



NEWS RELEASE

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Buffalo District

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Painesville Remediation on Hold

PAINESVILLE, OH (July 3, 2008) – The US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District (the Corps), has identified a significant increase in the quantity of contaminated materials at the Painesville Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site. As a result of the increase, the Corps will temporarily suspend clean-up efforts until additional funds can be made available within the national FUSRAP.

“The Corps is committed to a safe and thorough cleanup of the Painesville Site,” stated Lieutenant Colonel John S. Hurley, Buffalo District Commander. “Anytime you dig into the soil there is a possibility that the amount of material needing excavation may increase. As soon as funding becomes available, we will be back on site to finish the job.”

A record of decision was signed in 2006 to remediate soils contaminated with low levels of residual radioactivity from past activities at the site that were performed under contract to the Federal government during the Nation’s early atomic weapons and energy development program. The cleanup began in April of 2007.

To date approximately 9,400 cubic yards of contaminated soil have been safely excavated from the site. Nine of the twelve identified excavation areas have been successfully completed and backfilled. Approximately 3,450 cubic yards of material will be shipped offsite for disposal before the Corps’ contractor demobilizes.

The Corps’ original estimate of contaminated soil needing removal was based on available sampling data. “The Corps cleans up a site in sections,” said Steve Buechi, Painesville Site Manger. “We removed more soil than our original estimate in each of the completed areas. “ The Corps’ current quantity estimate was determined through a test pit sampling methodology that determines the boundaries of the remaining contamination that needs removal. “We are also performing a thorough review of our quantity modeling techniques to develop a list of lessons learned for our use on other FUSRAP Sites,” Buechi continued. The Corps estimates that an additional 15,000 cubic yards of soil still need to be removed. The temporary hold on remediation could potentially last a year or more.

More information about this clean-up project, including the schedule and project updates, may be found at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/ or by contacting the Army Corps of Engineers at 800 833-6390.

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