

## NFSS SITE DESCRIPTION

The Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) is located at 1397 Pletcher Road in Lewiston, NY. The 191-acre site is a remnant of a larger Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) site used by the wartime Manhattan Engineer District (MED). The NFSS and adjacent LOOW properties were developed for the production of trinitrotoluene (TNT) during World War II. However, TNT production never reached full capacity and the site became an interim storage facility, first receiving radioactive wastes and residues in 1944. Interim remedial actions addressed radioactive residues stored at various locations on the site and widespread contaminated soil on site. In addition, these actions addressed on-site and off-site drainage areas that had been contaminated from migration of radioactive materials.

During the remedial actions, conducted from 1982 to 1986, approximately 240,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of residues and wastes were consolidated in a diked containment area known as the interim waste containment structure (IWCS). The 10-acre engineered IWCS, located in the southwest corner of the site, was covered with an interim facility cap.

## WHAT IS FUSRAP?

FUSRAP stands for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, a program initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate and clean up or control sites that were part of the Nation's early atomic energy and weapons program. Activities at the sites that are eligible for FUSRAP were conducted by the MED or the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), both predecessors of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In October 1997, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998, was signed into law, transferring responsibility for the administration and execution of FUSRAP from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to informing and involving the public as it moves through the CERCLA process during the investigation and potential cleanup of the Niagara Falls Storage Site and has established the following overall goals for the community involvement program. The Corps will:

- ✓ Foster and maintain a climate of understanding and trust between the public and the Corps.
- ✓ Communicate our commitment to protect human health and the environment during FUSRAP activities at the Niagara Falls Storage Site.
- ✓ Encourage and enable the public to get involved and provide input.
- ✓ Listen carefully to what the public says.
- ✓ Identify and deal responsively with public concerns.
- ✓ Change planned actions where public comments or concerns have merit.

*The NFSS Administrative Record and Information Repository are available for public review at:*

**Lewiston Public Library**  
305 South Eighth Street  
Lewiston, New York

**Youngstown Free Library**  
240 Lockport Street  
Youngstown, New York

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York

*The NFSS Information Repository is also available for public review at:*

**Ransomville Free Library**  
3733 Ransomville Road  
Ransomville, New York

*For additional information about NFSS or other FUSRAP sites, or to be added to the program's mailing list, please contact:*



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

1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York

You may also call toll free at: 1.800.833.6390  
Or e-mail: [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil)  
[www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/index.htm](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/index.htm)



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Buffalo District

# NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE

LEWISTON, NEW YORK



FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES  
REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

# NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE FUSRAP PROCESS



*Aerial photographs taken in 1944 and 2002 of the Niagara Falls Storage Site.*

## FUSRAP MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The FUSRAP mission is to identify, evaluate, and clean up or control sites where residual radioactivity exceeding current guidelines remains from MED/AEC contract activities and other sites assigned by Congress. USACE FUSRAP objectives are to safely, effectively and efficiently:

- ✓ Identify and evaluate sites where authority and a need for response action exists.
- ✓ Clean-up or control the sites to ensure protection of public health and the environment.
- ✓ Dispose or stabilize radioactive material in a way that is safe for the public and the environment.
- ✓ Perform work in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

## CERCLA

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law:

- ✓ Established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites.
- ✓ Imposed liability on responsible parties.
- ✓ Authorizes response actions for both short-term removals and long-term remedial response actions to permanently and significantly reduce the dangers associated with releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances.
- ✓ Followed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District, when implementing FUSRAP.

## STEPS IN THE FUSRAP PROCESS

### PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/SITE INSPECTION

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) completed a Preliminary Assessment of the site in May 1990, which recommended additional investigations to determine the extent of FUSRAP contamination at the site. During the Site Investigation step, data is gathered to determine if hazardous substances are posing a threat to human health and the environment.

### REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

A Remedial Investigation was performed to collect data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature and extent of waste, and assess risk to human health and the environment. Results were summarized in the 2007 *Remedial Investigation Report*.

### FEASIBILITY STUDY

A Feasibility Study is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of the remedial alternatives to address any contamination identified in the Remedial Investigation.

### PROPOSED PLAN AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Proposed Plan is a document used to facilitate public involvement in the remedy selection process. It presents the preliminary recommendation on how best to address contamination at the site, presents alternatives that were evaluated in the Feasibility Study, and explains the reasons for recommending the Preferred Alternative. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accepts comments from the public throughout the CERCLA process. However, the Proposed Plan is available for public comment for a 30-day period, which may be extended an additional 30 days upon timely receipt of a request from a member of the community.

### RECORD OF DECISION

The Record of Decision is a public document explaining the cleanup objectives and which remedial alternative will be used based upon the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and comments received from Federal and State agencies and the public on the Proposed Plan.

### REMEDIAL DESIGN AND REMEDIAL ACTION

After the Record of Decision is signed, the Remedial Design (RD) phase of work is initiated. The RD includes preparation of engineering reports, technical drawings, and specifications to describe implementation of the selected remedy. When the RD is completed, the actual construction and implementation of the selected cleanup alternative is initiated. The Remedial Action (RA) is implemented until cleanup objectives are achieved.

### LONG-TERM MONITORING/REVIEW

After RA activities have been completed, the site is monitored to ensure the effectiveness of the response. Typically, FUSRAP CERCLA sites undergo review every five years after implementation of the remedy to evaluate the continued protectiveness of the remedy.