



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

FEB 10 2016

Executive Office

**SUBJECT: Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Niagara Falls Storage Site-2014
Environmental Surveillance Technical Memorandum**

Honorable Chris Collins
Representative in Congress
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Collins:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District conducts an environmental surveillance program (ESP) at the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) in support of our Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) mission to protect human health and the environment. The ESP quantifies and evaluates radiological, chemical, and water quality data from the environment at the NFSS. The Corps of Engineers publishes the results of this program annually in the form of a technical memorandum.

The ESP has been designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To ensure protection of human health and the environment.
- To verify that the Interim Waste Containment Structure (IWCS) is performing as designed.

To meet these objectives, the Corps monitors environmental media and regularly reassesses the adequacy of the program, making the necessary adjustments to the program, as warranted. Currently, the ESP includes the following sampling activities:

- Annual radon-222 monitoring through the placement of 183 radon flux canisters on the IWCS protective cap and at background locations.
- Semiannual radon monitoring through the placement of detectors at 26 locations around the IWCS, on the site perimeter, and off site.
- Semiannual external gamma radiation monitoring through the placement of detectors at 26 locations around the IWCS, on the site perimeter, and off site.
- Semiannual surface water and sediment sampling at a total of nine points along the West Drainage Ditch, Central Drainage Ditch, and east (upstream) of the Central Drainage Ditch; one location in the Central Drainage Ditch is sampled on a quarterly basis.

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- Semiannual groundwater monitoring of 55 monitoring wells for radionuclides, anions, and water quality parameters; five of these wells are also monitored for volatile organic compounds; two wells are sampled on a quarterly basis.
- Quarterly water level measurements from over 100 monitoring wells throughout the site to monitor the groundwater flow directions in the upper and lower water-bearing zones.

In addition to the collection and analysis of environmental samples, the ESP includes the calculation of dose to off-site receptors from airborne emissions of site soils using annual weather data collected at the Niagara Falls International Airport by the National Weather Service. The dose to off-site receptors based on gamma radiation measurements is also calculated and summed with the airborne emissions dose to determine the cumulative dose to the public from the NFSS.

The findings presented in the *2014 Niagara Falls Storage Site Environmental Surveillance Technical Memorandum* are consistent with those of prior years, demonstrating that site controls are continuing to perform as designed, and the site is fully protective of human health and the environment. Consistent with the Corps' environmental operating principles, we are making this technical memorandum available to you at <http://www.lrb.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/NiagaraFallsStorageSite.aspx> on the Buffalo District website. This Web address also includes additional information about NFSS and the ESP.

We are furnishing a copy of this letter to your Williamsville office. If you have any questions or require any additional information regarding the NFSS ESP, please contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander



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**SUBJECT: Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Niagara Falls Storage Site-2014
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Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senator
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

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Sincerely,

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Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
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SUBJECT: Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Niagara Falls Storage Site-2014
Environmental Surveillance Technical Memorandum

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

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Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
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**SUBJECT: Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Niagara Falls Storage Site-2014
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Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

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Honorable Rob Ort
New York State Senator
62nd District
175 Walnut Street, Suite 6
Lockport, NY 14094

Dear Senator Ort:

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