

FUKRAP

FactSheet

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM • SEPTEMBER 1995

The Town of Tonawanda Landfill

The town of Tonawanda Landfill is a vicinity property of the former Linde Air Products site in Tonawanda, New York. The landfill covers about 55 acres in an area north of Interstate 290 and east of Twomile Creek Road. The area under investigation covers less than two acres of the landfill.

Waste disposal at the landfill began during the 1930s and continued through 1989. Records indicate that the landfill was principally used for the disposal of household waste, construction and demolition material, leaves, incinerator ash, and unburned municipal waste. The area of the landfill where Manhattan Engineer District (MED)-related material is located ceased operations in 1961.

It is believed that the low-level radioactive material originated



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from the former Linde facility. Linde performed separation operations on natural uranium ores for the nation's early atomic energy program under contract to the MED, a predecessor of the Department of Energy (DOE).

Since 1960, several studies have been conducted at the landfill to gather more information about site conditions and the nature of the materials deposited there. A radiological survey conducted by DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1991 indicated that radioactivity is present in the landfill in concentrations above those naturally found in the environment. A sampling effort was conducted in November 1994 to better define the extent of the radioactive material and to verify that surface water is not transporting the material to new areas.

RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATION

The sampling strategy used for the November 1994 investigation involved going into the areas where the 1991 survey indicated radioactivity and drilling boreholes into the subsurface. By drilling the additional boreholes, the areal and vertical extent of the radioactive material was successfully delineated.

The results of the sampling showed that the area which was identified by Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1991 bounded the extent of the MED-related radioactive material. Surface water and sediment samples were also collected to determine if radioactive material was leaving the landfill. Based on the results of these samples, there is no indication that MED-related radioactive material is migrating from the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the DOE Public Information Center, 820 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda, New York 14150; phone (716) 871-9660. You may also call the FUSRAP 24-hour, toll-free public access line, 1-800-253-9759, and your call will be promptly returned.