



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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PRELIMINARY FINDINGS CONFIRM TONAWANDA SITE SAFE FOR CURRENT USES

BUFFALO - Preliminary findings from sampling conducted this past summer at the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area confirmed the site does not exceed exposure guidelines for current site uses as defined in a health assessment performed for the property in 1999.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District, is investigating this area as a vicinity property of the Linde Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site. FUSRAP is a federal program that identifies and restores sites contaminated with low level radioactive materials resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. The Corps was assigned FUSRAP in 1997.

USACE collected soil and groundwater samples from the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area between July and September 2001. The sampling effort resulted in approximately 200 sampling locations, with almost 500 soil samples analyzed.

"We contracted out to three private labs that were completely inundated with all of our samples," said Diane Kozlowski, Project Manager. "But the end result is that we can confidently say to the community 'this site is safe for its current uses'." Kozlowski added that the health assessment took into account recreational user scenarios. "Even though the site is located on a sanitary landfill and private property owned by the Town of Tonawanda, we have seen evidence of dirt bikes and people walking dogs, so we know the community is using the site," she said. "And the preliminary results confirm the site falls within acceptable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidelines for this use."

Kozlowski estimates the complete sampling report and results will be available for public viewing in March. "We will also hold a public information session to present the results and discuss the next step in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)," she said, citing the law USACE is required to follow when investigating FUSRAP sites. Ultimately, Kozlowski said, CERCLA calls for a site to be protective of human health and the environment and comply with current regulations.

A Radiological Human Health Assessment was completed in 1999 on the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area to evaluate potential risks associated with the contamination for different users over a thousand-year period under current and potential future land uses. Under current land use, the assessment determined that potential risks associated with the contamination are within acceptable USEPA risk limits.

Interested citizens are encouraged to call USACE Buffalo District toll-free at 1-800-833-6390 or e-mail at fusrap@usace.army.mil for more information. FUSRAP also has a website at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap.

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