



US Army Corps of Engineers  
1000 19th St  
Wilmington, DE 19804

## Commander's Message

*A message from Lt. Col. DeWillie, Buffalo District Commander, regarding material related to the nation's early atomic energy program that is in the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area in Tonawanda, New York.*

I want to maintain an honest and open dialogue with you in regard to the material and the upcoming sampling we are doing in that area.

First, you all need to be aware that the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area is a complex site and there are several activities ongoing. The Corps is only involved in investigating a small portion of the site, which contains FUSRAP-related materials. In addition, we are aware that the Town of Tonawanda and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are addressing the americium on the site that is not related to the nation's early atomic energy program. They are also working towards closing the entire landfill. It is our desire to coordinate our FUSRAP-related activities with the involved agencies as they work toward closure.

Allow me to discuss the Corps' direct involvement at this site. In 1992 the Department of Energy (DOE) decided that contaminants found in a small portion of the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area were similar to contaminants that could have come from the former Linde Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site. The DOE designated the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area as a vicinity property to Linde and entered it into FUSRAP, a program that evaluates and cleans up sites that have low levels of residual radioactivity above acceptable guidelines resulting from the nation's early atomic energy program.

A 1999 Corps report indicates that under current land use conditions, the site is protective and cleanup is not required. However, the Corps wants to confirm the risks at the site for other future land uses. We are in the process of doing a comprehensive evaluation of the FUSRAP-related materials at the site for this purpose. To ensure that the site is protective of human health and the environment from the FUSRAP-related materials, not only now but in the future as well, we are conducting additional sampling to better define the areas and amount of contamination. We will be performing a gamma walkover survey, taking soil samples, and sampling water in existing wells to test for the spread of contaminants. As a precaution, workers may be wearing protective boots, suits, and gloves to ensure worker safety. This is mainly because it is a landfill and we want to take every step to protect our workers from other materials they might come in contact with. Area residents will not be affected by the sampling because there will be minimal soil disturbance.

We live in this community and value its future too. It is important to us that you know we will fully evaluate the FUSRAP-related material in the landfill to ensure protection of your health and the environment. If at any time during the evaluation process we determine that human health or the environment is in immediate danger, we can and will take action to ensure your protection. The information we currently have available to us indicates that the site is protective for the current land use.

We will continue to keep you informed, and we also want to hear from you. You can e-mail us at [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) or call us at (800) 833-6390 or (716) 879-4438. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.