



# Former Harshaw Chemical Company Site

Cleveland, Ohio

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District

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May 2011

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

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 weapons and energy programs during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Congress transferred the management of FUSRAP from the U.S. Department of Energy to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1997. When implementing FUSRAP, the Corps follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.



*Former Harshaw Chemical Company Site*

### Site Description

The 55-acre former Harshaw Chemical Company Site is located at 1000 Harvard Avenue, approximately five miles southwest of downtown Cleveland in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The site is in a low-lying area adjacent to the Cuyahoga River and Big Creek and is surrounded on three sides by industries. The main portion of the facility at one time included over 30 buildings on about 16 acres of land.

### Site History

The former Harshaw Chemical Company was contracted by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and later the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to support the Nation's early atomic energy program. From 1944 to 1959, various forms of uranium were processed in Building G-1 (formerly known as Plant C) for isotopic separation and enrichment at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Previous investigations that addressed residual radiological contamination at the site were conducted from 1976 to 1979. The current property owners conducted additional investigations in the 1990s and numerous buildings were demolished. Based on a request from the State of Ohio and the site owners, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) determined that this site should be reviewed for possible inclusion in the FUSRAP. On June 3, 1999, the DOE referred this action to the Corps. Based on the results of a Preliminary Assessment, the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site was included in FUSRAP in spring 2001 for further characterization of FUSRAP-related contaminants.

In accordance with the phased process required in CERCLA, the Corps completed a Preliminary Assessment, a Historic Photographic Analysis, and a 2006 Remedial Investigation (RI) Report and Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA). During the development of the 2006 RI Report and BRA the Corps

identified the presence of another radioactive element (Thorium) and obtained additional historical documents which indicated other MED/AEC processes may have taken place at the site. As a result, additional investigations were performed. The 2006 RI Report was revised in 2009 to include the additional data collected to define the nature and extent and risk posed by the radionuclides not included in the original RI Report.

## Status of the Site

During the site investigation, the Corps divided the site into Investigative Areas (IAs). IA-06, a six-acre parcel located east of the Cuyahoga River, was found to be the least impacted portion of the site. No known process activities were conducted in IA-06 and, results from Corps' investigations concluded that IA-06 did not pose a risk to human health or the environment. As a result, a Proposed Plan for IA-06 was released to the public in April 2010. A Record of Decision (ROD) for IA-06 was released in April 2011. The ROD documents that IA-06 does not require any remedial action under FUSRAP for the current and reasonably anticipated future land use of the area which is recreational.

For the remainder of the Harshaw Site, the Corps is now preparing the Feasibility Study (FS) phase of the CERCLA process to identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives to eliminate risks to human health and the environment appropriate for the future land use of the site. The FS is projected to be released to the public in 2012.

Annual groundwater monitoring is currently being performed at the Harshaw Site with public release of the monitoring data in support of the CERCLA process. The groundwater monitoring data is evaluated by the Corps to assess the movement of FUSRAP contaminants in groundwater at the site. This data is posted to the Harshaw website listed below.

## Administrative Record

The Administrative Record for the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site contains documents that support the decision-making process for the site. It is available for your review at the following locations:

### **Electronic and Paper Versions**

Cleveland Public Library  
Public Administration Library  
325 Superior Avenue, N.E.  
Cleveland, OH 44114

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
(by appointment)  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207

### **Electronic Version Only**

Cuyahoga County Library (Brooklyn Branch)  
4480 Ridge Road  
Brooklyn, OH 44144-3353

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## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT FUSRAP TEAM**

1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)

Email: [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil)

Website: [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/harshaw](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/harshaw)