



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

News Release

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

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FUSRAP INFORMATION SESSION TO BE HELD AND ASHLAND 2 SITE NEARING COMPLETION

TONAWANDA – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District has completed the shipment of 45,200 cubic yards of low-level radiologically contaminated soil from the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Ashland 2 Site in Tonawanda.

"I am pleased that we were able to remove 3.5 times the original estimated volume of contaminated material for less than 1.6 times the original estimated cost,"

LTC Mark D. Feierstein, District Commander said. "We were able to save taxpayer dollars through the use of innovative technologies such as precise excavation and recycling."

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The \$22 million project, which began in July of 1998, included the excavation and shipment of uranium, thorium, and radium bearing material that was above the site-specific cleanup guideline to a licensed facility for recycling and disposal. This work entailed a team on-site effort of 59 employees, 45 of these employees were from the local community. The Corps oversaw the work of prime contractor, ICF Kaiser Engineers, Inc., and a team of 13 different subcontractors. Thirty-three local vendors were used as suppliers placing dollars into the community.

The Corps of Engineers scrutinized the quality of work to ensure that all work was done with safety as the main focus and was fully protective of human health and the environment. The project included working over 50,882 man-hours without a lost-time accident. Water was applied to the material and the roads during excavation as an engineering control to prevent the spread of dust. The air was monitored continuously with 900 air samples collected to ensure protection of on-site workers and the community.

Two thousand four hundred and sixty intermodal containers loaded with low-level radiologically contaminated material were placed on flatbed railcars for transport to International Uranium (USA) Corporation (IUC) near Blanding, Utah for recycling. IUC has begun the uranium recovery process on 34,000 cubic yards of the 42,000 cubic yards of material received at the facility to date. IUC expects to finish processing the material by the end of February, at which time they will dry and package the recovered uranium, which is expected to weigh several thousand pounds.

Restoration of the Ashland 2 Site, which will include backfilling with clean fill, grading, and reseeded, is scheduled to begin in April.

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The Corps of Engineers will be holding an Information Session on February 25, 1999, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Room of the Phillip Sheridan Building at 3200 Elmwood Avenue in Kenmore, New York. Representatives of the Corps will be presenting the community with an update on the status of the Ashland 2 Site remediation, the upcoming Ashland 1 Site remediation, and the latest information available on the Seaway Site.

This spring, the Corps will use the experience they have gained from the Ashland 2 Site to remove an estimated 120,00 cubic yards of material above the site-specific guideline at the Ashland 1 Site.

The Ashland 1, Ashland 2 and Seaway Sites are located on a tract of land along River Road in Tonawanda. Material that was disposed of from work performed by the Manhattan Engineer District was deposited at Ashland 1. During the 1970's the Ashland 1 Site underwent renovations and some of the contaminated material was transported to the Ashland 2 and Seaway Sites. A Record of Decision that was signed in April, 1998, details the remediation plans for Ashland 1, Ashland 2 and Seaway Area D. Seaway Site Areas A, B, and C have been further characterized and results will be made available at the meeting.

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