



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Buffalo District

14 March 2008

## FACT SHEET

**Purpose:** This fact sheet provides an update to the public regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) efforts to ensure security concerns are appropriately addressed at the federally owned Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) located in the Town of Lewiston, New York. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) has completed the *Site Assistance Visit (SAV) Report, Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, NY, February 18, 2008.*

**Public Disclosure:** The *Site Assistance Visit (SAV) Report, Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, NY, February 18, 2008,* was prepared by the USDHS Protective Security Coordination Division (PSCD) at the request of the Buffalo District. The mission of the PSCD is to reduce the risk to the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources from attack by assessing vulnerabilities and consequences and providing national coordination for protective programs.

The report was prepared in accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) which sets national priorities, goals, and requirements for helping to ensure our government, economy, and public services continue in the event of attack or disaster. The report includes analyses of potential security threats and the strengths, vulnerabilities, dependencies, and potential enhancements to the site security infrastructure and procedures in place at the NFSS.

The information developed in this report is protected under the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) program. This information is specifically exempted from public disclosure under the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and is protected from disclosure under state and local laws. This information is protected to enhance public safety by deterring criminal or terrorist planning and activities.

However, recognizing that the public has expressed concerns over site security and criminal and terrorist activities, the USACE has prepared this fact sheet in coordination with the USDHS, to communicate significant, but non-sensitive, information developed during the SAV and documented in the report.

**Location:** The NFSS is located approximately 10 miles north of the City of Niagara Falls within the Town of Lewiston, New York. The NFSS is an 191-acre federal property containing a 10-acre interim waste containment structure (IWCS) which holds radioactive residues and wastes brought to the site in the 1940s and 1950s. These wastes were generated by the federal Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of the nation's atomic weapons program.

**Project Description:** The USACE Buffalo District is executing an environmental investigation of chemical and radioactive contaminants and related human health and ecological risks at the NFSS. The USACE also serves as the property caretaker and performs site operations, maintenance, security, and environmental surveillance activities at the NFSS.

**Site Security:** The USACE Buffalo District is responsible for ensuring the NFSS property is secured against criminal and terrorist activity threats and that the emergency response capabilities are in place and prepared to act. As part of these responsibilities, the Buffalo District requested an independent security evaluation of the NFSS from the USDHS. In 2007, representatives from the USDHS organized and led a site assistance visit to the NFSS in coordination with local, state and federal law enforcement and emergency response agencies. The report was provided to the Buffalo District on February 20, 2008.

## USDHS Site Assistance Visit and Report

- **Objectives:** The SAV took place on April 24, 2007 and was convened to accomplish the following objectives:

- Identify and document critical infrastructure, key resources and vulnerabilities;
- Provide information for protective measures planning and resource allocation;
- Assist the USACE in refining their security posture and provide options for consideration to increase their ability to detect and prevent terrorist attacks;
- Enhance overall capabilities, methodologies and resource materials for identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities;
- Facilitate government information sharing.

- **Participants:** The SAV included representatives from the following agencies:

- The USACE Buffalo District
- The USDHS including their security assessment team with individuals from the Argonne National Laboratory, the Idaho National Laboratory and Applied Marine Technology, Inc.
- The New York State Department of Homeland Security
- The Erie County Sheriff's Bomb Squad
- The Niagara County Sheriff's Office
- The Lewiston Fire Company #1
- The Niagara County Emergency Management Office

- **Activities:** The SAV included a fact finding discussion among the participants, a presentation on the USDHS protective security program, a site visit and inspection of the NFSS, and the development of the Site Assistance Visit (SAV) Report, Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, NY, February 18, 2008. The development of the report included a search of publicly available information on the internet and a review of two preceding documents:

- Site Security Report of the Department of Energy Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, NY (USACE Protective Design Center and Electronic Security Center, August 2006). Note this report is classified "For Official Use Only" and is not releasable to the public.
- Safety of the High-Level Uranium Ore Residues at the Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, New York (National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, 1995). This report has been released to the public.

- **Report Content:** A summary of the report's content is provided below

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- SAV Synopsis
- Facility Description
- Significant Assets and Areas
- Local, State and Federal Interactions
- Physical Security Considerations
- System Interdependency / Dependency Considerations
- Risk Considerations
- Commendables, Vulnerabilities and Options for Consideration
- Supplemental Information
- List of Acronyms

**- Report Scope:** The scope of the report includes:

- The evaluation of threat scenarios, such as intrusion by unauthorized personnel or vehicles, various bombing methods, and the use of an aircraft as a weapon;
- The potential economic, social, environmental, health, and safety impacts from a hoax or real attack;
- The existing physical and electronic security systems;
- The existing emergency response procedures and plans;
- Considerations for enhancements to existing systems, procedures, and plans.

The report did not attempt to provide an analysis of the probability of an attack, define the requirements for conducting a successful attack, or model the actual impacts of a successful attack.

**- Key Findings:** Key findings of the report include:

- Information about the NFSS and the radioactive materials on site is abundant in the public domain;
- There could be economic, environmental, health, safety, and socio-political adverse impacts to the region if a successful attack on this facility was carried out;
- There are a number of effective physical deterrents to carrying out a successful attack
- Additional planning for specific threat incidents should be completed;
- Additional physical and electronic security enhancements should be considered;

**Conclusion:** The completion of the *Site Assistance Visit (SAV) Report, Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, NY, February 18, 2008* represents a major accomplishment in ensuring the USACE fulfills its obligation to protect the NFSS from criminal and terrorist activity and defend public safety.

The USACE accepts the independent findings of the USDHS and has initiated efforts to implement security enhancements at the NFSS. While the USACE must safeguard specific details of our security program to deter threats to public safety, the USACE remains committed and is actively strengthening our security posture to the relevant threats.

**Additional Information:** Additional information about the USACE projects at the NFSS is available at:

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow-nfss/index.htm>

If you have questions or comments please contact us by email at [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) or by telephone at 1-800-833-6390. You may also contact the Buffalo District Outreach Program Specialist, Ms. Arleen Kreusch at 716-879-4438.