

PAINESVILLE SITE HISTORY



PAINESVILLE SITE, CIRCA 1950S

In the early 1940s, the Defense Plant Corporation financed construction of a magnesium production facility in Painesville, Ohio, on property acquired by the Federal Government. In support of the World War II effort and later government operations, the Diamond Magnesium Company operated this facility from 1942 to 1953 for the General Services Administration (GSA). Between 1952 and 1953, the Diamond Magnesium Company received approximately 1,650 tons of radiologically contaminated scrap steel from the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, to be used in their production process. The arrows on the picture depict the contaminated scrap metal piles on the site. The scrap steel was consumed in the magnesium production process; however, it is believed that soils at the site were contaminated while the scrap steel was in storage, prior to use.



PAINESVILLE SITE, CIRCA 1970S

In 1963, the GSA sold the plant to the U.S. Rubber Company, which later became the Uniroyal Chemical Company (Uniroyal). Uniroyal conducted operations on the site until 1999, when they closed the facility and were acquired by the Crompton Manufacturing Company, Inc. (now known as Chemtura Corporation). Uniroyal produced nitrile rubber, polyvinyl chloride nitrile rubber, and various polymers at the site until it ceased operations in 1999. Uniroyal utilized several of the original Diamond Magnesium Company buildings for its operations, and also built new buildings on the site.



REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION SAMPLING, CIRCA 2000

The 30-acre Painesville Site was designated into the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) by the Department of Energy (DOE) in 1992, based on preliminary investigations completed by the DOE in 1990 and 1991. The DOE conducted a more detailed investigation of the site in 1996, including ambient air sampling, external gamma rate exposure measurements, building radiological surveys, gamma walkover surveys, groundwater sampling, surface geophysical surveys, surface water sampling, sediment sampling, ecological sampling, and soil sampling.

In 1998 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), on entering removal action at the site, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) conducted a removal action at the site, removing approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil before suspending work due to the onset of winter conditions and discovery that the extent of contamination was greater than anticipated.

In May 2003, the Corps completed a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the Painesville Site. The RI/FS collected additional samples from the areas of concern, conducted a Baseline Risk Assessment, and developed and evaluated alternatives for addressing the site contamination. In June 2005, the Corps completed a Feasibility Study Addendum, which amended the cleanup goals and remedial alternatives first presented in the RI/FS. The Corps signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Painesville Site in April 2006. The selected remedy for cleanup of the Painesville Site, documented in the ROD, was Excavation and Off-Site Disposal.



PAINESVILLE SITE, CIRCA 2007

This photograph was taken just prior to the initiation of remediation activities on the site. All but one of the former buildings on the site has been demolished. The Corps began site remediation in April 2007. However, a temporary hold was placed on the cleanup in March 2008 after the discovery of additional quantities of soil requiring remediation. To date, the Corps has safely excavated and disposed of approximately 9,400 cubic yards of radiologically contaminated soil from the Painesville Site. Of the twelve identified excavation areas, nine have been successfully completed and backfilled. There are approximately 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil remaining on the site requiring remediation.



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