



News Release

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CORPS CONDUCTS BACKGROUND RADIATION STUDY OF LEW-PORT SCHOOL PROPERTY

YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, announced that they have completed a background gamma radiation study at the Lewiston-Porter School in Youngstown, New York. The study, conducted in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), was performed by the Corps to help determine the amount of radioactivity naturally present in the local area, and by the NYSDEC to check for any radiological anomalies on the site. The results of the study showed radiation levels that were typical of a developed property such as the school. No radiation levels were found that would present a hazard to the public.

The study was performed in conjunction with other investigation activities at the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS), a site managed by the Corps under the Formerly Utilized Sites

Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Dr. Judith Leithner, Program Manager for the site said, “the additional survey work was conducted by the Science Applications International Corporation with the help of Corps staff at a total estimated cost of \$100,000.”

During the study, a number of small areas of what appears to be natural activity were noted. These include granite curbs, a granite rock, other rocks, and two small areas of asphalt. The results of the survey for these small areas are typical of those found on a property such as the school, both due to natural variations found in the environment, and from man's activities in the course of construction and development. Regardless of the source of activity, none of the areas surveyed during the course of the background study demonstrated radiation levels that would present a hazard to members of the public, including children who attend the school and people who work there.

Overall, average gamma activity measured at the school was similar to that found in other baseline sites studied. From the results of the background study at the school, the Corps was able to confirm that

background values used at the NFSS are appropriate, and they will proceed with the investigation at the NFSS.

For more information, please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line. The Buffalo District also has a FUSRAP home page on the Internet and you can reach us by e-mail.

Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-833-6390

Buffalo District FUSRAP website address:
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap>

Buffalo District e-mail address: fusrap@usace.army.mil

Please call (716) 879-4410 or (800) 833-6390 if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Niagara Falls Storage Site. You may also mail us at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FUSRAP Public Information Center

1776 Niagara Street

Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

For further information about the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, please contact Jennifer Meicht, Media Relations Office, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, 14th floor, Albany, NY 12233, telephone (518) 402-8000.

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