



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1776 NIAGARA STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207-3199

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

14 DEC 2007

Special Projects Team

SUBJECT: Public Release of the Remedial Investigation Report for the Niagara Falls Storage Site, Niagara Falls, New York

Niagara Gazette
Attn: Managing Editor
310 Niagara Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14302-0549

Dear Sir or Madam:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District is pleased to provide this Remedial Investigation Report for the Niagara Falls Storage Site. The purpose of this document is to identify the nature and extent of contamination and to quantify potential human health and ecological risks at the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) resulting from past federal activity under the nation's early atomic energy program. This document has been internally reviewed and approved for public release by the USACE at this time.

Also provided with this letter are three fact sheets providing additional information on the USACE project at the NFSS. These include an updated project fact sheet (Attachment-1), the key findings of the NFSS Remedial Investigation Report (Attachment-2) and the status of USACE technical and decision documents required as part of our environmental investigation at the NFSS (Attachment-3).

The Remedial Investigation Report for the Niagara Falls Storage Site documents the findings of a significant eight year investigative effort. The report consists of three main components:

- a. An analysis of the nature and extent of environmental contamination at the NFSS and adjacent properties
- b. A groundwater model evaluating the potential fate and transport of contaminants in groundwater at the NFSS and off-site migration to adjacent properties
- c. An assessment of potential human health risks and ecological risks resulting from exposure to the environmental contamination at the NFSS

The key findings of our remedial investigation are summarized in Attachment-2 to this letter. Most significant among them are the following:

- a. There remains no imminent threat to the public from the radioactive residues and wastes stored at the site or from contaminated soils or groundwater on the site
- b. Areas of chemical and radiological contamination have been identified outside the boundaries of the NFSS property. None of these areas pose an imminent threat to human health or safety. They include:
 - Several small areas (a few inches in diameter) in the ditch west of the NFSS displaying surface soil readings two to three times the natural background radiation levels.
 - Elevated uranium was detected in groundwater near railroad tracks used by the Former LOOW and MED / AEC operations. While elevated, the levels of radioactivity were very low and did not exceed USEPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for total uranium in drinking water or USDOE criteria.
 - Chemical (PCE / TCE) plumes exist in groundwater on both NFSS and also off-site on CWM property. There is no definitive link between plumes crossing the property boundary.
- c. The baseline human health risk assessment model indicates there are potential long term human health risks to persons who are on site and exposed to chemical and radiological contamination.


The Buffalo District will address these findings in greater detail through a variety of community outreach products and activities to include public information sessions. Due to the length and complexity of the report, we will allow several months for the public to read and evaluate the document prior to the public information sessions. We anticipate the first session will be held in March 2008. We welcome comments and questions from the public so that we may include these topics in our presentations and outreach products.

This document is a product of the USACE environmental response project conducted under the authority of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). USACE is the lead federal agency executing FUSRAP. USACE conducts FUSRAP projects in accordance with the governing federal law – the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The CERCLA defines the process by which the federal government responds to potential environmental contamination from past federal activities. Additional information is available at our public website:

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow-nfss/index.htm>

If you have any questions please contact the Project Manager, Mr. William E. Kowalewski, P.E., US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207-3199. Additionally, the Buffalo District has established a toll-free telephone number (1-800-833-6390) and email address (fusrap@usace.army.mil) for public outreach.

Sincerely,



James W. Karsten
Special Projects Team Chief

Attachments:

1. Fact Sheet - NFSS Project
2. Fact Sheet - Key Findings of the NFSS RIR
3. Fact Sheet - NFSS CERCLA Document Status

Enclosure:

Remedial Investigation Report Niagara Falls Storage Site, December 2007

Distribution:

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State Assemblywoman, Francine DelMonte
Supervisor Fred Newlin, Town of Lewiston
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Mr. James Goehrig, Modern Disposal Company
Mr. John Hildebrand, Occidental Chemical Corporation
Mr. Mark Agle, National Grid
Mr. F. Warren Kahn, Esq., Lewiston Porter School District
Dr. Joe Gardella, Lewiston Porter School District



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Niagara Frontier Publications
Attn: Managing Editor
1859 Whitehaven Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

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- c. An assessment of potential human health risks and ecological risks resulting from exposure to the environmental contamination at the NFSS

The key findings of our remedial investigation are summarized in Attachment-2 to this letter. Most significant among them are the following:

- a. There remains no imminent threat to the public from the radioactive residues and wastes stored at the site or from contaminated soils or groundwater on the site
- b. Areas of chemical and radiological contamination have been identified outside the boundaries of the NFSS property. None of these areas pose an imminent threat to human health or safety. They include:
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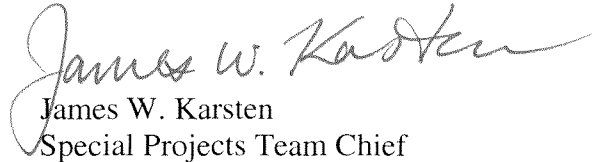
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James W. Karsten
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The Buffalo News
Attn: Advertising Department
One News Plaza
Corner of Washington and Scott Streets
Buffalo, NY 14203

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