



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



# **FUSRAP** Fact Sheet

## **Ashland 2 Site**

### **Tonawanda, New York**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Buffalo District • December, 1999**

*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.*

### **History of Ashland 2**

As part of the nation's early atomic energy program, the former Linde Air Products Division of Union Carbide processed uranium ores at its facility in Tonawanda. This work was conducted under contract to the Manhattan Engineer District (MED), a predecessor of the Department of Energy, from 1942 to 1946.

From 1944 to 1946, uranium processing wastes were transported from Linde to a 10-acre area known then as the Haist property, now called Ashland 1. These materials consisted of about 8,000 tons of low-grade uranium ore tailings. In 1960, the property was transferred to Ashland Oil for use in the company's oil refinery activities.

In 1974, the company built two storage tanks on the property and moved excavated soil containing MED-related low-level radioactive residues and inorganic constituents to an area now known as Ashland 2. Other general plant refuse and chemical by-products were also deposited on the property in an industrial landfill. In 1982, Ashland Oil closed and covered the industrial landfill with clay and soil; the property became covered with grass and shrubs over time.



### **Nature of Site Contamination**

The primary radioactive materials at the Ashland 2 Site were uranium-238, radium-226, thorium-230, and the decay products from these constituents. Some chemical residues from MED activities were also present. A baseline risk assessment was conducted to determine the potential effects of these materials on human health and the environment on and near the site and to evaluate the need for cleanup actions. The assessment indicated that while risks from waste materials were not excessive, the site needed to be remediated to ensure protection from radioactive residues under some possible future land use scenarios.

## **Activities**

The Corps released a Proposed Plan for public comment on November 10, 1997. After considering public input, a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Ashland 1 and Ashland 2 Sites was signed on April 20, 1998. Under the ROD, soils exceeding the site-specific derived guideline of 40 picoCuries/gram Thorium 230 were to be excavated and shipped off-site for disposal at an appropriately licensed or permitted facility, and the site restored with backfill, loam, and seed. The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, and meets commitments to the community.

Remediation of the Ashland 2 Site began on July 10, 1998. Excavation and disposal of 45,500 cubic yards of soils containing radioactive residuals from the processing of uranium ores was completed in February 1999. Post-remediation testing and verification was completed in August 1999. Backfilling was completed in August 1999; and the addition of a layer of topsoil and hydroseeding took place in September 1999.

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

For more information, please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line. Your call will be returned promptly.

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

FUSRAP also has a home page on the Internet.

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

You may also contact us by writing to:

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

**(716) 879-4438**



*This fact sheet is printed on recycled/recyclable paper.*