



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Buffalo District

# Seaway FUSRAP Site

## Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District • August 2008

*This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach needs and is consistent with provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.*

### Site Description and History

The Seaway Site is located within the 100 acre Seaway Industrial Park located along River Road in the Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, NY, north of Buffalo and just south of the Niagara River. The site was operated as a landfill by Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) through 1993. After ceasing operations, most of the landfill was capped by BFI in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The Seaway Site was created when Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)-related materials containing low levels of residual radioactivity were disposed of on the adjacent property, Ashland 1, leased by the Federal Government. These radioactive residues were the result of activities to support the Nation's nuclear weapons program. This material was later relocated to the Seaway Site Areas A, B, C, and the Ashland 2 Site. These residues contained radium, thorium, uranium and uranium daughter products.

Area A is about an eleven-acre area. It is estimated that 40 percent of Area A is covered by a layer of fill material and refuse up to 10 feet thick. Areas B and C combined are about four acres. It is estimated that portions of Areas B and C have been covered with up to 40 feet of fill.

As a result of remediation of the sites adjacent to Seaway (Ashland 1 and Ashland 2), two additional areas of contamination along the Seaway property



were identified. These new areas are identified as Seaway Southside and Seaway Northside.

The Corps of Engineers conducted additional studies and issued an addendum to the 1993 Feasibility Study performed by the Department of Energy. This Feasibility Study Addendum (FSA), completed in 2008, incorporates the results of subsequent Corps assessments of groundwater, institutional controls and radon emissions, incorporates additional sampling results and improved volume estimates, updates the radiological risk posed by the FUSRAP contaminants, and develops and evaluates remedial alternatives. The Corps has concluded that CERCLA action is necessary for site soils to be protective of human health and the environment considering future industrial/commercial users. The site and adjacent areas are zoned industrial/commercial.

### Seaway Proposed Plan

The Corps has prepared a Proposed Plan for the Seaway Site which identifies the Preferred Alternative for remediation of the site. The plan includes the site background, summary of site risks,

applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs), residual contamination cleanup standards and guidelines, a summary of the remedial alternatives, an analysis of the alternatives, a comparison of the alternatives, and identification of the Preferred Alternative.

CERCLA remedial actions are evaluated against nine specific criteria.

The first two criteria are threshold criteria and must be met.

- *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment*
- *Compliance with Federal and State Environmental Regulations*

The next five criteria are considered balancing criteria and must be addressed.

- *Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence*
- *Short-Term Effectiveness and Environmental Impacts*
- *Reduction in Toxicity, Mobility or Volume Through Treatment*
- *Implementability*
- *Cost*

The final two criteria are considered modifying criteria and are taken into account after public comment is received on the Proposed Plan.

- *State Acceptance*
- *Community Acceptance*

### **Preferred Alternative**

The Preferred Alternative identified in the Proposed Plan is Alternative 6: Containment. The residues within the landfill will be covered with at least 4.5 feet of material. The FUSRAP-related residues in Seaway Northside and Southside that are located outside of the landfill leachate collection system and exceed the cleanup criteria will be removed and shipped off-site for disposal. The Preferred Alternative includes long-term surveillance and maintenance by the Federal government to ensure that land use controls are in place to prevent future access to and disturbance of the FUSRAP-related residues. This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment, complies with ARARs, and provides the best balance among the considered alternatives, particularly with respect to short-term effectiveness and costs.

### **Public Comments on Proposed Plan**

The formal public comment period on the Proposed Plan ends October 27, 2008. Comments on the Proposed Plan must be submitted in writing and postmarked no later than October 27, 2008, and sent to the following address.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District  
FUSRAP Team  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207

These comments will be addressed and included in the Responsiveness Summary prepared with the Record of Decision, which is the next step in the CERCLA process.

### **Administrative Record File**

The Administrative Record File for the Seaway Site contains the Proposed Plan and all supporting documents, such as the Addendum to the Feasibility Study. It is available for your review at the following locations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1776 Niagara Street Buffalo, New York 14207	Tonawanda Public Library 333 Main Street Tonawanda, New York 14150
---	---

#### ***For More Information***

For more information, please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line.

**Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-833-6390**

FUSRAP also has a home page on the Internet.

**Buffalo District Web Page Address  
for the Seaway Site is:  
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/seaway>**

Electronic mail can be sent to us at:  
[fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil)

Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Seaway Site.

You may also contact the:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
FUSRAP Team  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207