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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

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# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

For the Niagara Falls Site,  
New York

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U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Resident:

MAY 29 1997

## **NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE - 1996 ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has completed its interpretation and analysis of 1996 environmental surveillance data for the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS). Results from 1996 environmental surveillance are similar to results from previous years and indicate that all measured parameters and all calculated doses were well below all applicable guidelines. This letter summarizes the results.

NFSS is used for storage of soils containing low level radioactive materials that originated from work conducted during the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Managed by DOE, the site undergoes a continual environmental surveillance program to confirm the effectiveness of the storage program. Environmental surveillance activities conducted at this site include:

- annual analysis of groundwater samples for radioactive constituents, metals, total organic carbon, and water quality parameters;
- annual analysis of surface water and sediment samples for radioactive constituents;
- semiannual analysis of detectors that continuously monitor the air to determine average radon gas concentrations;
- data collection twice each year from detectors that continuously measure external gamma radiation exposure; and
- annual measurement of radon-222 flux (the emission rate of radon-222 from the surface of the storage pile).

Monitored constituents in groundwater, surface water, and sediment were well below applicable state and federal standards, including those set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Results confirm that no current public drinking water sources are affected by the site.

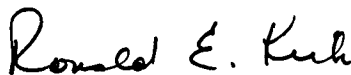
Radon gas concentrations in air and radon-222 flux from the waste containment structure were well below applicable guidelines. Nearly all measured concentrations of radon gas were less than the detection limit.

Potential human exposures to radioactivity from airborne particulates at NFSS were calculated on the basis of site surveillance data and local land usage. Calculated doses from external gamma radiation, airborne particulates, and cumulative doses from both sources were essentially zero and were well below applicable guidelines.

All county, state, and federal agencies providing oversight at NFSS have been provided with the surveillance information for 1996. The information has also been placed in the DOE Administrative Record at the Lewiston Public Library, 305 South Eighth Street, Lewiston, New York. The information can be found under the title Environmental Surveillance Results for 1996 for the Niagara Falls Storage Site.

If you would like to learn more about the NFSS environmental surveillance program or if you wish to discuss any other aspect of the DOE's cleanup program in New York, please call the DOE's toll-free information number, 1-800-253-9759. For a prompt response, leave a message and your phone number or address.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald E. Kirk, Site Manager  
Former Sites Restoration Division