



Program Authorities Covering Investigation and Cleanup Activities at LOOW and NFSS

Buffalo District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting investigative work at the LOOW and NFSS sites under the authority of two separate programs.

Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW)

The former LOOW site is being investigated under the **Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS)**. The DERP-FUDS program is designed to address environmental damage caused by DoD activities. The program is used to clean up property that was once owned or used by DoD, but is no longer owned by the DoD. At the LOOW site, there is evidence showing that residual contamination may exist from historical Department of Defense (DOD) activities at the site.

At the LOOW site, the Corps is conducting Remedial Investigation activities, to include the planning and screening (eco-risk & human health screening levels) stages of a baseline risk assessment, which will be used to define risk to human health and the environment regarding the historical Department of Defense uses of the site.

The Corps is also conducting an Interim Removal Action to remove a gravel pad storage area, which was utilized by the Corps during its 2002 remediation of subsurface pipelines contaminated with crystalline TNT.

DERP FUDS

Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites

FUSRAP

Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program

Niagara Falls Storage (NFSS)

Though the NFSS is located within the larger LOOW site, it is being investigated under the Federal program called the **Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)**. FUSRAP is a program to decontaminate or otherwise control sites where residual radioactive materials remain from the nation's atomic energy program or from commercial operations. At the NFSS site, there is evidence that potential residual contamination exists from historical Manhattan Engineering District, or Atomic Energy Commission activities at the site (the site is located on a portion of property within the larger LOOW site.) FUSRAP was administered by the USDOE until October 1997 when a Congressional Act resulted in the transfer of the program to the USACE. Generally, under FUSRAP, USACE is authorized to address only radiological contamination, resulting from the Nation's early atomic energy program activities and other hazardous substances that are mixed or commingled with that contamination. However, because the NFSS site is federally owned, all radioactive contamination and/or hazardous substances are within the scope of FUSRAP.

At NFSS, USACE is conducting a multi-phase Remedial Investigation to identify the nature and extent of potential radiological and chemical contamination at NFSS.

NFSS continued,

This investigation will also assess the risks to human health and the environment.

In addition, the Corps is conducting a Feasibility Study for the NFSS, to evaluate potential remedies for the site proper and the material currently resident in the interim waste containment structure.

Finally, the Corps conducted a non-intrusive geophysical study of the interim

waste containment structure (referred to as the "cell"). The survey demonstrated that the cell is in safe condition, with no pooled water underneath, no potential for seismic activity and no contaminant conduits out of the cell. To assure that the cell is not leaking, the Corps works daily to ensure that the cap is inspected for cracks and is repaired and seeded as necessary. The Corps also ensures that extensive groundwater, soil and sediment sampling is carried out annually to ensure there is no impact to the environment.

Other Cleanup Activities in Addition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

There are portions of property near the LOOW site that are potentially contaminated from DoD activities. These properties (referred to as Air Force Plant 38) are currently owned by the Army National Guard and so must be addressed separately by that DoD agency. The DoD has a separate funding stream under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for those properties currently owned and operated by DoD. (For more information concerning environmental restoration work at the Air Force Plant 38, contact the Army National Guard is at 888-5741.)