

Dear Concerned Tonawanda Resident:

Reprinted above is a letter I recently received from Lieutenant Colonel Mark D. Feterstein, concerning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' efforts to remove nuclear waste from several sites in the Tonawanda area.

After I requested an update, Col. Feterstein wrote the report on the progress of work currently underway, which is called the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

As your County Legislator, I've worked for many years to make sure this very important project is completed.

I also want to assure you that I will not rest until all radioactive waste is removed from the Tonawandas, in as much as the health of our residents, as well as our environment, have always been my top priority as your Erie County Legislator.

I thought you would like a copy of this letter, and hope you'll find it informative as well.

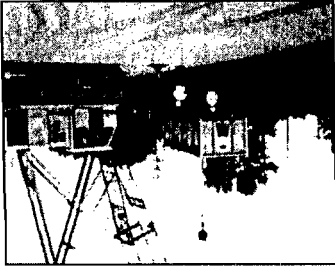
Sincerely,

CHARLES M. SWANICK

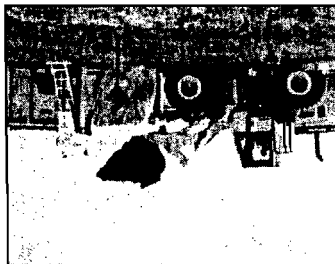


Erie County Legislator Chuck Swanick discusses the progress of restoration work with a contractor at the Ashland 1 site in the Town of Tonawanda.

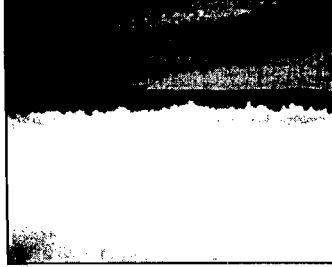
Flatbed railroad cars transport the filled containers to Utah.



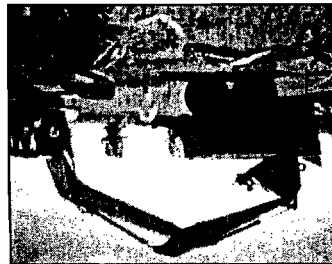
Intermodal Containers are loaded and carefully checked for exterior contamination.



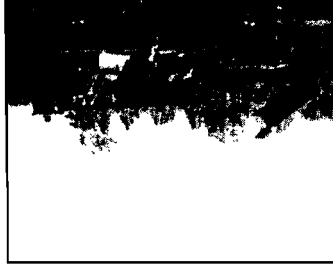
The Town of Tonawanda site restoration is then complete.



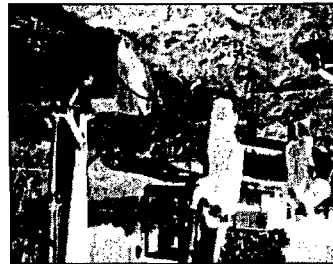
Loading material into trucks for transport to a staging area and "Intermodal Containers."



Area is backfilled, compacted and spread with fresh topsoil.



Measuring and excavating the contaminated material, above set guidelines to ensure safety.



As these photos illustrate, the removal of waste from the Ashland sites requires careful adherence to regulatory guidelines for the safe disposal of contaminated material. Contractors then fill the area with fresh topsoil to complete the site restoration process. The waste is safely transported from Tonawanda to a site in the State of Utah.

Clean-Up Involves Specific Guidelines for Excavation of Radioactive Material

CHARLES M. SWANICK
3200 Elmwood Ave., Rm. 115
Kenmore, NY 14217

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**IMPORTANT UPDATE
ON CLEAN-UP OF
RADIOACTIVE WASTE
IN TONAWANDA**

3200 Elmwood Ave., Rm. 115
Kenmore, NY 14217

**TO CONTACT
LEGISLATOR CHUCK SWANICK**

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E-Mail: Legis10@aol.com

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Important Update

Clean-Up of Radioactive Waste at Ashland 1 Site "Ahead of Schedule and Progressing Smoothly"



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BUFFALO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1778 NIAGARA STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207-3199

RECEIVED
MAY 27 2000

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MAY 27 2000

Honorable Charles M. Swanick, Chairman
Erie County Legislature
3200 Elmwood Avenue, Room 115
Kenmore, New York 14217

Dear Mr. Swanick:

In response to your request, I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Sites in the Tonawanda area.

Remediation of the Ashland 1 Site is ahead of schedule and progressing smoothly. Approximately 82,000 cubic yards of material contaminated with low levels of residual radioactivity has been excavated and shipped out of Tonawanda.

As you are aware, the Corps' top priority is protection of human health and the environment. Throughout the Ashland 1 Site cleanup, the Buffalo District has been working with its contractor to provide a safe workplace. Our contractor's employees have worked 300 days on the site without a lost-time accident. Air monitoring data that has been collected throughout the project confirms that all work has been performed safely, well within all regulatory limits.

The Buffalo District is currently performing an aggressive quality assurance review of the Health and Safety and Emergency Response Plan for the Ashland 1 site. As part of our open process, we invited an Occupational Safety and Health Administration sponsored contractor to conduct an audit of the Safety and Health practices at the site. The audit, completed in 1999, confirmed the excellent safety measures that were in place at the site.

We also requested an independent review of on-site practices and the personal monitoring and documentation portion of the Health and Safety and Emergency Response Plan to help us evaluate and improve our plan. We are implementing changes to our procedures that will make the site even safer for workers and the public.

I have personally pledged to the people of Tonawanda that we will clean up the Ashland 1 Site expeditiously and efficiently with the highest possible protection for human health and the environment. With this pledge as our guide, we intend to go beyond the legal requirements for site safety. We are asking our contractor to make and implement changes to the Health and Safety and Emergency Response Plan and their on-site practices as recommended in this most recent review. Even though we will be well below the regulatory limits requiring individual monitoring, we will be monitoring individual exposures. This change will more accurately determine an on-site worker's exposure because each worker in the cleanup area will wear a personal air sampler. Documentation procedures will be able to track each individual worker. We feel this will provide workers and the public with an additional level of confidence in their own personal safety. The

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- Mark D. Feierstein
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

experience gained through this additional monitoring will serve as a model for our other cleanup sites here and will be shared with other Corps districts.

Confirmatory sampling of Rattlesnake Creek will begin in May. To meet our commitment to the community, additional testing will be performed on Rattlesnake Creek and a portion of Two Mile Creek downstream to the Niagara River. Although our preliminary findings indicated that the creek is safe and within regulatory guidelines, we are obtaining additional data as an extra precaution to the local residents. A report of our findings will be released in August.


At the Linde (Praxair) site, the Corps issued a Record of Decision in March 2000 to begin Remedial Action of impacted soils. The estimated \$32.4 million contract will be awarded in May and the soils cleanup is expected to be completed within two years. We also initiated a review of data pertaining to the Linde (Praxair) Building 14 and groundwater and plan on preparing separate Records of Decisions on those issues.

The Town of Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area are considered a designated "Vicinity Property" of Linde. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of these sites was initiated in March 2000 and is scheduled to be completed within two years. Field activities are scheduled to begin later this year. Before we start fieldwork, we plan on holding public information sessions to inform the community and specifically area residents of the activities.

We are currently considering the technical aspects and previous public input in regard to the Seaway Site. A proposed plan recommending the preferred alternative for the site will be released for public comment this summer.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and other community leaders, as well as your constituents, as we move forward with FUSRAP in the Tonawanda area. If you or your constituents have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (716) 879-4200.

Sincerely,


Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding