



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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PAINESVILLE FUSRAP SITE REMEDIATION UPDATE

PAINESVILLE -- Representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District, met with representatives of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Uniroyal Chemical Company to discuss future cleanup plans for the Painesville Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site.

During the meeting held January 27, representatives discussed availability of funding for scheduling of the work at the site. They also discussed the schedule in light of Uniroyal's pending shutdown and closeout of the property.

The current Corps' schedule, pending the availability of funds, is to perform a focused remedial investigation/feasibility study; prepare a proposed plan and release it for public comment; and after consideration of public comment have a record of decision signed by the end of fiscal year 2001. Remedial action would be conducted in fiscal year 2002 and the site closed out in fiscal year 2003.

To date, the Corps has excavated approximately 1,326 cubic yards of low-level radioactively contaminated soil from the site. The work, which began September 22, 1998, was performed as an interim removal action after the approval of the Responsiveness Summary for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Action Memorandum. The majority of contaminated soils at the Painesville FUSRAP Site were in an area between a railroad off-loading area and an eighty-thousand gallon butadiene tank. The recommended removal action indicated that the contamination extended below the surface approximately eighteen inches and consisted of approximately 790 cubic yards of soil containing Ra-226 contamination greater than 27 pCi/g.

As excavation of the contaminated soils progressed, it became clear that the contamination was more extensive than originally anticipated. The excavation went as deep as 4 to 5 feet and came close to buildings and the butadiene tank pedestal foundations. Since the interim action outlined in the Action Memorandum for the EE/CA did not address soils under buildings or under the railroad tracks, the excavation was halted. The area of contamination has been covered with geotextile material and backfilled. The excavation area will be seeded this spring.

The Painesville FUSRAP Site is located at 720 Fairport-Nursery Road in Painesville, Ohio. 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 received approximately 1,650 tons of low-level radioactively contaminated ferrous metal scrap. 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 on the north side of the buildings. The ferrous metal was used to control chlorine emissions generated during the magnesium production process.

The Painesville Site is being addressed under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. FUSRAP was created in 1974 to study 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 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing the cleanup of these sites under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998, signed into law by Congress on October 13, 1997. The Buffalo District is responsible for eight of these sites including the Painesville FUSRAP Site.

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.ncb.usace.army.mil> or call the USACE toll free number at 1-800-833-6390 or 716-879-4438 for additional information.

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