

## Radioactive Waste

### **Schumer Urges Corps to Expedite Cleanup Of Radioactive Waste at Tonawanda Site**

**S**en. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) is urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite a feasibility plan for remediation of a radioactive waste site in western New York.

Schumer, in a Jan. 5 letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy, said the site in the Town of Tonawanda, N.Y., could pose a risk to the health of nearby residents.

The corps was scheduled to release the feasibility study by the end of 2014, according to Schumer.

The radioactive waste, which is buried under the Tonawanda Landfill, is mostly comprised of uranium left over from the Manhattan Project, according to Schumer. The site, and a related one nearby, are included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

“The Army Corps has done an excellent job monitoring the risk at the site, but their most recent assessment made it clear that the landfill needs to be cleaned up soon or else it could pose a serious risk to people’s health,” Schumer said in a statement. “The radioactive waste sitting underneath the Tonawanda Landfill is a hotbed for potential danger, and it is time to get a plan in place to mitigate the risk.”

The corps, in a statement, said a feasibility study containing remedial alternatives and a proposed plan for a preferred remedy will be jointly released in the spring. It said the combined release would shorten the time needed to reach a final decision on the site.

The corps also said there’s no evidence that radioactive contamination from the site is migrating to adjacent areas.

**Corps Committed to Reach Solution.** “We are committed, within the limits of our authority and funding, to work towards a solution that is protective of human health and the environment, technically sound, environmentally sustainable and economically justified,” Lt. Col. Karl D. Jansen, the Buffalo District commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said in a statement.

Schumer said five of the 24 sites in the FUSRAP program are in western New York, more than in any other region. He pledged to secure more funding for the program in the fiscal year 2016 budget. President Obama requested funding of \$100 million for the program in FY 2015, according to Schumer.

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*Sen. Schumer’s statement and letter are available at <http://1.usa.gov/1zXhls6>.*

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