



Niagara Falls Storage Site Feasibility Study Technical Memorandum Development

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

Building Strong®

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

December 2010

Development of Waste Disposal Options and Fernald Lessons Learned Technical Memorandum

Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to announce that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be developing the *Waste Disposal Options and Fernald Lessons Learned Technical Memorandum* as part of their efforts in conducting the Feasibility Study (FS) for the Interim Waste Containment Structure (IWCS) at the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS). In the FS, the Corps will identify and evaluate remedial alternatives and technologies that can be used to address radiological and chemical contamination resulting from Manhattan Engineer District and Atomic Energy Commission activities at the site. As indicated in the NFSS FS Work Plan published in December 2009, there will be three separate FS documents completed, one for each of the three operable units; IWCS, Balance of Plant (i.e., the entire site not including groundwater and the contents placed in the IWCS) and Groundwater, with the IWCS operable unit being completed first, then the Balance of Plant operable unit and then the Groundwater operable unit. This technical memorandum will address current or foreseeable future waste disposal options for the various IWCS waste streams to be considered for those removal alternatives associated with off-site disposal and lessons learned from all facets of activities related to planning, remedial design, removal, handling, packaging, shipment, and disposal associated with the radioactive K-65 waste residues, similar to those located at the NFSS, during the closure of a former uranium processing facility in Fernald, Ohio. By release of this fact sheet, the Corps seeks input from the public on the objective of the Waste Disposal Options and Fernald Lessons Learned Technical Memorandum so that the Corps can address public concerns during the development and finalization of this technical memorandum. The *Waste Disposal Options and Fernald Lessons Learned Technical Memorandum* is scheduled to be completed and available to the public in the Summer of 2011.

Project Background

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate and clean up or control sites throughout the U.S. that were part of the Nation's early atomic weapons and energy programs during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. The NFSS is a 191-acre Federal property containing the 10-acre IWCS. Radioactive residues and wastes brought to the site by the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission during the 1940s and 1950s were consolidated into the IWCS by the U.S. Department of Energy in the 1980s. In 1997, the Corps became the Federal agency responsible for implementing the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) subject to CERCLA. As previously announced, the Corps has begun transitioning into the feasibility study phase. The Corps will prepare a number of technical memoranda that will be made available to the public prior to the development and release of the FS. In this manner, the public will be given the opportunity for review and comment as we progress through the development of the FS.

Waste Disposal Options and Fernald Lessons Learned Technical Memorandum Objective

The objective of this technical memorandum with respect to waste disposal options will be to:

- Present an inventory, based on available documented information, of the various IWCS waste streams (e.g., K-65 residues, other residues, and other contaminated soils) by volume, activity and generation;
- Identify, for each IWCS waste stream, the potential waste disposal facilities, waste acceptance criteria and licensing requirements, or other factors for each waste facility that may impact shipment and disposal of NFSS wastes;
- Provide an estimate of disposal costs associated with various waste types for each waste facility; and
- Identify transportation modes and associated unit rates available for shipment of waste to the waste facilities.

With respect to the integration of lessons learned from the Fernald Site regarding the successful disposition of K-65 residues similar to those located at the NFSS, the technical memorandum will contrast and compare the Fernald facility and NFSS to highlight similarities and differences including, but not limited to, waste placement and waste inventory. Lessons learned at Fernald will address material excavation, material handling and transfer, packaging, transportation, waste disposal, personnel exposures and associated controls, radon abatement, radiological exposures to the public and environment, and public affairs. The Fernald lessons learned portion of the technical memorandum will also include planning activities such as applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements identification, remedial action objectives, treatability studies, waste characterization, etc. The technical memorandum shall identify the components that need to be addressed in the various FS alternatives involving the removal of the residues from the IWCS.

Public Input Regarding the Technical Memorandum

The Corps encourages input from the public regarding the objective of this specific technical memorandum. Input should be provided to the Corps by January 3, 2011, to allow the Corps to consider the input while developing and finalizing the technical memorandum. Responses to public comments on the objectives of this technical memorandum will be made available on the project website. Input can be sent via e-mail to fusrap@usace.army.mil (please be sure to note "Waste Disposal Options and Fernald Lessons Learned Technical Memorandum" in the subject of the e-mail) or mail your comments to the FUSRAP Team at the address noted below.

Administrative Record File

The Administrative Record File for the NFSS FUSRAP Site contains the Remedial Investigation Report, Baseline Risk Assessment, Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport Modeling and other CERCLA-related documentation for the NFSS. Reports and documents in the Administrative Record may be viewed at the following locations:

US Army Corps of Engineers
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207 (by
appointment only)

Town of Lewiston Public Library
305 South 8th Street
Lewiston, NY 14092

Youngstown Free Library
240 Lockport Street
Youngstown, NY 14174

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

1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)

Email: fusrap@usace.army.mil

Website: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/nfss/index.htm