



November 1999

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

# Community Relations Plan

Niagara Falls Storage Site  
Lewiston, New York



Prepared by  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Buffalo District

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE

LEWISTON, NEW YORK

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## CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Public Involvement Goals and Objectives	1
1.3	Phase of Site Remediation Addressed by this Community Relations Plan	2
1.4	Access to Information and Opportunities for Public Comment	2
2.	FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM HISTORICAL INFORMATION	2
3.	NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE INFORMATION	2
3.1	Site Location, Description, Ownership, and History	2
3.2	Type of Hazardous Substances at the Site	4
3.3	Nature of Threat and Potential Threat to Public Health, Welfare, and the Environment	4
4.	COMMUNITY PROFILE	4
4.1	Lewiston-Porter Community Demographics	4
4.2	Site Location in Relationship to Homes, Businesses, Lakes, Streams and Parks	5
4.3	Areas of Special Sensitivity That Must be Considered during Community Relations and Remedial Investigation	5
4.3	Chronology of Community Involvement	5
5.	COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM	6
5.1	Community Relations Tools	6
Figures:		
1.	Niagara Falls Storage Site and Surrounding Area	3
Appendices:		
A.	List of Community Leaders, Interested Parties, and Media Contacts	7
B.	Suggested Locations for Meetings and Administrative Record File	13

## ACRONYMS

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
COCs	Constituents of Concern
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
FUSRAP	Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
LOOW	Lake Ontario Ordnance Works
MED	Manhattan Engineer District
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NFSS	Niagara Falls Storage Site
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDOE	United States Department of Energy
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Introduction**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District (USACE) has designed this Community Relations Plan to facilitate communication with the Lewiston/Porter community in regard to the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This plan has been prepared as a guide for use during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) phase at the site.

Federal regulations require that during the RI/FS federal agencies develop community relations programs to be consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). These requirements are the basis for more comprehensive and effective community relations activities.

This plan describes how the public will be involved in the RI/FS and decision-making process for Niagara Falls Storage Site. Included in this plan will be:

- Public Involvement Goals and Objectives
- FUSRAP Historical Information
- Site Location, Description, Ownership, and History
- Community Profile
- Community Relations Activities

The information in this plan is based on United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance on community relations and ongoing interaction with community members.

## **1.2 Public Involvement Goals and Objectives**

It is the goal of USACE to be honest, forthright, responsive, and clear in dealing with the public, elected officials, interest groups, and the media.

It is the objective of USACE to increase public awareness of the program and its activities, decrease misunderstanding about environmental problems and potential dangers, facilitate two-way communication with the affected public, establish an effective means for dispute resolution, and enhance USACE's ability to perform this mission in the most effective and efficient manner.

### **1.3 Phase of Site Remediation Addressed by this Community Relations Plan**

The Niagara Falls Storage Site is currently under Remedial Investigation. USACE will hold meetings as new information becomes available to keep local officials and the Lewiston-Porter community informed.

### **1.4 Access to Information and Opportunities for Public Comment**

Information about the Niagara Falls Storage Site can be found in the Administrative Record File in the Lewiston Public Library located at 305 South Eighth Street, Lewiston, New York, and the USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center located at 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207. The Administrative Record File contains historical documents and will be updated as new reports become available for the site.

Information is also available on the Buffalo District Website at <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/nfss/index.htm>. Individuals and organizations may be placed on the mailing list by calling 1-800-833-6390.

Public comments should be mailed to the USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207.

## **2.0 FUSRAP HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

In 1974 the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, initiated FUSRAP to identify and clean up or otherwise control sites where residual radioactivity remains in excess of current guidelines from work that supported the Manhattan Project. The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998, authorized USACE to manage FUSRAP.

## **3.0 NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Site Location, Description, History, and Ownership**

The Niagara Falls Storage Site is located at 1397 Pletcher Road in the Township of Lewiston (Niagara County) in northwestern New York, about 19 miles northwest of Buffalo, 10 miles north of the City of Niagara Falls (Figure 1). NFSS is located on part of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, a site developed for producing explosives during World War II. In 1944, the NFSS portion of LOOW was used by the Manhattan Engineer District for storing radioactive residues and wastes from uranium ore processing conducted during the development of the atomic bomb. Until the late 1950's, additional radioactive residues and wastes were brought to the site for storage.

In 1982, the government began cleaning up contamination at the site and nearby areas. These initial efforts included construction of an earthen containment structure to effectively control the radioactive residues and wastes. During construction, the residues,



which are more radioactive than the wastes, were placed in the reinforced concrete foundation of a building within a portion of the waste containment structure. The radioactive soils and debris from the cleanup of the drainage ditches and other contaminated areas were then placed on top of the residues and in other areas of the structure.

The containment structure, completed in 1986, was built to control existing hazards for an interim period of up to 25 years. In 1986 the U. S. Department of Energy published an Environmental Impact Statement, which assessed and compared several alternatives for long-term waste management. In 1995, the National Academy of Science issued a report called "Safety of the High-Level Uranium Ore Residues at the Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, New York", that recommended removal, treatment, and disposal off-site of the NFSS high-level residues. USACE is evaluating the Environmental Impact Statement and the NAS report while developing alternatives for remediation of the site. These alternatives will be evaluated according to the CERCLA process. NFSS is currently United States Government property.

### **3.2 Type of Hazardous Substances at the Site**

The K-65 residues contain the greatest concentration of radioactive material. The primary contaminants of concern in the residues are radium-226, thorium-230, and the decay products associated with these contaminants. USACE performs annual environmental monitoring at the site to evaluate the effectiveness of the Waste Containment Structure. Completed reports are available in the Administrative Record File for the site.

### **3.3 Nature of Threat and Potential Threat to Public Health, Welfare, and the Environment**

Under current site conditions, no exposure hazard exists for workers or other members of the public from NFSS.

## **4.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE**

### **4.1 Lewiston-Porter Community Demographics**

The Niagara Falls Storage Site is located in the Town of Lewiston in Niagara County, New York. Town of Lewiston voters elect a supervisor every two years, and elect four town board members as legislators and town administrators for alternating four year terms. Residents direct their questions, complaints, and suggestions to the town clerk, who forwards them to the proper department or official.

The Niagara County government includes a county legislative chairperson that is appointed by the county legislators every year. The members of the county legislature are elected to a two-year term. The legislature is composed of 19 members.



## **4.2 Site Location in Relationship to Homes, Businesses, Lakes, Streams, Parks**

The Town of Lewiston area is rural/residential with many agricultural areas. There is very little industry within the town. The current land use immediately to the north, east, and south of NFSS is waste disposal. The land to the immediate west of the site is currently vacant. There is a recreational campsite located southwest of the site, and the area west of the site on Pletcher Road is residential. The Lewiston-Porter School System buildings are located approximately 2.5 miles west of the site.

NFSS is located three miles east of the Niagara River and four miles south of Lake Ontario.

## **4.3 Areas of Special Sensitivity That Must be Considered during Community Relations and Remedial Investigation**

The Lewiston-Porter community has expressed concern regarding the safety of long-term storage of the K-65 material in the waste containment structure at NFSS. They would like to be kept informed of any future work or plans for NFSS.

The community has expressed concern regarding the proximity of NFSS to the Lewiston-Porter school facilities. USACE has researched their concerns and has not found any evidence of MED contamination on school property.

Health questions pertaining to the site are referred to Dr. Karim Rimawi of the New York State Department of Health at 1-800-458-1158 Extension 6461.

## **4.4 Chronology of Community Involvement**

USACE has held three information sessions with the community since the transfer of FUSRAP. These meetings were held January 1998, May 1998 and March 1999. Community concerns expressed at these meetings have been outlined in the previous section.

## 5.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

### 5.1 Community Relations Tools

Use of the community relations tools on the following table will ensure that the public is well informed about the RI/FS and the decision-making process for the Niagara Falls Storage Site. The community will have the opportunity to participate, raise issues of concern, and exchange information:

Tool	Description
Toll-free access phone line	1-800-833-6390
USACE Buffalo District website	<a href="http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/nfss/index.htm">www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/nfss/index.htm</a>
Information Contact and phone number	Ms. Arleen Kreusch (716) 879-4438
Administrative Record	The Administrative Record File enables the community to review documents that USACE has used to evaluate alternatives for the Niagara Falls Storage Site and to select a preferred alternative.
Locations for the Administrative Record File	USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY Lewiston Public Library, 305 South Eighth Street, Lewiston, New York
Fact Sheets	Fact Sheets will be developed to easily convey information regarding the Niagara Falls Storage Site.
Display Advertisements and News Releases	Display ads will be placed in The Buffalo News, the Niagara Gazette, the Lewiston-Sentinel and Niagara Wheatfield Tribune. News releases will be sent to local newspapers to announce upcoming releases or events in regard to the site.
Information Sessions	Information sessions will be held for the community during the remedial action and remedial investigation to exchange information and answer questions pertaining to the site.

## Appendix A. Contact List of Key Community Leaders and Interested Parties

### **Government Contacts**

Honorable John J. LaFalce  
Representative in Congress  
605 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Phone: (716) 284-9976      Fax: (716) 284-8870

State Senator George Maziarz  
60 Professional Parkway  
Lockport, NY 14094

Phone: (716) 438-0655      Fax: (716) 438-0955

State Senator Anthony Nanula  
65 Court Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716) 854-8705      Fax: (716) 854-3051

State Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere  
New York State Assembly  
1700 Pine Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Phone: (716) 754-2019      Fax: (716) 282-4226

### **Town of Lewiston**

Town Hall  
1375 Ridge Road  
P. O. Box 330  
Lewiston, NY 14092

Phone: (716) 754-8213      Fax: (716) 754-2821

Town Supervisor: Richard Demus

Town Board: John Ceretto, Michael Johnson, George Briggs, Darwin James Langlois

Town Clerk: Lily Taddeo

**Village of Lewiston**

Village Office

P. O. Box 325

Lewiston, NY 14092

Phone: (716) 754-8271      Fax: (716) 754-2703

Mayor: Richard Soluri

Village Clerk/Treasurer: Anne Welch

Trustees: Terry Collesano, Sandra Jo Maslen, Joseph Fruscione, Kenneth Kenney

**Town of Porter**

3265 Creek Road

Youngstown, NY 14174

Phone: (716) 745-3730      Fax: (716) 754-9022

Town Supervisor: Tom Beachy

Town Clerk: John MacArthur

Town Council: Merton Wiepert, Harrison Harrington, Michael McCabe, Richard Phoenix

**Village of Youngstown**

240 Lockport Street

P. O. Box 168

Youngstown, NY 14174

Phone: (716) 745-7721      Fax: (716) 745-3400

Mayor: Norman Swann

Village Clerk/Treasurer: Shirley Smith

Trustees: James Wilkesmore, Thomas Patrick, Margaret Ann Hanson, Neil Riordan

**Niagara County**  
Niagara County Courthouse  
Lockport, NY 14094

Phone: (716) 439-7000      Fax: (716) 439-7124

Niagara County is governed by a county legislature, with a chairperson elected by the legislature.

County Legislature Chairperson: Gerald Meal

County Legislature: Daniel Mocniak, Renae Kimble, Samuel Grainieri, Dennis Virtuoso, Sean O'Connor, Robert Villani, Gerald Farnham, Arthur Kroening, John Tylec, Robert Seger, Malcolm Needler, Lee Simonson, Clyde Burmaster, Shirley Urtel, Gerald DeFlippo, John Cole, Bradley Erck, James Ward

County Legislature Clerk: Jeff Williams

Health Department Director: David Wertman

Board of Health President: Linda Flessel  
5467 Upper Mountain Road  
Lockport, NY 14094

Phone: (716) 439-7435      Fax: (716) 439-7440

### **Regulatory Agency**

Paul Merges, Director  
Bureau of Radiation  
Hazardous Substances Regulation Division  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12233

### **Community Involvement**

Residents Organized for Lewiston-Porter's Environment (ROLE)  
Attn: Timothy P. Henderson, President  
P. O. Box 44  
Lewiston, NY 14092

## **Media Distribution**

### Newspaper

Buffalo News  
1 News Plaza  
P. O. Box 100  
Buffalo, NY 14240

Phone: (716) 849-5531      Fax: (716) 856-5150

Niagara Gazette  
P. O. Box 549  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Phone: (716) 282-2311      Fax: (716) 286-3895

Lewiston -Porter Sentinel and Niagara Wheatfield Tribune  
P. O. Box 130  
Grand Island, NY 14072

Phone: (716) 773-7676      Fax: (716) 773-7190

Television Stations

WGRZ-TV  
259 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716) 849-5756      Fax: (716) 849-5706

WIVB-TV  
2077 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone: (716) 876-7333      Fax: (716) 874-8173

WKBW-TV  
7 Broadcast Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716) 845-6100      Fax: (716) 856-8784

Lockport Community TV  
Attn: Community Bulletin Board  
293 Niagara  
Lockport, NY 14094

Phone: (716) 434-1733      Fax: 434-2837

## Radio Stations

WJL Radio  
1224 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Phone: (716) 285-5795      Fax: (716) 284-6000

WHL AM Radio  
2692 Stanley Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

Phone: (716) 773-1270      Fax: (716) 773-1498

WGR News Radio  
464 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716) 881-4555      Fax: (716) 884-2931

WBEN AM 930  
2077 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone: (716) 876-0930      Fax: (716) 876-1344

WNED AM  
Horizons Plaza  
P. O. Box 1263  
Buffalo, NY 14240

Phone: (716) 845-7000      Fax: (716) 845-7043

WLVL Radio  
P. O. Box 477  
Lockport, NY 14095

Phone: (716) 433-5944      Fax: (716) 433-6588

WWKB AM 1520  
695 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 41209  
Phone: (716) 884-5101  
Fax: (716) 882-2048



## Appendix B: Suggested Locations for Meetings and Locations for Administrative Record File

### **Meeting Locations**

Lewiston Senior Center  
4361 Lower River Road  
Lewiston, NY 14092

Lewiston Town Hall  
1375 Ridge Road  
Lewiston, NY 14092

Lewiston-Porter School District  
Creek Road  
Lewiston, NY 14092

Porter Town Hall  
3265 Creek Road  
Youngstown, NY 14174

### **Administrative Record Locations**

Lewiston Public Library  
305 South Eighth Street  
Lewiston, NY 14092

USACE. FUSRAP Public Information Center  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199