in the Feasibility Study report. The Corps seeks input from the public on the contents of this fact sheet so that the Corps can address public concerns during the initial stages of the development of this technical memorandum. The Corps intends to complete this technical memorandum and provide it to the public by the winter of 2012.

Project Background

The NFSS is a 191-acre Federal property containing the 10-acre IWCS. Radioactive residues and wastes brought to the site by the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission during the 1940s and 1950s were consolidated into the IWCS by the U.S. Department of Energy in the 1980s. In 1997, the Corps became the Federal agency responsible for implementing the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) subject to CERCLA. As previously announced, the Corps has begun transitioning into the Feasibility Study phase. The Corps will prepare a number of technical memoranda that will be made available to the public prior to the development and release of the Feasibility Study. In this manner, the public will be given the opportunity for review and comment as we progress through the development of the Feasibility Study.

IWCS Remedial Alternatives Technologies Development and Screening Technical Memorandum Objective

This technical memorandum will identify remedial alternatives for the IWCS Operable Unit that will be subjected to further analysis and evaluation against the CERCLA criteria in the Feasibility Study report. Remedial alternatives will be developed to remediate and control contaminated media in the IWCS Operable Unit in order to provide protection to human health and the environment. The development of remedial alternatives for the IWCS Operable Unit involves two steps. The first step identifies and screens various technologies that may be used for development of remedial alternatives. Secondly, technologies that pass the screening process are used to configure remedial alternatives that may be selected for further analysis and evaluation in the Feasibility Study report. These two steps are further described below.

Identification and Screening of Technologies - Various technologies (e.g., treatment, removal, handling, resource recovery, etc.) will be identified and screened to ensure that only technologies applicable to the contaminants and conditions present at the site will be considered. The screening process will determine if a

technology is able to reduce mobility, toxicity, and/or volume of contaminants, is implementable and cost effective.

Configuration and Evaluation of Alternatives - The Corps will develop alternatives to remediate and control contaminated media in the IWCS Operable Unit in order to provide protection to human health and the environment. The Corps will develop and screen the following range of potential alternatives:

- Complete removal of the IWCS contents, including the K-65 residues, other lower-activity residues, and contaminated soils and debris;
- A range of partial removal alternatives (e.g. remove all residues, remove K-65 residues only) involving disposal off-site;
- A removal option involving the construction of an on-site disposal cell;
- Disposal options including transportation to remote, out-of-state locations;
- A range of alternatives involving containment with little or no treatment;
- Limited Action alternatives (e.g., enhanced IWCS containment and environmental monitoring);
- A No Further Action alternative (continued current site maintenance and monitoring); and
- A No Action alternative (no site maintenance or monitoring).*

* The Corps does not consider the "No Action" alternative to be a viable long-term remedy due to its lack of protectiveness for human health and the environment. However, the "No Action" alternative will be evaluated as mandated by 40 CFR 300.430, for comparative purposes to other proposed remedial alternatives.

For each IWCS alternative, the Corps will define maintenance and monitoring requirements, remediation time requirements, transportation options, etc. These alternatives, which incorporate multiple remedial technologies, will then be evaluated with respect to their long-term and short-term effectiveness, their ability to achieve Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements, their ability to reduce the toxicity, mobility or volume of contaminated media, and their cost-effectiveness.

Public Input Regarding the Technical Memorandum

The Corps encourages input from the public regarding the objectives of this specific technical memorandum including suggestions of remedial alternatives. Input should be provided to the Corps by January 17, 2011, to allow the Corps to consider the input while developing the technical memorandum. Responses to public comments will be made available on the project website. Input can be sent via e-mail to fusrap@usace.army.mil (please note "IWCS Remedial Alternatives Technologies Development and Screening Technical Memorandum" in the subject of the e-mail) or mail your comments to the FUSRAP Team at the address noted below.

Administrative Record File

The Administrative Record File for the NFSS FUSRAP Site contains the Remedial Investigation Report, Baseline Risk Assessment, Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport Modeling and other CERCLA-related documentation for the NFSS. Reports and documents in the Administrative Record may be viewed at the following locations:

US Army Corps of Engineers
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207 (by
appointment only)

Town of Lewiston Public Library
305 South 8th Street
Lewiston, NY 14092
Phone: 716-754-4720

Youngstown Free Library
240 Lockport Street
Youngstown, NY 14174
Phone: (716) 745-3555

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT FUSRAP TEAM

1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)

Email: fusrap@usace.army.mil

Website: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/nfss/index.htm