



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Buffalo District

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# News Release

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## Sampling to Begin at Seaway Site

Tonawanda – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will begin sampling at the Seaway Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site on August 13, 2001. The sampling is being conducted to gain additional information about the nature and extent of contamination in the landfill that resulted from the Nation's early atomic energy program. The results from these studies will be summarized in a report that will be made available to the public in February 2002.

“We are conducting this investigation in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that conditions at the site are fully understood so we can develop a remedial action that is fully protective of human health and the environment”, said David J. Conboy, Chief, Environmental Analysis for the Buffalo District of the USACE.

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The Manhattan Engineer District (MED), a predecessor of the U.S. Department of Energy, hired the former Linde Air Products Division of Union Carbide to process uranium from 1942 to 1946. Residues from uranium processing were transported from the Linde Site to the Ashland 1 Site and Seaway Area D. Some of this material was later relocated to the Seaway Areas A, B, C, and the Ashland 2 Site. Approximately 6,000 cubic yards of low-grade uranium tailings were disposed of on Seaway Areas A, B, and C in 1974.

The Seaway Site is located along River Road in Tonawanda, New York in an urban/industrial area. Between 1974 and 1982, the Site was contaminated during the transfer of soil containing low-level radioactive residues from the Ashland 1 Site. At the time, the Seaway Site was an operating sanitary landfill, which ceased operations in 1993. The Site comprises about 100 acres of which the landfill occupies about 89 acres and is called the Seaway Industrial Park. About 68 acres of the landfill have been capped in accordance with requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The current owner of the site is the Sands Mobile Park Corporation.

Contamination had been identified in four areas of the Seaway Site, known as Areas A, B, C, and D. Areas A, B and C are being managed under the Seaway Site project and will be sampled this summer. Area D was included in the Record of Decision, dated April 1998, for the Ashland 1 and Ashland 2 Sites. It is being remediated along with the Ashland 1 Site. The sampling that will begin in August, will be done in Areas A, B, and C only.

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Area A is approximately nine acres. Approximately 40 percent of the MED-related material in this area is covered by a layer of fill material and refuse up to 10 feet thick. The sampling on Area A will help to determine what percentage of material, if any, would need to be managed as mixed waste as a result of other landfill materials present, if the material would be excavated and disposed of off-site.

Areas B and C, combined, are approximately three acres. It is estimated that the MED-related material in Areas B and C have been covered with up to 40 feet of fill material and refuse. The sampling will determine the volume estimate of the MED residues, what impact the surrounding landfill materials would have on the mobility of these residues, and if any chemicals in and around the residues would require the material to be managed as mixed waste if they were to be excavated and disposed of off-site.

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 to identify and clean up sites that became contaminated with materials used in the early years of the Nation's Atomic Energy Program for development of the atomic bomb. The Seaway Site was designated into FUSRAP in 1984. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers began managing this program with the passage of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, which was signed on October 13, 1997.

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For more information, please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line. The Corps of Engineers also has a FUSRAP home page on the Internet and you can reach us by e-mail.

Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-833-6390

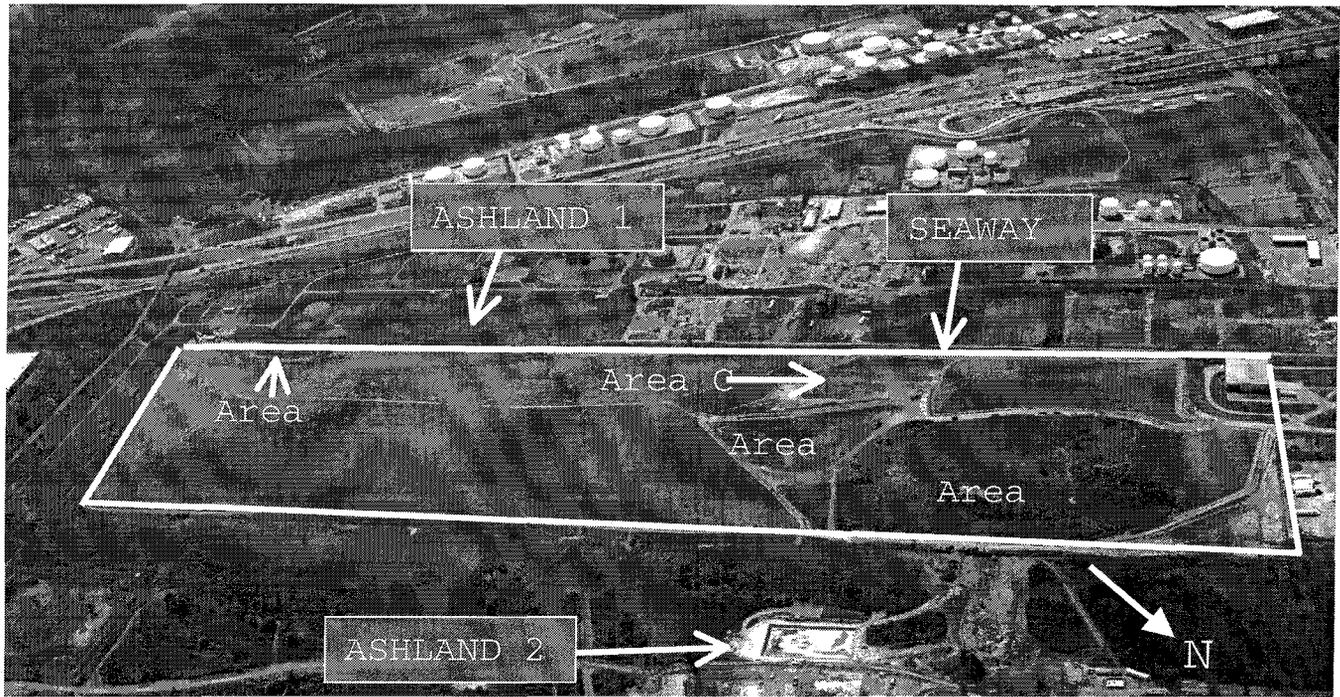
Buffalo District FUSRAP website address: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap>

Buffalo District e-mail address: [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil)

Please call (716) 879-4438 or (800) 833-6390 to let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Seaway Site. You may also mail us at:

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