

## **Luckey Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Site News from the Corps**

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Hello from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District:

We continue to make progress in cleaning up the Luckey Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site. As of November 2, 2018, the Corps of Engineers has safely cleaned up and disposed of over 7,200 tons of material contaminated with beryllium, radium-226, thorium-230, uranium-234, uranium-238, and lead from the Luckey Site. The Corps of Engineers' highest priorities during cleanup activities at the site are to be protective of human health and the environment, to ensure that work is conducted in a safe and efficient manner, and to prevent the spread of contamination.

Over the past several months, we have been evaluating the effectiveness of using the automatic soil sorter during the cleanup. In the past, using the soil sorter at other FUSRAP sites has provided value to the government by ensuring that only those soils that are radioactively contaminated were transported and disposed of off-site, thereby reducing the total volume shipped. Our evaluation of soil sorting at the Luckey Site indicates we are not realizing the expected volume reduction in shipped wastes, our costs to operate the soil sorter exceed the expected savings in transportation and disposal of waste material, and the increased handling of soils potentially increases worker exposure to safety hazards. The soil sorting operation is successfully segregating waste materials based on radioactivity. However, most of the materials which satisfy our radioactivity criteria subsequently fail for beryllium and must be transported for off-site disposal. We've concluded that we can execute a safer and more cost effective remediation by discontinuing use of the soil sorter. This will likely result in a larger volume of waste materials being shipped from the site but through a safer and more efficient operation.

We have instructed the contractor to stop using the automatic soil sorter and take the necessary steps for an orderly shutdown, dismantlement, decontamination, and demobilization of the soil sorter. The cleanup will continue; the contractor will load excavated soils into shipping containers without sorting them, and will continue to scan the containers to ensure that there are no contaminated materials on the external shell of the containers before they are transported to the disposal facility. Our priorities remain to clean up the site in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment, ensures that work is conducted in a safe and efficient manner, and prevents the spread of contamination.

We will continue to send you updates periodically as progress is made in cleaning up the site. If you know someone that is interested in receiving our email updates, please ask them to send an email to [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) and ask to be added to our electronic and/or postal distribution lists.