



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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PAINESVILLE FUSRAP SITE CONTRACT AWARDED

PAINESVILLE - The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District has awarded a contract to conduct a focused Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Painesville Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site at 720 Fairport Nursery Road in the Town of Painesville.

The focused RI/FS will investigate previously inaccessible areas and further assess existing information used to identify the extent of radiological contamination at the site. The information gathered will be used to determine the risk posed by that contamination, and to develop cleanup levels and remedial alternatives for the site. This RI/FS is scheduled to take approximately 16 months. The RI/FS will be followed by the preparation of a Proposed Plan, which will be released for public comment. Comments received will be responded to in a responsiveness summary, and a Record of Decision will be signed authorizing remedial action to cleanup the site.

In 1996, the Department of Energy conducted a site characterization. During 1998 the Corps prepared an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, prepared a Responsiveness Summary, and signed an Action Memorandum that authorized a Removal Action to excavate and dispose of approximately 790 cubic yards of soil containing low-levels of residual radioactivity from the Painesville FUSRAP Site. The Removal Action was conducted in the fall of 1998 and about 1,330 cubic yards of soil containing low-levels of residual radioactivity were removed. The Removal Action could not be completed due to site constraints and weather conditions. In 1999 it was decided to perform a focused RI/FS to develop a final remediation plan. The Uniroyal Chemical Company ceased manufacturing operations at this site in July 1999.

In the early 1940's, the Defense Plant Corporation constructed a magnesium reduction facility in Painesville, Ohio, on property owned by the Diamond Magnesium Company (DMC). In support of the war effort and later government operations, DMC operated this facility through the early 1960's. During the 1950's DMC purchased approximately 1,650 tons of low-level radioactively contaminated ferrous metal scrap from the Government Services Administration. The scrap was generated from discarded iron drums and other items used to store uranium compounds involved with pitchblende operations. The scrap was added to the digester tanks of hydrochloric acid or stored on the ground. The ferrous metal was used to control chlorine emissions generated during the magnesium production process.

FUSRAP was created in 1974 to identify, investigate and take appropriate cleanup action at sites where work was performed during the 1940's and 50's as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program. Most sites that became contaminated during the early atomic program were cleaned up under the guidelines in effect at that time. Trace amounts of radioactive materials remained at some of the sites because past guidelines were not as strict as today's. The Painesville Site was designated as a FUSRAP site in 1992. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing the cleanup of these sites in accordance with the Energy and Water Development Appropriations

Act, 1998, signed into law by Congress on October 13, 1997. The Corps is mandated by Congress to follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process for sites designated into FUSRAP.

Information pertaining to the Painesville FUSRAP Site is available to the public at the Moreley Library located at 184 Phelps Street in Painesville, Ohio, and at the Fairport Public Library located at 335 Vine Street in Fairport Harbor, Ohio. The public can also visit the USACE, Buffalo District, website at <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/paine/index.htm> or call the USACE toll free number at 1-800-833-6390 or 716-879-4438 for additional information.

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