



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

Buffalo District

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

# Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property News

May 2022

**SITE CLOSEOUT REPORT**

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate, and clean up or control sites throughout the United States that were contaminated as a result of Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or early Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) activities. Both the MED and the AEC were predecessors of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Congress transferred administration and execution of FUSRAP cleanups from the DOE to the Corps of Engineers in October 1997. The Corps continues to address sites the DOE began, sites that were referred to the Corps by the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) under a Corps of Engineers/DOE Memorandum of Understanding, and one site added to the program by Congress.

When executing FUSRAP, the Corps of Engineers follows the framework of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). Each site may have multiple operable units (OUs), each in a different phase of the CERCLA process.

## ***Dear Interested Citizen,***

The *Site Closeout Report for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property (VP)* is now available in the Reports section of the project website at <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Tonawanda-Landfill/>. The Tonawanda Landfill VP is a VP to the Linde FUSRAP Site in Tonawanda, New York.

Prepared under the authority of FUSRAP, this report indicates the completion of response actions at the Tonawanda Landfill VP in accordance with the 2008 record of decision for the Mudflats Operable Unit (OU) and the 2017 record of decision for the Landfill OU, and in compliance with CERCLA, as amended, and the NCP.

No remedial action was warranted for the Mudflats OU because the human health risks, for all media, from radium, uranium, and thorium present, were within the acceptable risk limits established in the NCP for both the current and reasonable future site uses. Monitoring and five-year reviews are not required for the Mudflats OU.

The completed remedial action in the Landfill OU 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. No operation and maintenance activities are required for the Landfill OU remedy to function.

Since contamination was left behind above levels that would allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure in the Landfill OU, reviews of the 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 VP Landfill OU will be conducted by the Corps of Engineers and is currently scheduled for completion in 2024. Once the five-year review is complete, VP records and responsibility for the VP will be transferred to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) for long-term stewardship. The DOE-LM will be responsible for conducting five-year reviews and periodic site inspections for the 1,000-year performance period.

For further information on the Tonawanda Landfill VP, please visit the project website, send an email to [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil), or call (800) 833-6390 (Option 4).

Respectfully,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District FUSRAP Team

## Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property



The Tonawanda Landfill VP was designated into FUSRAP in 1992 when early DOE investigations around the Linde Site detected elevated levels of FUSRAP-related radionuclides in the landfill. The VP consists of two operable units (OUs): the 55-acre Landfill OU and the 115-acre Mudflats OU. The 2008 no-action record of decision completed the Mudflats OU.

During 2017, a record of decision was signed for the Landfill OU of the VP. The selected remedy in the record of decision was Targeted Shallow Removal

and Off-Site Disposal of FUSRAP-Related Material. The cleanup goals for the Landfill OU were set so that a recreational user would have unrestricted use of the site with respect to the FUSRAP-related contamination.

The Corps' highest priorities during the implementation of the selected remedy, performed from June through December 2019 in the Landfill OU, were to be protective of human health and the environment, and ensure that work was conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

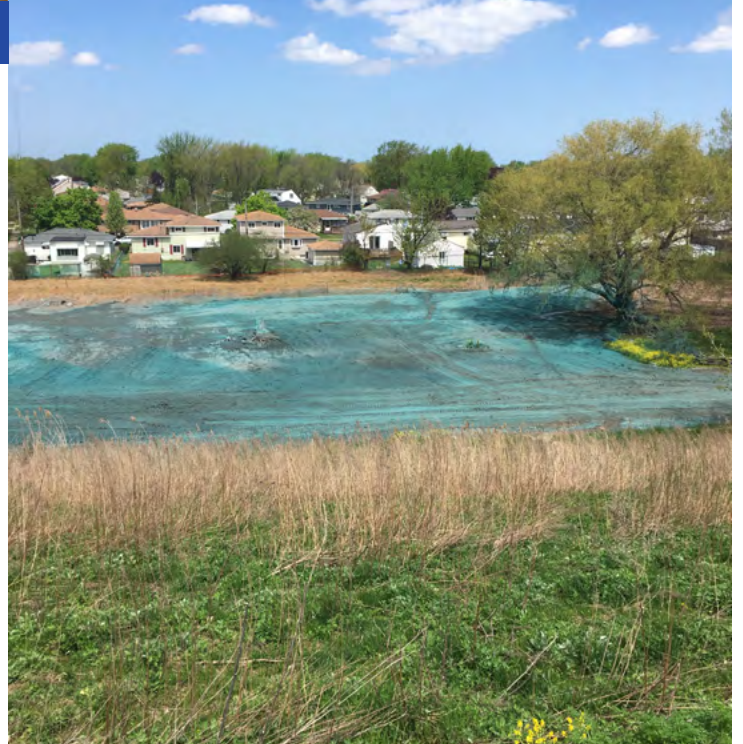


Landfill OU excavation area.

During the targeted shallow removal, the Corps of Engineers excavated and safely disposed of 5,342.82 tons of radioactive-contaminated soils from eight excavation areas in the Landfill OU using precision excavation techniques guided by rigorous field scanning and laboratory analysis.

Additional coordination was required because a separate contractor was used to transport and dispose of the excavated materials exceeding cleanup goals at a permitted out-of-state disposal facility in Belleville, Michigan.

During May 2020, the Corps of Engineers completed the backfill, final grading, and seeding at the Landfill OU of the VP.



Backfilled Landfill OU with final grading and seeding.

On July 7, 2020, members of the project team performed radon flux sampling at the Landfill OU of the VP to verify that the record of decision cleanup goals were met. Validated data gathered from the 108 radon flux canisters that were placed over the Landfill OU excavation areas indicated the remedial action goals were met. The implemented remedy at the Landfill OU 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.



Radon flux canister placement.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Buffalo District  
1776 Niagara St.  
Buffalo, NY 14207