



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Buffalo District

# Niagara Falls Storage Site Timeline 1975-1997

**1975** - After the AEC was dissolved the responsibility for FUSRAP and the Niagara Falls Storage Site was transferred to the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).  
ERDA declared the 22-acre waste water treatment plant excess, leaving 191 acres on the now termed Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS).

**1977** - The Department of Energy Organization Act was signed into law, which eliminated ERDA and created the Department of Energy (DOE).  
The DOE assumed responsibility for NFSS under the Surplus Facilities Management Program and the NFSS vicinity properties under FUSRAP.

**1979** - The DOE and its subcontractors performed comprehensive radiological surveys of on-site/off-site properties and drainage ditches. During this year the DOE also began the Environmental Surveillance Program to monitor water and air on the storage site to provide information about radionuclides in the off-site environment.

**1982** - Soil near the R-10 spoil pile was moved onto the R-10 pile and a dike cutoff wall was constructed which marked the commencement of the construction of the Waste Containment Structure (WCS) at the NFSS.  
DOE prepares the Long-Range Planning Study to identify feasible alternatives for the NFSS wastes; concludes that entombing the Afrimet residues is the most favorable disposition.  
Radiological surveys of vicinity properties were conducted and excavated soils were consolidated in the WCS.

**1983** - DOE took title of the pitchblende residues and released Afrimet from its obligations with respect to the residues when the 25-year contract expired.

**1983 - 1984** - Start of K-65 residue transfer by hydraulic mining from Building 434 to eastern half of Building 411. Buildings 410, 412 and 415 were demolished.

**1984** - A detailed geologic study of the WCS area concludes that the NFSS is suitable for long-term storage of low-level radioactive waste and the Final Implementation Plan for the Environmental Impact Statement for Long-Term Management of Existing Wastes and Residues at the NFSS was released.  
Ore residues are transferred into former-LOOW water treatment Buildings 411, 413, and 414 which were to be included in the WCS.

**1985** - Remainder of K-65 residues transferred to Building 411; demarcation layer installed to identify the location of the K-65 residues.  
Additional materials excavated from on-site and off-site areas were transferred to the WCS (including rubble from demolished on-site buildings).  
Buried drums removed from a vicinity property were stored on NFSS for waste characterization.

**1986** - The cap over the residues and waste in the IWCS was closed and completed.

**1988** - Several places of residual radioactivity at NFSS and isolated areas of radioactivity identified from verification surveys were excavated and placed in temporary storage at NFSS.

**1990** - Responsibility for NFSS was transferred to FUSRAP from the Surplus Facilities Management Program.  
A limited chemical characterization was conducted at NFSS to identify non-radioactive contaminants.

**1991** - A 325 ft. by 192 ft. waste containment cell was excavated within the northern portion of the Interim Waste Containment Structure (IWCS). Soil from on-site remediation and 63 drums from the vicinity properties remediation were consolidated into the IWCS. In addition, remaining radioactive material at the NFSS such as contaminated soil samples, pipes, scrap metal and debris were also added into this excavation and subsequently covered with clay and the IWCS cap was reconstructed.

**1992** - A Site Inspection (following the CERCLA process) was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Department of Energy which included a Hazard Ranking Score (HRS) for the NFSS. Two sources were evaluated for the HRS; the IWCS which received a score of zero and Building 401 which received a score of 0.533 due to the presence of organic compounds. Since the IWCS had already been constructed at the time of the site inspection and HRS evaluation, the site was not placed on the National Priority List. (Note: Fernald was on the National Priority List, which required an HRS greater than 28.5).

**1994** - DOE performs a failure analysis and determines that with the addition of a long-term cap over the existing cap, the IWCS will isolate the waste from radiological emissions for a 10,000-year period.

**1995** - National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council independent review recommends that the high-level residues be disposed of off-site and other materials remain on site.