

## Niagara Falls Storage Site News from the Corps

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

The district is pleased to announce the availability of the Proposed Plan, Balance of Plant and Groundwater Operable Units (OUs), Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) for review and comment. The proposed plan and a fact sheet are available on the web at:

<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Niagara-Falls-Storage-Site/> in the reports section and fact sheet section respectively. The release of this proposed plan accomplishes an important step in completing the federal decision making process for addressing legacy contamination at the NFSS.

The Corps has already completed the decision making for the most significant source of contamination at the site – the Interim Waste Containment Structure (IWCS). In March 2019 the Corps of Engineers signed a record of decision to completely remove the entire IWCS, process the contaminated materials, and ship the materials out of state for permanent disposal. Since then we've actively pursued the development of the remedial design contract to remediate the site. We expect to award this design contract in 2021 and our efforts have not been delayed or impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Corps has also been progressing the decision making process for contamination located on the NFSS but outside the IWCS and release of this proposed plan is a significant step forward. This plan proposes a remedy for addressing contaminated soils, buildings and building foundations, utilities, roads and roadbeds known as the Balance of Plant OU, and contaminated groundwater known as the Groundwater OU.

The proposed plan documents the Corps of Engineers' preferred alternative for the Balance of Plant and Groundwater OUs, which is Alternative 3 Removal with Building Decontamination. Under Alternative 3, impacted soil, road bedding, and groundwater are removed; the foundation and utilities of former Building 401 are removed, and Building 433 and the foundations of former Buildings 430 and 431/432 are decontaminated by scarifying (mechanically grinding the surface) and left in place. FUSRAP-related material that is removed will be transported off-site for disposal at an appropriately permitted disposal facility. Following implementation of Alternative 3, the site would be remediated to levels suitable for industrial use (i.e., protective of both construction and industrial workers). Five-year reviews will be conducted to ensure continued protectiveness of the remedy.

You are encouraged to review and provide your comments on the proposed plan. The public comment period begins October 5, 2020, and ends December 5, 2020.

Due to restrictions that are in place in regard to public gatherings, a virtual public meeting will be conducted on October 21, 2020, at 7 p.m. Space is limited, so please email [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) by October 19, 2020, to register for the meeting, and to let us know if you will be providing comments. The public meeting presentation is available on the website in the Public Presentations section. The virtual public meeting will be recorded so that oral comments received can be captured.

The proposed plan and the fact sheet are also available electronically in the administrative record file for the site, which is located on the project website.

For further information please e-mail [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) or call (800) 833-6390 (Option 4).