



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

TONAWANDA LANDFILL VICINITY PROPERTY

Tonawanda, New York ♦ May 2022

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Project Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District is addressing the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property to the Linde 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. When implementing FUSRAP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).



Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property Operable Units (OUs)

The Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property consists of two parcels owned by the Town of Tonawanda: the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the mudflats area, now known as the North Youngmann Commerce Center. The Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property covers approximately 170 acres in the Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The vicinity property is bordered by a residential area within the City of Tonawanda, a railroad line, Interstate 290, and East Park Drive. A National Grid utility corridor separates the landfill and mudflats area.

The Town of Tonawanda began disposing of waste at the landfill during the 1930s and continued doing so through 1989. Records indicate the Town principally used the landfill to dispose of construction and demolition material, yard waste, incinerator ash, and municipal waste.

Resulting from a Department of Energy (DOE) radiological survey performed in 1991, a portion of the landfill and mudflats area, were designated as a single FUSRAP vicinity property of the Linde Site, which is also located in the Town of Tonawanda.

Project Status

In accordance with the phased process required in CERCLA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed the following reports and actions for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property. The reports listed below are available in the Reports section on the project website at:

<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Tonawanda-Landfill/>.

2005 – Remedial Investigation

2007 – Proposed Plan

2008 – Record of Decision Mudflats Operable Unit (OU)

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2012 – Updated Baseline Risk Assessment, Landfill OU
2015 – Feasibility Study, Landfill OU
2015 – Proposed Plan, Landfill OU
2017 – Record of Decision, Landfill OU

Implementing the Landfill OU selected remedy involved excavating FUSRAP-related materials exceeding cleanup goals in the top five feet of the surface of the Landfill OU, transporting them off-site, and disposing them at a permitted disposal facility. Between June 2019 and December 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor excavated and safely disposed 5,342.82 tons of FUSRAP-related material from eight excavation areas in the OU. Restoration of the excavation areas, including backfilling, grading, and seeding, was completed during May 2020. To close out the site, USACE conducted radon flux monitoring in the Landfill OU in July 2020. Monitoring results verified that the radon flux measurements at the ground surface were below the cleanup criteria established in the record of decision.

Path Forward

No remedial action was warranted for the Mudflats OU, and monitoring and five-year reviews are not required for the Mudflats OU. No operation and maintenance activities are required for the Landfill OU remedy to function since the completed remedial action is protective of human health and the environment for the reasonably anticipated future land use of commercial/industrial, which is also protective of a recreational future land use.

Since contamination (radium, uranium, and thorium) above levels that would allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure was left behind in soils deeper than five feet in the Landfill OU, reviews of the vicinity property Landfill OU will take place at least every five years. These reviews will be conducted to determine whether the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. The initial statutory five-year review for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property Landfill OU will be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is currently scheduled for completion in 2024. Upon completion of the five-year review, project records and responsibility for the vicinity property will be transferred to the DOE Office of Legacy Management for long-term stewardship. The DOE will be responsible for conducting five-year reviews and periodic site inspections for the 1,000-year performance period.

For Additional Information

Please email fusrap@usace.army.mil or call 800-833-6390 (Option 4) for additional information.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains an administrative record file, which contains documents that formed the basis for the selection of response actions at the vicinity property. The administrative record file is maintained on-line at the project website listed below.

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