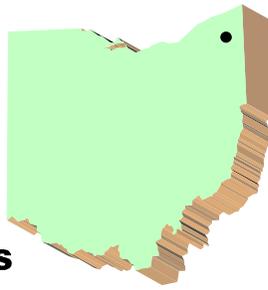




**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# **FUSRAP** Fact Sheet

## *Painesville Site*

### *Painesville, Ohio*

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District • August, 2000**

*The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 to identify and clean up contaminated sites used in the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Management of the program was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the U.S. Department of Energy in October 1997.*

### **Site Description and History**

The Painesville Site is located at 720 Fairport Nursery Road in Painesville, Ohio, approximately 22 miles northeast of downtown Cleveland. In the early 1940s, the Defense Plant Corporation constructed a magnesium production facility on property owned by the Diamond Magnesium Company. In 1952 and 1953, Diamond Magnesium received about 1,650 tons of radioactively contaminated scrap steel from the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works. The steel was used to control chlorine emissions during the magnesium production process.

At the time of the magnesium production work, about a third of the site's approximately 52 acres was covered by large buildings and rail lines. At present, some of the same buildings are in use; others have been removed and/or replaced with other buildings.

In the early 1960s, the General Services Administration sold the Diamond Magnesium facility. The current owners are the Uniroyal Chemical Company, Inc., and LONZA Inc. In 1999, the Uniroyal Chemical Company ceased operations at the site and is currently in the process of preparing its property for eventual sale.

### **Work to Date and Current Conditions**

Preliminary radiological surveys of the site were conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1988 and 1990. The tests revealed significant areas of elevated radionuclide concentrations outdoors in soils, mostly on the Uniroyal property with isolated spots on the LONZA property. The soils contain residual uranium, radium, and thorium. Indoor surveys found no evidence of radioactive contamination.

A full-scale radiological characterization was conducted in 1996 and 1997, which provided more detailed information about the nature, location, and extent of the contamination. In 1998, a removal action was conducted at the site, which included the excavation and disposal of approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

The Corps of Engineers is currently conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the Painesville Site. The purpose of the RI/FS is to further define the extent of radioactive contamination, and to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives to address the contamination.



*Aerial view of the Painesville Site taken in the 1950s.*

Given current site uses, existing radiological conditions at the site pose little threat to workers or other members of the public. Overall levels of radioactivity are low, and radiation is not likely to spread. However, because the site does have residual radioactivity in excess of current guidelines, and because site uses may change in the future, the site is being evaluated for appropriate environmental restoration measures.

## ***About FUSRAP***

The cleanup of the Painesville Site will be conducted under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), which is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District.

FUSRAP is a federal environmental management program initiated in 1974 to identify, assess, and restore sites with residual radioactive contamination resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program.

### ***For More Information***

For more information, please call the FUSRAP 24-hour, toll-free public access line. Your call will be returned promptly. FUSRAP also has a home page on the Internet.

**Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-833-6390**

**Home Page Address: <http://www.fusrap.usace.army.mil>**

**Buffalo District Home Page Address: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil>**

Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Painesville FUSRAP Site. You may also contact the:

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

(716) 879-4438



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