



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

June 2006

FACT SHEET

Title/Name: Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS)

Location: The site is located at 1397 Pletcher Road in Lewiston, NY, approximately 19 miles northwest of Buffalo, NY.

Project Description: NFSS is a federally owned 191-acre site with a 10-acre subgrade interim repository for radioactive residues and waste, two buildings, one of which contains isolated areas of fixed, low-level radioactive contamination and three active vicinity properties. Material stored in the repository includes approximately 250,000 cubic yards of residual radioactive material resulting from the processing of ores before the enactment of Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA). Primary constituents of concern are radium, thorium and smaller amounts of uranium. This material has activity ranging from 30 pico Curies per gram (pCi/g) to 574,000 pico Curies per gram (pCi/g) on a dry weight basis. The repository is covered with an interim cap designed to retard radon emissions and rainwater infiltration. There is also known radiological contamination of soil throughout the site, all at activity levels considerably below those of the materials stored in the secure repository. The USACE has initially been tasked with performing a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) and a Proposed Plan (PP) under CERCLA.

Appropriation Category: Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

Total Estimated Cost: Total project cost is estimated to be \$354.6M. The actual cost will be highly dependent on the final selected remedy for the site.

Project Sponsor/Customer: Vicinity residents, local, state and Federal agencies; and Congress.

Congressional Interests:

Representative Louise Slaughter D-NY-28

Senator Charles Schumer D-NY

Senator Hillary Clinton D-NY

Current Status: A remedial investigation is 93% complete at the site and has been expanded three times due to discovery of new radiological contamination in areas previously considered remediated by Department of Energy standards. A feasibility study was initiated in September of 2000 to determine the safety of the secure repository and to study potentially viable remediation technologies for application to the secure repository as well as to other on-site contaminated areas. Building 403, originally a laboratory and office building, was decontaminated and demolished in August of 2000. Building 401, a building used for boron-10 manufacture and radiological waste storage, underwent asbestos abatement in the fall of 2000 in preparation for radiological decontamination and demolition. Sediment, air, surface water and groundwater are monitored on a yearly basis to assure that contaminants are not migrating from the cell into the environment. Status and accomplishments are presented to the public as each segment of the work is completed. Based on the current schedule, the Remedial Investigation will conclude in July of 2007 and the Feasibility Study will conclude in June of 2008, assuming that treatability studies will not be required.

Issues: The current national program funding level is insufficient to execute any repository-associated removal alternative.

Project Manager: Dr. Judith Leithner (716) 879-4234.

