



# News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed its investigative work at the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property (FUSRAP) Site

BUFFALO -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District is pleased to report that it has completed its investigative work at the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, which includes both the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the Mudflats Area. The Corps' final Remedial Investigation Report documents the investigation and sampling efforts of the past 5 years. In its final report, the Corps' confirms that the Landfill and Mudflats Area are safe for the current and potential future land uses.

The Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property FUSRAP Site is located on East Park Drive in the Town of Tonawanda, New York.

"The Remedial Investigation Report provides information and data concerning the Corps' ongoing work to better determine the nature and extent of possible FUSRAP contamination at the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area," said Stephen Buechi, Project Manager. "We're pleased to report that our extensive sampling and investigation effort shows that current, or future, risks to the local community fall within USEPA guidelines."

The Corps has been investigating the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area since 1999 as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). In existence since 1974, FUSRAP is a Federal Program that was created and first managed by the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of FUSRAP is to investigate, and cleanup if necessary, those sites where work was performed by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the Cold War-era (1940s and 1950s), as part of the Nation's early atomic weapons and energy programs. Congress transferred the management of FUSRAP to the Corps in 1997.

Though no historical records were found to show that either the Town of Tonawanda Landfill or Mudflats Area properties were part of the Nation's early atomic weapons and energy programs or used by the Federal Government, the Corps believed further sampling was necessary to assure the community and local leaders that the site had been thoroughly investigated. "An earlier Department of Energy (DOE) radiological survey of the area," explained Corps Project Manager Stephen Buechi, "found small areas within the Landfill and Mudflats Area that contained radioactive material, similar to that from past MED activities found at other FUSRAP sites. Though these two properties weren't part of the Nation's early atomic weapons and energy programs, the DOE included them in FUSRAP. Since 1999, we have been working to better determine the nature and extent of the MED-like contamination and the potential risks the site may pose to the community."

The Remedial Investigation Report details the results of soil and groundwater sampling conducted at the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, and also includes a Baseline Risk Assessment, which evaluates the risk from MED-like contamination on the site to current and

potential future site users, and the environment. The Baseline Risk Assessment evaluated potential future recreational use of the Landfill after it is closed and capped, and future industrial/commercial use of the Mudflats Area.

"While the Remedial Investigation did find small areas of the site that contained radioactive material similar to material found at other FUSRAP sites," stated Buechi, "our Baseline Risk Assessment concluded that risks to current and potential future site users are at or below U.S. Environmental Protection Agency risk limits."

To officially close out its investigation at the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, the Corps will need to prepare two additional reports; the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision. The Corps will first complete the Proposed Plan, which will detail the Corps' recommendation for the properties. The local communities will be able to review and comment on the Proposed Plan before the final remediation decision is made for the site and documented in the final report that will close out the site - the Record of Decision. Later this year, the Corps is planning to have a public meeting to make the Proposed Plan available for public review and comment. The Corps then hopes to have the final Record of Decision signed in 2007.

The Final Remedial Investigation Report has been placed in the Administrative Record File for the Tonawanda FUSRAP sites. The Administrative Record File, which is available to the public, is located at 333 Main Street in Tonawanda, New York at the Tonawanda Public Library. The report and summary information is also available on the USACE, Buffalo District, website at [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap). The public may also obtain copies of the report by calling the USACE toll free number at 1-800-833-6390.

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