



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Buffalo District

Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property to the Former Linde FUSRAP Site Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District • October 2008

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 to identify and clean up or control sites that were part of the Nation's early atomic energy and weapons program. This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach needs and is consistent with provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Site Description and History

The Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property consists of two parcels, the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the Mudflats, covering approximately 170 acres in the Town of Tonawanda, New York. The Vicinity Property is bordered by a residential area within the City of Tonawanda, a railroad line, Interstate 290 and East Park Drive. A Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation utility corridor separates the Landfill and Mudflats.

Waste disposal at the landfill by the Town of Tonawanda began during the 1930s and continued through 1989.

Records indicate that the landfill was principally used for the disposal of construction and demolition material, yard waste, incinerator ash, and municipal waste.

As the result of a radiological survey performed in 1991 by the Department of Energy (DOE), a portion of the Landfill and Mudflats were designated together as a "Vicinity Property" of the former Linde Site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP is a Federal program that identifies and restores sites contaminated with radioactive materials resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program.



Corps of Engineers Activities

The Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District completed a Remedial Investigation of the Vicinity Property in 2005. This effort was in addition to previous investigations performed by the DOE in the 1990s. During the Remedial Investigation, the Corps sampled and tested soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater of the Vicinity Property for uranium, radium, and thorium. Small, isolated locations within the Vicinity Property were found with levels of uranium, radium and thorium above background levels, similar to radioactive material found at other FUSRAP sites in Tonawanda. A Baseline Risk Assessment was conducted as part of the Remedial Investigation to determine the risk to human health associated with exposure to these radionuclides.

The Baseline Risk Assessment, conducted in 2005 using information available at that time, concluded that risks to human health, for the current and reasonable future site uses in both the Landfill and Mudflats, were within the limits established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

Current Status

A Proposed Plan, covering both the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats, was released for public comment in the Spring of 2007. The Proposed Plan recommended no action as the Preferred Alternative, for both the Landfill and the Mudflats, based on the findings of the Remedial Investigation and the Baseline Risk Assessment.

In response to public comments received on the Proposed Plan, the Corps has decided to deal with the two parcels in the Vicinity Property separately, i.e., separate the Landfill Operable Unit from the Mudflats Operable Unit. The Corps will conduct additional sampling on the Landfill Operable Unit of the Vicinity Property in the spring of 2009. The purpose of the sampling will be to confirm the levels and extent of uranium, radium and thorium in the Landfill Operable Unit and to ensure that the Baseline Risk Assessment reflects the realistic potential for human exposure in the Landfill given its proximity to residential property.

The Corps recently signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Mudflats Operable Unit of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property. The ROD states that no action is warranted on the Mudflats Operable Unit because the radiological risks, for all media, from radium, uranium and thorium present, are within the risk limits established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan based on a commercial/industrial site use, which is the reasonable future land use for the site. This decision is protective of human health and the environment.

For More Information

For more information, please call the Buffalo District's FUSRAP toll-free public access line. Your call will be returned promptly.

Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-833-6390

The Buffalo District Website for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property to the former Linde FUSRAP is:

www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/landfill

A copy of the Record of Decision for the Mudflats Operable Unit is posted to this website. Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for a particular FUSRAP Site. E-mail us at fusrap@usace.army.mil or you may also contact us by mail:

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