

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] B
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 4:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Tonawanda Landfill

Dear [REDACTED],
Thank you for contacting us with your concern regarding the Tonawanda Landfill. We are sorry to hear about your family's respiratory problems.

The main Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) constituents of potential concern at the Tonawanda Landfill are radium, thorium, and uranium. The Corps did not see evidence of this FUSRAP-related contamination close to the fence line along the residential property lines when we previously sampled the landfill soils there. Radioactive materials are naturally occurring in all soils. Estimated exposure of nearby residents from FUSRAP-related materials present in small areas of the Tonawanda Landfill is expected to be a very small fraction of the background exposure that is normally expected of all area residents.

The Corps is currently performing additional sampling at the Landfill in response to input from the community regarding the 2007 Tonawanda Landfill "No Action" Proposed Plan. The data gathered will help us better define the extent and concentration of FUSRAP-related material in the Landfill area and recalculate potential risks to human health associated with exposures to the FUSRAP-related material. A presentation that shows the small areas where contamination was previously found on the site is on the web at:
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/landfill/index.htm#Documents>

The FUSRAP risk assessment that the Corps previously performed for the Tonawanda Landfill indicated that the FUSRAP contamination could only potentially pose a risk or hazard to someone if they are somehow exposed to it, for example by direct radiation or by eating or breathing in dust from landfill dirt, or by splashing in water that is in direct contact with the contaminated soil. To be exposed to the FUSRAP material via direct radiation would require someone to be physically on the Landfill property, in close proximity to the small areas where FUSRAP material was found. Even if someone were to physically go onto the Landfill property, in order for there to be a hazard or risk above established regulatory limits, that person would have to spend a significant duration of time (several hours a week for many years) directly on, or in very close proximity to, the areas containing FUSRAP materials, which is not typical for the current site conditions and site use. The vegetation on the landfill also acts as a barrier to limit the potential movement of contamination via erosion.

Please contact Ms. Aura Weinstein, 518-474-2354, at the New York State Department of Health in regard to your health-related concerns as they pertain to the FUSRAP-related radiological constituents of radium, thorium and uranium. Also, a good source for general public health information for exposure to various substances is available from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, which is part of the Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services. You may find more general health information about these substances at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/index.asp>

If you have additional questions, please let me know.
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Outreach Program Specialist
US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone: 800.833.6390 (option 4)
Fax: 716-879-6305

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 2:51 PM
To: Fusrap, LRB
Subject: Re: Tonawanda Landfill

My property line borders up with theTonawanda Landfill [REDACTED] in tonawanda. What risk does this pose and my family with the radioactive material.All my children have respiratory problems as do I,and the problems have increased over the last year. I would love to sell my house and leave the area,but can't afford to. Please tell me what I can do to protect my family. Thank you

[REDACTED]