



**US Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FOR THE
TONAWANDA LANDFILL
AND MUDFLATS AREA
TONAWANDA, NEW YORK**

**Authorized under the
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)**

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CONTENTS

Acronyms	ii
1.0 Overview of Community Relations Plan	1
1.1 Goals and Objectives	1
1.2 Schedule of Activities Addressed by This Community Relations Plan	2
1.3 Access to Information and Opportunities for Public Comment	2
2.0 Program Historical Information	3
3.0 Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats FUSRAP Site Information	
3.1 Site Location, Description, and History	3
3.2 Surrounding Area	3
3.3 Type of Hazardous Substances at the Site	3
4.0 Community Background	4
4.1 Government Entities	4
4.2 Chronology of Community Involvement	4
5.0 Community Relations Program	5
5.1 Community Relations Tools	5
Appendices	
A: List of Key Contacts	7
B: Suggested Locations for Meetings and Locations of the Administrative Record File	13
Table 1: Chronology of Community Involvement	4

ACRONYMS

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CANiT	Coalition Against Nuclear Materials in Tonawanda
F.A.C.T.S.	For a Clean Tonawanda Site
FUSRAP	Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
MED	Manhattan Engineer District
USDOE	United States Department of Energy
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan

1.0 Overview of Community Relations Plan

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District has designed this Community Relations Plan for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area Vicinity Property to the Linde Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site. The purpose of this plan is to facilitate communication between the Tonawanda community, property owners, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during investigations of the area. It has been prepared to guide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District in proceeding with a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community.

Federal regulations require that during a remedial investigation/feasibility study, agencies develop community relations programs to be consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). These requirements are the basis for more comprehensive and effective community relation activities.

It is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers policy to involve the public during the decision-making process for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area and to keep the public informed. This plan describes how the public has been involved in the investigation and decision-making process to date, and how they will continue to be involved. This plan includes:

- Public Involvement Goals and Objectives
- FUSRAP Historical Information
- Location, Description, and History
- Community Relations Background
- Community Relations Activities

The information in this plan is based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance on community relations.

1.1 Goals and Objectives

It is the goal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to achieve a remedy for the site that is protective of human health and the environment. To effectively implement this goal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District pledges to be honest, forthright, responsive, and clear in dealing with the public, elected officials, interest groups, and the media.

It is the objective of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District to:

- increase public awareness of the program and its activities;
- reduce misunderstanding about environmental problems and potential dangers;
- facilitate two-way communication with the affected public; and
- enhance the ability to perform this mission in the most effective and efficient manner.

1.2 Schedule of Activities Addressed by this Community Relations Plan

The tentative schedule for activities at the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area FUSRAP Site is as follows:

Schedule	Activity
June 2001	Gamma walkovers and soil sampling. Work will begin within the mudflats and progress to the landfill area.
Fall 2001	Issue report based on findings of sampling effort and hold Information Session to inform the public of findings.

1.3 Access to Information and Opportunities for Public Comment

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Public Affairs Specialist is Michele Hope. She can be reached at (800) 833-6390 or (716) 879-4124.

Information pertaining to the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area FUSRAP Site can be found in the Linde FUSRAP site Administrative Record File and Tonawanda Sites Administrative Record. These records are established in the Tonawanda Public Library located at 333 Main Street, Tonawanda, New York, and at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP Public Information Center located at 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York. Currently, an Administrative Record is being developed for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area. The file will be available in the Fall 2001 when the Sampling report is issued.

Individuals and organizations may be placed on the mailing list by calling (800)-833-6390. Public comments should be mailed to Michele Hope at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207. You can also contact the Corps by email at: fusrap@usace.army.mil. Our website is: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap>.

Significant developments relating to the Corps' activities at Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area FUSRAP Site will be announced by news releases to the media, display ads in the local newspapers, and updates to the website.

2.0 Program Historical Information

FUSRAP was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate, and clean up or control sites throughout the United States that were part of the Nation's early atomic energy program during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Activities at the sites were performed by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or under the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Both MED and AEC were predecessors of the Department of Energy (DOE). In October 1997, management of FUSRAP was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Buffalo District is investigating a portion of the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area and will perform actions in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP.

3.0 Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area FUSRAP Site Information

3.1 Site Location, Description, and History

The Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area is located at the northern end of East Park Drive in the Town of Tonawanda, a suburb north of Buffalo, NY. The area is located about 1.5 miles to the north of the former Linde FUSRAP Site. The Tonawanda Landfill and the Mudflats Area vicinity property consists of two Town of Tonawanda municipal tracts identified as the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the Mudflats Area. The landfill is approximately 55 acres in size and the mudflats area is about 115 acres in size.

Landfill operations occurred between the mid-1930's to 1989. Records indicate that the landfill was principally used for the disposal of construction and demolition material, leaves, incinerator ash, and municipal waste. Oak Ridge National Laboratory identified material in 1991 with enhanced levels of uranium-238 similar to the product and by-product material from Linde. As the result of this survey, the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area was formally designated a Vicinity Property to the former Linde Site under FUSRAP by the Department of Energy in December 1992.

3.2 Surrounding Area

The Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area properties are currently owned by the Town of Tonawanda. Adjacent properties include a residential area within the City of Tonawanda, the CSX Railroad main line rail tracks, a Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation utility right-of-way corridor, Interstate 290, and a former municipal incinerator that is no longer in use.

3.3 Type of Hazardous Substances at the Site

A radiological survey conducted in 1991 identified soil concentrations of the radionuclides radium-226, thorium-230, and uranium-238 at isolated locations within the landfill.

Additional characterization performed in 1994 helped determine the maximum depth of radiological contamination at previously surveyed locations. This characterization identified contamination to a maximum depth of 11.5 feet at one location. Remaining locations did not exhibit contamination above guidelines below a depth of 1.5 feet.

A health assessment performed for the property in 1999 determined that potential risks associated with exposure to the contamination under current land use conditions did not exceed guidelines.

4.0 Community Background

4.1 Government Entities

The Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area is located in the Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. Town voters elect a Supervisor and six Council members as legislators and town administrators. Residents normally direct their questions, complaints, and suggestions to the Town Clerk, who forwards them to the proper department or official.

The Erie County government includes a County Executive and county legislature. The County Executive is the chief administrative officer of the county and is elected to a four-year term. The legislature is currently composed of 17 members.

The Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area borders a residential neighborhood in the City of Tonawanda. The City of Tonawanda government includes a Mayor and City Council. The Mayor is elected to a four-year term. The City Council is currently composed of 5 members, elected to two-year terms with the City Council President elected to a four-year term.

4.2 Chronology of Community Involvement

Involvement with the community is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Chronology of Community Involvement

Date	Activity
March 13, 2001	Letter informing residents adjacent to the landfill of upcoming sampling and public meeting. Also provided an opportunity to meet with the Project Manager, Project Engineer, and Public Affairs representative by appointment to individually answer questions on Corps' activities. Three in-home visits were conducted at the residents' request.
March 29, 2001	First Public Information Session. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the Corps' plans to conduct some sampling in the

	Landfill and Mudflats area in Spring 2001. The meeting was attended by 62 members of the public, which included politicians, contractors, and the media.
June 4, 2001	Letter informing residents adjacent to the landfill that sampling would begin on 6/11/01.

5.0 Community Relations Program

5.1 Community Relations Tools

Use of the community relations tools in the following table will ensure that the public is well informed about the investigation and decision-making process for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area, and has the opportunity to participate, address issues of concern, and exchange relevant information.

Tool	Description
Toll-free access phone line	1-800-833-6390
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP website	www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District website	www.lrb.usace.army.mil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District e-mail address	fusrap@usace.army.mil
Information contact and phone number	Michele Hope (716) 879-4124
Administrative Record	The Administrative Record File enables the community to review documents that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses in each phase of the CERCLA process for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area.
Locations for the Administrative Record File	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District FUSRAP Public Information Center 1776 Niagara Street Buffalo, NY Tonawanda Public Library 333 Main Street Tonawanda, New York
Fact sheets	Developed to convey information regarding the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area.
Display advertisements and news releases	Display ads will be placed in The Buffalo News, The Tonawanda News, The Metro Community News and the Ken-Ton Bee. News releases will be sent to local newspapers to announce upcoming releases or events in regard to the area.

Tool	Description
Community information sessions	Will be held throughout the CERCLA process to exchange information and answer questions pertaining to the area.
Mailings	Information will be sent to mailing list members throughout the CERCLA process to inform them of the latest activities on the site.

Appendix A. Contact List of Key Community Leaders and Other Interested Parties

Government Entities

U.S. Senate

Honorable Charles Schumer
620 Fed. Building
111 W. Huron St.
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 846-4111
Fax: (716) 846-4113

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Guaranty Building
28 Church St., Suite 208
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 854-9725
Fax: (716) 854-9731.

U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable John J. LaFalce
111 West Huron Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 846-4056

Governor

George Pataki
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
(518) 474-8390
Fax: (518) 474-3767

New York Senate

Honorable Mary Lou Rath
5500 Main Street, Suite 260
Williamsville, NY 14221-6737
(716) 633-0331
Fax: (716) 633-0830

New York State Assembly

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger
New York State Assembly
3514 Delaware Avenue, Suite 201
Kenmore, NY 14217
(716) 873-2540

Erie County

Joel Giambra
Erie County Executive
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 858-8500

Honorable Charles M. Swanick
Erie County Legislature Chairperson
3200 Elmwood Ave., Room 115
Kenmore, NY 14217
(716) 877-3986

Town of Tonawanda

Honorable Ronald Moline
Town Supervisor
Municipal Building
2919 Delaware Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
(716) 877-8804
Fax: (716) 877-1261

John S. Camilleri, Director
Town of Tonawanda Dept. of Water Resources
779 Two Mile Creek Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150,
(716) 693-4900

City of Tonawanda

Alice Roth, Mayor
200 Niagara St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 695-8645
Fax: (716) 695-8315

Jason Zdrojewski
Acting, City Engineer
City of Tonawanda
200 Niagara St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 695-8624

Federal and State Agencies

██████████
USEPA Region 2
Division of Environmental, Planning & Protection
Radiation and Indoor Air Branch
290 Broadway, 28th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

██████████
Environmental Radiation Specialist
Bureau of Radiation & Hazardous Site Management
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 8th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7255

██████████
Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials
NYSDEC Region 9
270 Michigan Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999
(716) 851-7220

Other Interested Parties

Coalition Against Nuclear Materials in Tonawanda (CANiT)

Attn.: [REDACTED]

Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

For a Clean Tonawanda Site (F.A.C.T.S)

Attn.: [REDACTED]

League of Women Voters

Attn: [REDACTED]

Niagara Group Sierra Club

Attn.: [REDACTED]

Media Distribution

Newspaper

Buffalo News

1 News Plaza

P. O. Box 100

Buffalo, NY 14240

Phone: (716) 849-5531

Fax: (716) 856-5150

Tonawanda News

P. O. Box 668

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Phone: (716) 693-1000

Fax: (716) 693-8573

Metro Community News
Phone: (716) 668-5223
Fax: (716) 668-2640
Ads: Joann Moran
Fax: (716) 668-4526

Ken-Ton Bee
P. O. Box 150
Buffalo, NY 14231-0150
Phone: (716) 632-4700
Fax: (716) 633-8601

Television Stations

WGRZ-TV
259 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 849-5756
Fax: (716) 849-5706

WIVB-TV
2077 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
Phone: (716) 876-7333
Fax: (716) 874-8173

WKBW-TV
7 Broadcast Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 845-6100
Fax: (716) 856-8784

Radio Stations

WHLA AM Radio
225 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 855-1270
Fax: (716) 855-4681

WGR News Radio
464 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 881-4555
Fax: (716) 884-2931

WBEN AM 930
2077 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
Phone: (716) 876-0930
Fax: (716) 876-1344

WNED AM
Horizons Plaza
P. O. Box 1263
Buffalo, NY 14240
Phone: (716) 845-7000
Fax: (716) 845-7043

WWKB AM 1520
695 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 41209
Phone: (716) 884-5101
Fax: (716) 882-2048

Appendix B. Suggested Locations for Meetings and Locations for Administrative Record and Information Repositories

Potential Meeting Locations

Philip Sheridan Building
3200 Elmwood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14217
(716) 874-8510,
Contact: Grace Rumley

Holmes Elementary School
365 DuPont Avenue
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 874-8423
Contact: Mr. Kaiser, Principal

- Other sites as required (City of Tonawanda, Tonawanda Public Library on Main St., Tonawanda High School, Tonawanda City Hall)

Administrative Record Locations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FUSRAP Public Information Center
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

Tonawanda Public Library
333 Main Street
Tonawanda, NY 41450