



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Buffalo District

# News Release

**FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM**

Release #98

September 21, 1998

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716-879-4438

## **PUBLIC MEETING FOR SEAWAY SITE**

TONAWANDA -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, will present its recommendation on the proposed cleanup strategy for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Seaway Site at a public meeting Tuesday, September 29, 1998.

The public meeting for the Proposed Plan for the Seaway Site, Areas A, B, and C will be held in the Phillip Sheridan Building Community Room, 3200 Elmwood Avenue in Kenmore from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A presentation will be given on the background of the site, cleanup alternatives that were evaluated, and the preferred remedy.. Upon completion of the presentation, comments will be received from the public.

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The proposed cleanup remedy for the FUSRAP Seaway Site is partial excavation and offsite disposal of radioactively contaminated materials that exceed the 40 picocurie per gram of Thorium-230 site-specific guideline. This alternative is fully protective of human health and the environment and provides the best balance among the alternatives that were evaluated for the site.

The public comment period on the Proposed Plan is from September 1 through September 30, 1998. All comments received will be reviewed and considered by USACE in determining the final remedy. Written comments will be accepted if postmarked by September 30, 1998 at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
FUSRAP Public Information Center  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207-3199

The FUSRAP Seaway Site is located at the Seaway Industrial Park on River Road in Tonawanda, New York. Browning-Ferris Industries operated a landfill at the Seaway Industrial Park that was closed in 1995. The Seaway Site became contaminated with low-level radioactive material during the 1970's when material that had been disposed of at the FUSRAP Ashland 1 Site was relocated. The material originated from the processing activities conducted by Linde (currently Praxair) under a Manhattan Engineering District contract. The FUSRAP Seaway Site Area A is an eleven acre area. Approximately 40 percent of Area A is covered with up to 10 feet material and refuse. Areas B and C combined are an approximately four acre area that has been covered with up to 40 feet of fill material and refuse. The preferred cleanup remedy includes excavation and offsite disposal of radioactively contaminated materials that exceed the 40 picocurie per gram and Thorium-230 guidelines in Area A. During the removal process, Areas B and C will be further evaluated and any soils found in these areas that exceed the site-specific guideline, and can be removed without compromising the integrity of the closed landfill, will also be removed for off-site disposal. This is believed to provide the best balance among the alternatives that were evaluated for the site. Under current conditions the site does not pose any immediate health risks to the public or the environment.

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The Proposed Plan for the FUSRAP Seaway Site, Areas A, B, and C is available for review in the Administrative Record File for the Site. The Administrative Record is available at the Tonawanda Public Library, 333 Main Street, Tonawanda, New York, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York. The Proposed Plan may also be found on the Buffalo District website at <http://www.ncb.usace.army.mil>

The Seaway Site is being addressed under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP was created in 1974 to study sites where work was performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program and take appropriate action. Most sites that became contaminated during the early atomic energy program met the guidelines in effect at that time. Low-level radioactive materials at some sites must now be removed due to the advent of more stringent environmental guidelines. Management of cleanup of these sites is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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