



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

SUPERIOR STEEL SITE

Remedial Investigation Report and Proposed Plan

Scott Township, Pennsylvania ♦ April 2023

BUILDING STRONG®

Project Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District is addressing the Superior Steel Site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Under this program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identifies, investigates and, if necessary, cleans up sites throughout the United States that were used as part of the nation's early atomic weapons and energy program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers implements FUSRAP in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 300.

The Superior Steel Site is an industrial complex located at 500 Superior Street in Scott Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, about five miles southwest of downtown Pittsburgh. The 37-acre industrial property was originally occupied solely by the Superior Steel Corporation and now consists of several separately owned manufacturing, storage, and office buildings. The site is bounded on the north, west, and south by Chartiers Creek and on the east by Superior Street.



Figure 1: Superior Steel Site Building 23 Complex

The site processed uranium metal in support of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) fuel-element development program from June 27, 1952, to contract termination on September 30, 1957. The uranium processing contract originated with the AEC New York Operations Office and later was administered by the AEC Oak Ridge Operations Office beginning on July 1, 1954. The contract was transferred to the AEC Savannah River Operations Office on October 15, 1954.

The primary AEC operations performed at Superior Steel consisted of salt bathing, rolling, brushing, shaping, cutting, stamping, and coiling of uranium metal. Records indicate that primarily natural uranium was processed at the site, along with limited amounts of enriched uranium; recycled uranium from reprocessed spent nuclear fuel may also have been processed at the site.

The building that housed the hot-mill rolling of uranium metal is identified as Building Complex Number 23 (Figure 1). The building was formerly owned by Superbolt, Inc., a manufacturer of mechanical stud and bolt tensioners. The current owner is Franklin Coventry.

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Building 23 consists of five interconnected steel-frame warehouses with metal roofs with corrugated steel siding. The floor construction varies from area to area and is a combination of poured concrete, brick, and bare earth. Radiological surveys conducted by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission addressed and documented radiological contamination throughout the Building 23 Complex and in soils adjacent to the north and southwest ends of the facility exterior.

In addition to the work performed for the AEC, Superior Steel was licensed in 1956 to receive possession of and/or title to thorium metal for the purpose of forging, roll cogging, finish rolling, and cutting. This license allowed Superior Steel to receive source material (thorium metal) from another commercial licensee and process it into the desired shape. According to the NRC, the Superior Steel AEC license expired in 1958, and records indicate that there was neither a closeout survey nor inspection of the facility to support termination of this license. There is also potential for commercially-generated beryllium contamination resulting from historic Superior Steel operations. Any residual radioactive thorium metal and/or beryllium contamination associated with either of these commercial operations is not eligible for cleanup under FUSRAP.

Project Status

In accordance with the phased process required under CERCLA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed the following reports and actions for the Superior Steel Site. The documents listed below are available in the Reports section of the project website at: <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Superior-Steel-Site/>.

2007 – Preliminary Assessment - During 2014, remedial investigation field sampling, which included sampling and analysis of soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater and building materials, began. Additional sampling occurred in 2019 at the site to support the remedial investigation.

2022 – Remedial Investigation Report - USACE conducted field work for the remedial investigation (RI) from July 2014 through November 2016, and additional field activities in 2019.

The RI investigated the nature and extent of uranium in environmental media and on building surfaces potentially impacted by AEC-related constituents. Information collected during the RI indicates that uranium is present in environmental media (soil) and on building surfaces above screening levels; however, concentrations do not currently pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

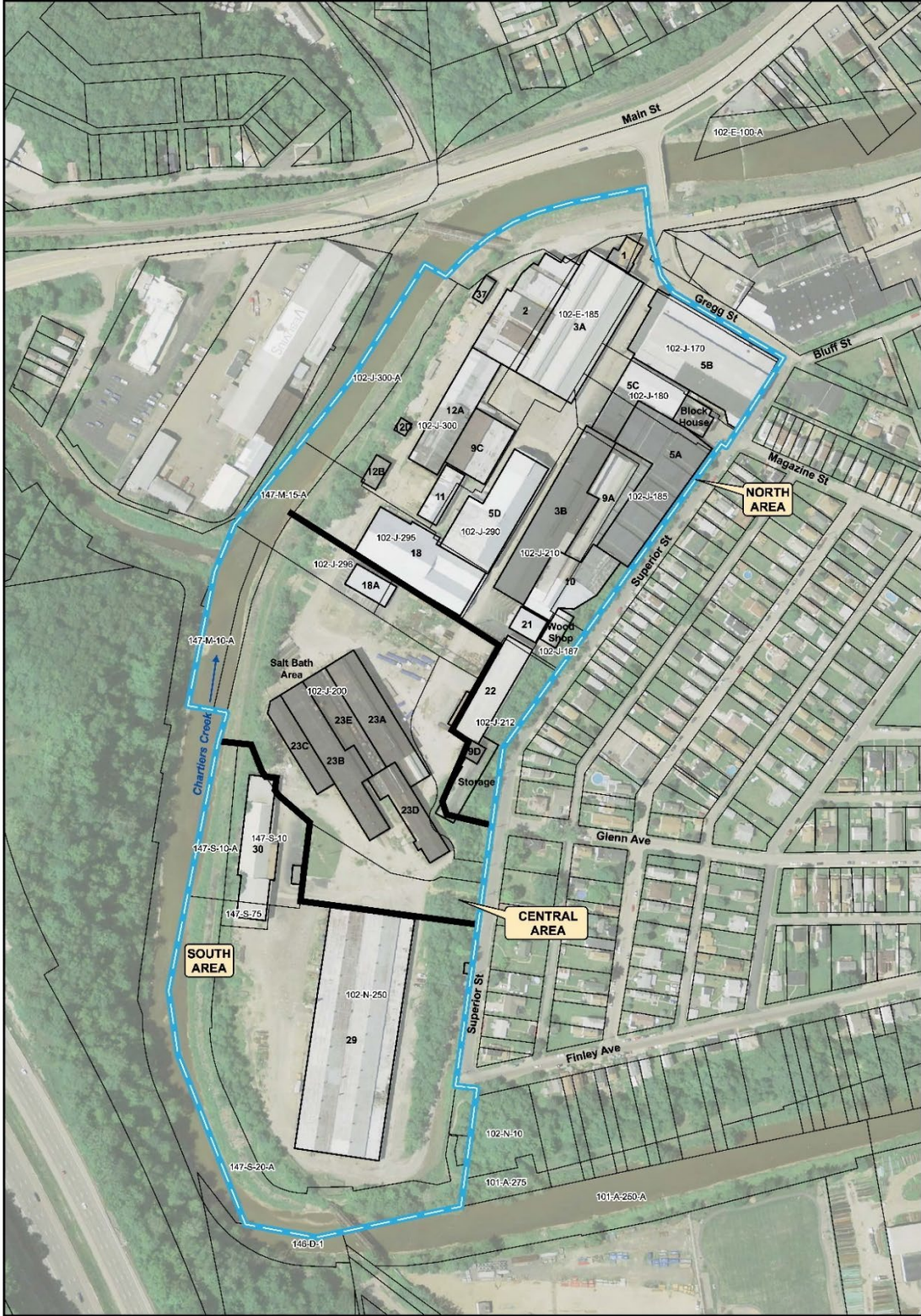
There is no data for the basement of Building 29 (Figure 2), as the building owner would not allow access to the flooded basement during the RI field work. Although this area remains an uncertain risk to potential receptors, data for soils surrounding the basement were used to make a weight-of-evidence conclusion that there has been no environmental release of any potential AEC-related contamination from the basement.

2023 – Proposed Plan - USACE has concluded that, based on the remedial investigation findings, cleanup is not necessary and no further action is required at the Superior Steel Site. The baseline human health risk assessment shows that there is no unacceptable risk to receptors from uranium under current or reasonably anticipated future land uses, and the ecological risk assessment shows that there are not likely to be any adverse ecological impacts from uranium.

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Note: Parcels for Allegheny County, July 2013, by Allegheny County Division of Computer Services Geographic Information Systems Group obtained from Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access at <http://www.pasda.psu.edu>

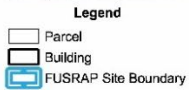
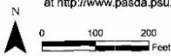


Figure 2

Fact Sheet
 Superior Steel Site
 Scott Township, PA

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The only uranium detected in environmental media above conservative risk-based screening levels created to protect human health and the environment exists in limited areas of soil within the Central and South Areas of the site. These areas of slightly elevated uranium concentrations in soil do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment under both current and reasonably anticipated future land uses (i.e., commercial/industrial uses, including trespassing), in accordance with CERCLA.

Buildings 23, 29 and 37 (Figure 2) similarly do not pose unacceptable cancer risk, non-cancer hazard, or radiological dose to any receptors under current or reasonable future exposure scenarios. This includes current and future indoor industrial workers, current and future adolescent trespassers, and future construction workers. Therefore, no further action is needed to protect human health and the environment from residual contamination in site buildings.

Under a proposed plan of no further action, no remedial action would be performed and no institutional controls would be implemented.

Path Forward

The public comment period for the proposed plan begins May 8, 2023, and ends July 7, 2023. A public meeting will be conducted at the Scott Township Municipal Building, Main Meeting Room, 301 Lindsay Rd, Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m. A court recorder will be available to record verbal comments during the meeting after the presentation.

Written comments may be provided that evening; emailed to fusrap@usace.army.mil (by July 7, 2023), or mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Attention: Environmental Project Management Section, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207 (must be postmarked by July 7, 2023).

The no action remedy outlined in the proposed plan may be modified based on any new information acquired during the designated public comment period. Once the comment period for the proposed plan closes, a record of decision will be issued outlining the selected remedy. The record of decision will include a written response to comments received on the proposed plan and is currently scheduled for release in 2025.

For Additional Information

Please email fusrap@usace.army.mil or call 800-833-6390 (Option 4) for additional information, or to sign up for the email distribution list for updates regarding the site.

The remedial investigation report, the proposed plan and the documents that support the CERCLA process for the site are available in the administrative record file, located on the project website (<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Superior-Steel-Site/>) and available for viewing electronically on-line in the Scott Township Public Library, 301 Lindsay Road, Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

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