



Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site

Lockport, New York

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

Building Strong®

April 2014

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. 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 (NCP).

Site Description

The Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site is located 20 miles northeast of Buffalo, New York, in Lockport, Niagara County, New York.



Aerial view of the Guterl Site looking southwest

The 70-acre site is comprised of a combination of parcels that make up three general areas: the 52-acre Allegheny Ludlum Corporation property [also referred to as the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (NCIDA) property], the 9-acre Landfill Area, and the 9-acre Excised Area. In addition, the FUSRAP investigation included areas adjacent to these properties, i.e., a privately owned lot to the north of the landfill, a railroad right-of-way to the north of the NCIDA property, and a stretch of the Erie Canal directly southeast of the site.

The Allegheny Ludlum Corporation operates a specialty steel manufacturing facility in the southwest portion of the property. The 9-acre landfill area ceased operations as a waste disposal area in 1981. The 9-acre Excised Area that contains the buildings once used to roll uranium metal is abandoned and chain link security fence surrounds the dormant buildings.

The northern portion of the Guterl Site contains large swaths of fields that occupy the former building and landfill sites, and are currently strewn with construction debris. The southwest portion of the site contains limited wooded and scrub/shrub area habitats. Other small habitats of unmanaged open areas occur randomly in the eastern portion of the site around the abandoned buildings and a rail spur.

Land use near the Guterl Site is mixed, consisting of private residences, small farms, and light industries. To the south-southeast of the Guterl Site, the Erie Canal separates the Guterl Site from private farmlands.

Site History

Between 1948 and 1956, the New York Operations Office of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) managed contracts with Simonds Saw and Steel, a previous owner of the property, to roll uranium steel billets into rods. The uranium metal billets were received from off-site sources via rail car and were shipped off site via rail car after rolling to contract specifications. Records indicate that Simonds Saw and Steel processed between 25 million and 35 million pounds of natural uranium metal and approximately 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of thorium metal between 1948 and 1956.

The United States Department of Energy declared the Guterl Site eligible for FUSRAP in 2000. Under FUSRAP, the Corps is evaluating the Guterl Site consistent with the process and guidance established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Corps of Engineers Activities

The Corps conducted a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) in 2001. The purpose of the assessment was to review information to determine if the site posed a potential threat to human health or the environment, or if there was a need for further action by the Corps under FUSRAP. The PA/SI concluded that there was no immediate threat to human health or the environment at the Guterl Site; however, because of the potential for the FUSRAP-related contaminants to pose a threat to human health and the environment in the future, it was recommended that the Guterl Site proceed to the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase to further characterize radioactive residuals associated with past activities.

Field sampling data for the RI was obtained between June 2007 and December 2007 to define the nature and extent, and quantity of radiological contamination and to evaluate the potential risk to human health and the environment from the contamination. Activities performed during the RI field data collection consisted of sampling and analysis of soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, and building materials. Sampled media were analyzed for radionuclides (uranium, radium, and thorium). During the RI the Corps reviewed historical information and coordinated with state, county and local agencies, and stakeholders. Project specific goals and data quality objectives were established and a data gap analysis was completed. The Corps also completed developing a groundwater model; preparing a fate, transport and exposure analysis; performing a baseline risk assessment; and evaluating legally applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) during the investigation.

The Corps completed the Guterl Site RI Report in 2010. In the summer of 2011, the Corps conducted a Data Gap Investigation (DGI) to supplement the July 2010 RI and assist with the development of the Feasibility Study (FS). The DGI included installing additional groundwater monitoring wells, sampling of sanitary sewers, sampling of groundwater seeps into the Erie Canal and groundwater monitoring activities. Sampled media were analyzed for uranium and other geo-chemical parameters. The DGI results helped to further define the extent of uranium contamination in groundwater and to characterize hydro-geologic conditions at the site.

The Corps currently performs yearly groundwater monitoring activities at the Guterl Site. Sampled media are analyzed for uranium and other geo-chemical parameters.

Status of the Site

There is currently no imminent threat to human health or the environment at the site due to FUSRAP-related materials. The Corps of Engineers is preparing a FS, which will identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives to eliminate risks to human health and the environment appropriate for the future land use of the site.

Administrative Record File

The Corps maintains an Administrative Record File which contains documents that will form the basis for the selection of response actions at the Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site.

The Corps maintains the Administrative Record File at the two locations listed below for the convenience of the public. If you would like to review the file at the public library, please call ahead to check on their operating hours. If you would like to visit the Corps office, please call ahead for an appointment.

Lockport Public Library

23 East Avenue
Lockport, New York 14095
716-433-5935

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207
800-833-6390 (Option 4)

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

1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)

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Website: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/GuterlSteelSite.aspx>