

Niagara Falls Storage Site News from the Corps

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

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the availability of the Preliminary Assessment Report Niagara Falls Storage Site–Vicinity Property H Prime (VP-H') on the web at

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/NiagaraFallsStorageSite.aspx> in the Reports Section.

Vicinity Property H' is a four-acre parcel located in the west-southwest portion of Chemical Waste Management property, near the northern boundary of Niagara Falls Storage Site and the boundary of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Wastewater Treatment Plant. The vicinity property was previously designated for cleanup under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in 1984. During 1984, the DOE removed residual radioactive contamination from this parcel to the extent necessary to comply with established remedial action guidelines.

In 2004, the Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, conducted intrusive work on VP-H' under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites to remove a former storage pad that had been constructed in 2000 as part of a removal action of trinitrotoluene (TNT)-contaminated pipelines. As part of health and safety monitoring during the removal, the Buffalo District performed radiological screening and found elevated radioactivity in subsurface soil below the former pad. The information gathered at that time was provided to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the DOE.

The DOE issued a letter to the Corps of Engineers in September 2014, in which the DOE concludes that unassessed contamination exceeding cleanup guidelines might remain on VP-H' and refers VP-H' to the Corps of Engineers for assessment and, if needed, remediation.

Based on a thorough review of information available regarding VP-H' and a site visit conducted by the Corps of Engineers during 2015 for the preliminary assessment, the Buffalo District has determined that there is no imminent threat to human health or the environment on the parcel. However, surface soils, subsurface soils, concrete slabs/foundations, sediment, surface water, and groundwater may have residual impacts from past storage and processing activities conducted by the Manhattan Engineer District and its successor, the Atomic Energy Commission. The vicinity property will undergo further investigation to determine the nature and extent of FUSRAP-related material on the parcel and to estimate the associated potential risks to human health and the environment. Work will commence based on the availability of FUSRAP funds nationally.