Linde Site News!

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Buffalo District
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FUSRAP Team
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Contact Us!

Please contact us if you have questions or would like additional information. Please share this newsletter with a friend and ask them to contact us if they would like to be added to our mailing list.

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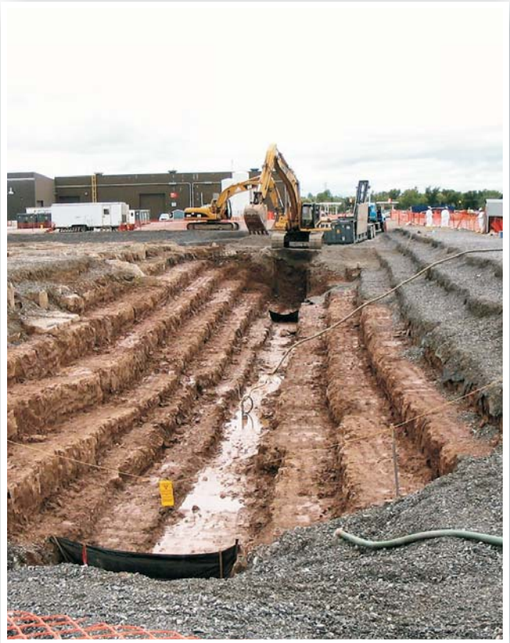

Linde Site Excavation Activities

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Information about the Former Linde FUSRAP Site for Tonawanda area residents

Linde Site News

December 2009

WHAT IS FUSRAP?

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (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. Activities at the sites were performed by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or under the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Both MED and AEC were predecessors of the Department of Energy (DOE).

In October 1997, Congress transferred management of FUSRAP to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps). When a site is identified, records are reviewed by DOE, and if DOE determines there is potential for contamination present that may affect human health and the environment, they may send a request to the Corps to review the site. The Corps then does a Preliminary Assessment, and possibly a Site Inspection, to review historical records, perform limited sampling, and determine if further investigation is necessary. If contamination is found that is connected with past MED or AEC activities, exceeding guidelines, investigation and, if necessary, cleanup may be authorized under FUSRAP. Congress has also added sites to FUSRAP through authorizations.

Dear Interested Citizen,

In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), this newsletter announces the commencement of a Five-Year Review of the remediation of radiologically contaminated soils at the former Linde Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) site. The purpose of the CERCLA Five-Year Review is to evaluate the effectiveness and protectiveness of the selected remedial actions contained within the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Linde Site soils prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) in March 2000.

You can learn more about the former Linde FUSRAP Site history and the CERCLA Five-Year Review Process inside this newsletter.

Please contact us if you have additional questions; our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Respectfully,
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FUSRAP Team

Aerial view of the Former Linde Site

Where are we now?

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY
The former Linde Site is located in the Town of Tonawanda, New York, which is just north of the city of Buffalo, New York. The 135-acre site was previously owned by the Linde Division of Union Carbide and was used to process uranium ores under contract with the Manhattan Engineering District between 1942 and 1946. That activity resulted in residual radiological contamination at portions of the property.

In the 1950s, the Linde facilities were decontaminated and cleaned in compliance with health and safety guidelines applicable at that time; some structures were demolished and many others were converted to other commercial uses.

The current owner is Praxair. The corporation uses its Tonawanda facility as its worldwide research and development facility. Over 1,000 people are employed at the Linde Site.

Adjacent properties include an elementary school, residential areas, a public park and golf course, railroad tracks, and industrial and commercial businesses.

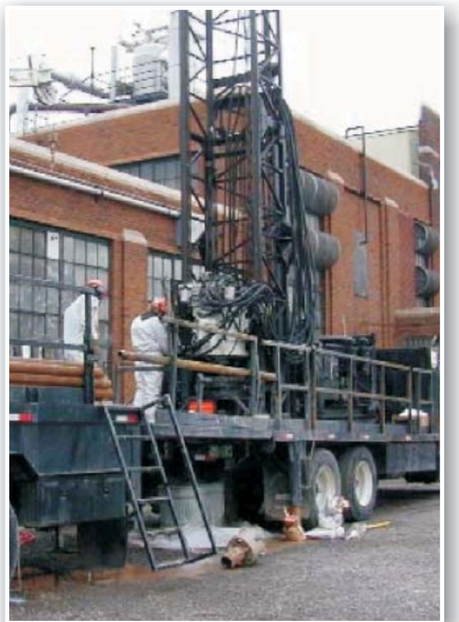
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently managing cleanup of FUSRAP-related materials at the Linde Site in accordance with the March 2000 Linde soils ROD.

LINDE SOILS REMEDIAL ACTION
The major elements of the remedy selected in the March 2000 Linde soils ROD involve excavation of soils with constituents of concern (COC), radium, thorium and uranium, above the soil cleanup levels identified in the soils ROD, placement of clean materials, and cleanup of contaminated surfaces in buildings with COCs above the surface cleanup levels. The selected remedy also involves the demolition/relocation of buildings necessary to remediate the site. The cleanup levels presented in the March 2000 soils ROD were established to be protective of industrial workers at the site.
Remedial action began at the site in 2000.

The USACE has removed numerous buildings and over 300,000 tons (150,000 cubic yards) of material from the site to date. Contaminated materials are sent off-site for disposal at licensed facilities outside of New York State.

Since beginning site restoration activities, over 300,000 tons of backfill have been placed to restore excavated areas. Additional material will be placed as areas are cleared and made ready for restoration.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW
Under CERCLA Section 121(c), a five-year review is required for remedial actions at sites where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants are above levels that allow for “unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.” “Unlimited use and unrestricted exposure” means that the selected remedy will place no restrictions on the potential use of land or other natural resources. Five-year reviews are performed in a manner consistent with the CERCLA and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR 300).



Field Investigative Activities - February 2001

▪ Questions? Please call or e-mail us to learn more and ask questions!

Our contact information is located on the back page.

In accordance with the regulatory requirements stated on the previous page, the Corps will perform a Five-Year Review to determine the effectiveness of the selected remedial actions contained in the 2000 soils ROD.

TYPICAL FIVE-YEAR REVIEW PROCESS
The Five-Year Review process integrates information taken from decision documents and operational data with the experiences of those responsible for and affected by actions at the site. There are six components to the Five-Year Review process:

1. **Community Notification** - Community involvement activities during the review will include notifying the community that the Five-Year Review will be conducted, notifying the community that the Five-Year Review has been completed, and providing the results of the review to the local site repository.
2. **Documents Review** - All relevant documents and data will be reviewed to obtain information to assess performance of the response action. Various documents will be reviewed to obtain the necessary information, including those for remedy decisions (e.g., Record of Decision), site investigations, remedial design and construction, and remedy performance.
3. **Data Review and Analysis** - Sampling and monitoring plans and results will be reviewed from monitoring activities, operation and maintenance (O&M) reports or other documentation of remedy performance. The data contained in these reports form the primary basis for the technical analyses and for the subsequent protectiveness determination.
4. **Site Inspection** - A site inspection will be conducted to gather information about the site's current status and to visually confirm and document the conditions of the remedy, the site, and the surrounding area.
5. **Interviews** - Interviews will be conducted to provide additional information about the site's status and/or identify remedy issues. Individuals who may be interviewed include: the site manager; site personnel; Federal, State, and local regulatory authorities; and people who live or work near the site.
6. **Protectiveness Determination** - The purpose of a Five-Year Review is to determine whether the remedy at a site is, or upon completion will be, protective of human health and the environment. The technical assessment of the remedy will examine three questions:

Question A. Is the remedy functioning as intended?
Question B. Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and Remedial Action Objectives still valid?
Question C. Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

These questions provide a framework for organizing and evaluating data and ensure that all relevant issues are considered when determining the protectiveness of the remedy.

Together, these components will be used to assess the remedy's performance, and, ultimately, to determine the protectiveness of that remedy.

SCHEDULE FOR FIVE-YEAR REVIEW
This community notification represents the initial step in the CERCLA Five-Year Review process. The overall process will incorporate the steps described above and is estimated to be completed in August 2010. A final report presenting the results of the Five-Year Review will be prepared and placed in the existing Administrative Record File for public review. A newsletter similar to this one announcing the completion of the Five-Year Review will be mailed to all interested parties.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
In addition to notifying the public of the CERCLA Five-Year Review activities, the Corps will conduct interviews of residents, nearby businesses, public officials, site personnel, school officials, public interest groups, and other stakeholders.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
The Five-Year Review documentation will be provided for public review in the Administrative Record File located at the following facilities:

Tonawanda Public Library
333 Main Street, Tonawanda, New York

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

Documents and site information can also be found at the Linde FUSRAP Site Public Website at:

http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/linde/index.htm

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