



FUSRAP Activities at Tonawanda, New York



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

January 1994

This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach requirements set by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.

Tonawanda Cleanup Forthcoming

The Department of Energy (DOE) has completed a report that assesses contamination at the Tonawanda site in Tonawanda, New York, and has evaluated cleanup alternatives for the site. This evaluation has led to the development of a proposed plan that summarizes the analysis and explains the recommended remedy. The report and the plan together are referred to as a feasibility study/proposed plan-environmental impact statement (FS/PP-EIS).

Four properties that compose the Tonawanda site are Linde Center on Sheridan Drive and Ashland 1, Ashland 2, and the Seaway Industrial Park on River Road near the I-190 approach to the Grand Island Bridge.

These properties, which contain residual radioactive materials from uranium processing conducted during the early years of the nation's atomic energy program, will be cleaned up under the DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

The FS/PP-EIS is now available for public review. A public meeting was held on December 1 to receive comments and answer questions concerning DOE's recommended plan for site cleanup. Written comments may also be submitted through February 10, 1994.

Cleanup Alternatives

The contamination in its present condition at the Tonawanda site does not pose an immediate hazard for the health of workers and nearby residents or for the environment. However, changes in site usage that involve activities such as excavation or other movement of soil could result in spreading of the contamination, a significant increase in the volume of material requiring

remediation, and increased risks to human health and the environment.

To evaluate alternatives for cleaning up the site, DOE has followed a process outlined by federal laws and regulations, which included preparation of the FS/PP-EIS. DOE has evaluated



Tonawanda Information Center

six remedial action alternatives:

- no action;
- complete excavation of contaminated soil and offsite disposal;
- complete excavation of contaminated soil and onsite disposal;
- partial excavation of contaminated soil and offsite disposal;
- partial excavation of contaminated soil and onsite disposal; and
- containment of contaminated soil.

Since 1988 DOE has investigated the site by reviewing available data and taking additional soil and water samples. The results of the remedial investigation are contained in a report that is available for public review through the administrative record at the DOE Public Information Center and the Tonawanda Public Library. Data from the investigation were used to evaluate the cleanup alternatives as documented in the FS/PP-EIS. DOE is soliciting public comments on the FS/PP-EIS before issuing a record of decision, which will document the cleanup alternative selected.

Site History

During World War II and until 1948, the Linde Air Products facility (now called Praxair) was used for processing uranium ore under contract to the Manhattan Engineer District, the program responsible for developing the first atomic bomb. The property was decontaminated in 1953 to meet standards in effect at the time. Further decontamination was performed in 1976 after a survey indicated that some contamination was still present. Later surveys revealed that contamination still remains in portions of a few buildings and some outside areas.

In 1944 the government purchased the nearby Ashland 1 property and used it for disposal of uranium processing residues until 1946. The Ashland Oil Company bought the property in 1960 and built an oil refinery, which ceased operating in 1982. During construction on this property, some residues were moved to the Ashland 2 and Seaway properties. Ashland 1 and 2 are currently vacant and unused, and Seaway is a municipal landfill operated by Browning-Ferris Industries.

For More Information

DOE is working closely with the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and is providing information to the public through

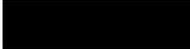
- publication of a quarterly newsletter,
- document files maintained in local libraries and in the DOE Public Information Center,
- periodic meetings with local elected officials,
- quarterly availability sessions where DOE officials are available to answer questions, and
- a speakers bureau.

Workshops explaining the FS/PP-EIS process are also conducted on request. To schedule a workshop for your group or to obtain more information about cleanup activities at the Tonawanda site, contact the DOE Public Information Center, 810 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda; the telephone number is 716-871-9660.

Documents concerning the site, including the FS/PP-EIS, are contained in the administrative record and are available for public review at the information center and at the Tonawanda Public Library, 333 Main Street in Tonawanda. Information repositories are maintained at the following local libraries:

- Parkside Village Branch, 169 Sheridan-Parkside Drive in Tonawanda;
- Kenmore Public Library, 160 Delaware Avenue in Kenmore; and
- Grand Island Memorial Public Library, 1715 Bedell Road in Grand Island.

For further information, please call the DOE Public Information center or FUSRAP's toll-free public access line, 1-800-253-9759. Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for Tonawanda. You may also contact:

 Site Manager
Former Sites Restoration Division
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723
615-576-7477

