



News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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Corps Celebrates Completion of Environmental Cleanup Project

BUFFALO, NY--9/13/06--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, will be hosting a ceremony tomorrow at 10 a.m. to commemorate completion of environmental cleanup and restoration work at the Ashland Sites in the Town of Tonawanda, NY.

The Corps conducted the cleanup under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP is a Federal program that investigates and if necessary, cleans up sites where residual radioactive contamination remains from former Manhattan Engineer District (MED) activities during World War II, or later peacetime activities by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

The Ashland Sites Project has been one of the largest environmental cleanup projects in Western New York. It consists of three discreet areas: Ashland 1 (including Seaway Area D), Ashland 2, and Rattlesnake Creek. All are located within the industrial corridor along River Road in the Town of Tonawanda.

In 1998, the Corps signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Ashland 1 Site including Seaway Area D) and the Ashland 2 Site. The Corps completed its remediation activities at the Ashland 2 Site in 1999; in the end removing 52,250 tons of contaminated soil from the site and transporting it for safe disposal out of state.

The Corps then moved on to fully complete remediation activities at the Ashland 1 & Seaway D sites in 2002. At those sites, the Corps and its contractors excavated, removed and safely disposed (again to an out-of-state facility) nearly 173,000 tons of contaminated soils and materials.

During cleanup of the Ashland 2 site, the Corps discovered additional contamination covering about a 1-mile stretch of an adjacent creek bed; Rattlesnake Creek. In 2004 the Corps officially added the Rattlesnake Creek site to the Ashland Sites ROD. Working with state and local officials and the community, the Corps finished remediation work on Rattlesnake Creek in September 2005, thereby completing the remediation of all areas included in the 1998 Ashland Sites ROD.

The Corps is now preparing the Ashland Completion Report, which will close out the 1998 Record of Decision. Corps officials say the ceremony on Thursday celebrates many years of hard teamwork and public support. "Over 258,000 tons of contaminated material safely excavated from the Ashland Sites and disposed of out-of-state," said Mr. Jim Karsten, Buffalo District's FUSRAP Manager. "Nearly 25 acres of land is now suitable for development," continued Karsten.

Karsten also expressed pride in the safety record of the project. "Throughout cleanup of the three areas," stated Karsten, "the Corps and its contractors maintained an outstanding safety record. Specifically, the over 312,000 hours of on-site work was conducted with no lost-time accidents."

As part of the ceremony, there will also be a tree planting. Many dignitaries will be in attendance

including the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Hon. John Paul Woodley, Jr.; LTC John S. Hurley, Buffalo District Commander; representatives of Governor Pataki, Congresswoman Slaughter, Senator Schumer, and other Federal, state, local, and private sector officials.

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