



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Buffalo District  
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# Community Relations Plan

for the

**Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property to the Linde Site**

**Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program**

**Tonawanda, New York**

**May 2015**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
ARAR	applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements
ARF	administrative record file
BRA	baseline risk assessment
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FS	feasibility study
FUSRAP	Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
HTRW	hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste
MED	Manhattan Engineer District
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH	New York State Department of Health
OU	operable unit
RI	remedial investigation
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
VP	vicinity property

## 1) Overview:

The United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers, as the lead federal agency for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), prepared this Community Relations Plan for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property (VP) to the Linde FUSRAP Site. This plan provides a framework for community relations activities during the development of a feasibility study (FS) and proposed plan for the Landfill Operable Unit (OU) of the Tonawanda Landfill VP.

FUSRAP was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate and, if necessary, clean up or control sites throughout the U.S. that were contaminated as the result of Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) activities conducted in support of the nation's early atomic energy and weapons programs. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) managed FUSRAP until the *Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998 Public Law 105-62* transferred responsibility for the administration and execution of the program to the Corps of Engineers on October 13, 1997. The Corps of Engineers implements FUSRAP in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), of 1980, as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300.

This community relations plan complies with 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 300.430(c)(2), defining the scope and focus of the community relations activities conducted by the Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District. This plan presents an organized, targeted approach for effective communication and positive, beneficial community relations. Including this overview section, this plan contains five sections: Section 2 provides a capsule description of the Tonawanda Landfill VP, Section 3 provides background information about the community surrounding the site, Section 4 presents the community relations program, and Section 5 lists the documents used to develop this plan. The Appendices provide lists of federal, state and local contacts and available resources.

## 2) Property Description

### a) History:

Waste disposal at the landfill, which is owned and operated by the Town of Tonawanda, began during the 1930s and continued through 1989. Records indicate that the Town of Tonawanda Landfill was principally used for the disposal of construction and demolition material, yard waste, incinerator ash, and municipal waste. The Town of Tonawanda Landfill was not known to be directly involved with FUSRAP-related activity; yet because of the potential for FUSRAP-related contamination from the Linde FUSRAP Site in the surrounding area, the DOE conducted a radiological survey of the landfill area in 1991. As the result of this radiological survey, the DOE designated a portion of the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the mudflats together into FUSRAP as a VP of the Linde FUSRAP Site in 1992.

**b) Property Location and Geographic Attributes**

i) **Property Location and Description:** The Tonawanda Landfill VP consists of two parcels owned by the Town of Tonawanda: the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the mudflats, which is currently known as the North Youngmann Commerce Center. The Tonawanda Landfill VP covers approximately 170 acres in Tonawanda, a suburb north of Buffalo, in Erie County, New York. The Tonawanda Landfill VP, as shown in Figure 1 on the next page, is bordered by a residential area within the City of Tonawanda (north), a railroad line (east), Interstate 290 (south) and Two Mile Creek (west). A National Grid utility corridor separates the landfill and the mudflats. An elementary school is located adjacent to the northern border of the Tonawanda Landfill VP, and there is a playground on the school property. Outside of the residential areas, there are pockets of commercial/industrial development.

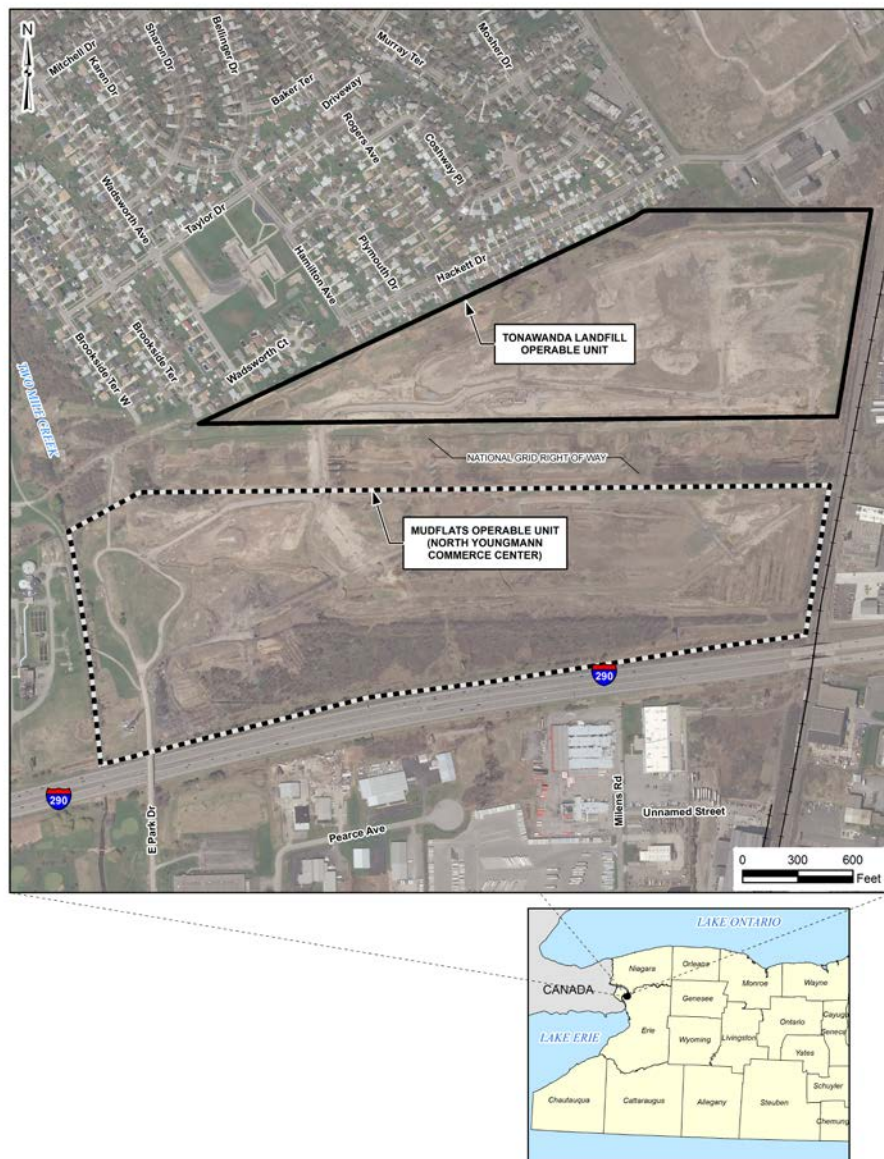


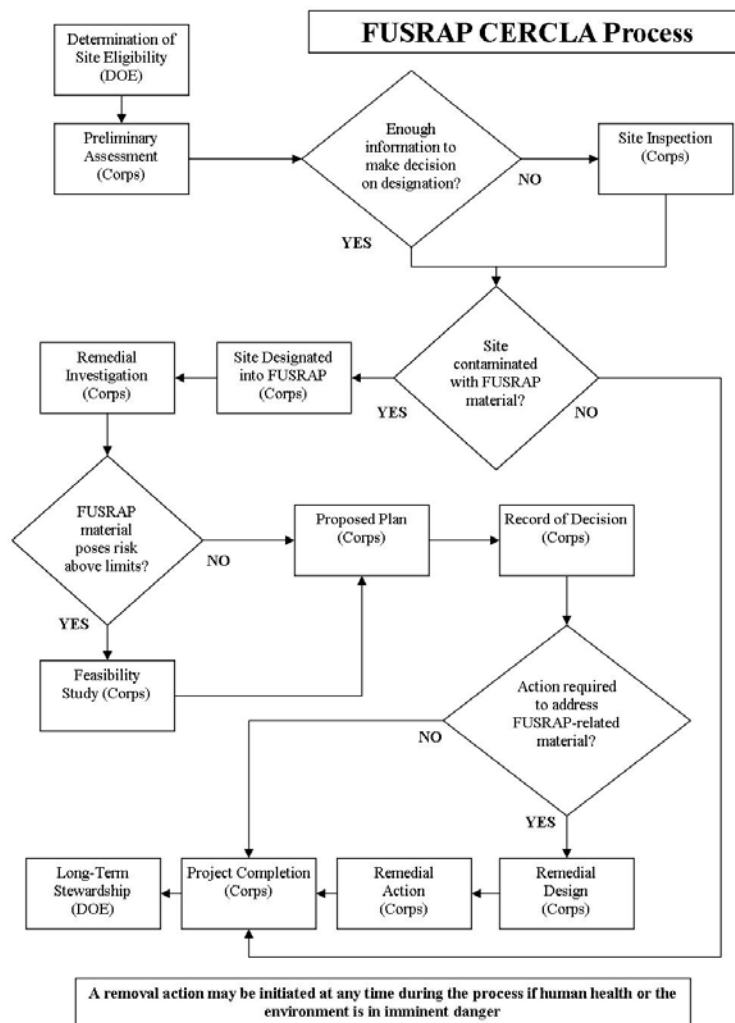
Figure 1: Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property

ii) **Current Land Use:** The Town of Tonawanda is currently in the process of capping their landfill. Some that reside along the border of the Landfill OU utilize the Town of Tonawanda’s property for recreational purposes.

**c) Property Investigations:**

Investigations performed by the DOE on the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and mudflats during 1991 identified radioactive material in soils similar to material found at the Linde FUSRAP Site. As mentioned previously, the DOE designated the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the mudflats into FUSRAP together as the Tonawanda Landfill VP of the Linde FUSRAP Site in 1992. Congress transferred execution of FUSRAP from the DOE to the Corps of Engineers beginning in fiscal year 1998.

A chart outlining the CERCLA process along with an explanation of each phase is provided below.



#### Determination of Site Eligibility (Department of Energy)

- Eligible site is referred to Corps of Engineers to determine whether site should be designated into FUSRAP as a site.

#### Preliminary Assessment (Corps of Engineers)

- To determine if a release may require additional investigation or action by reviewing existing information and an off-site observatory visit, if appropriate. A preliminary assessment may also include an on-site observatory visit, if appropriate.

#### Site Inspection (if necessary – Corps of Engineers)

- To determine whether there is a release or potential release and the nature of the associated threats through on-site investigation. The purpose is to augment the data collected in the preliminary assessment and to generate, if necessary, sampling and other field data.

#### Site Designation (Corps of Engineers)

- Based on the results of the preliminary assessment and site inspection, the Corps of Engineers may designate a site into FUSRAP for further investigation and potential action.

#### Remedial Investigation (Corps of Engineers)

- To determine the nature and extent of contamination resulting from past federal activity.
- To evaluate the fate and transport of contaminants through site media (e.g., groundwater, surface water, etc.).
- To assess potential human health and ecological risks resulting from contaminants in the environment.

#### Feasibility Study (Corps of Engineers)

- To identify and evaluate potential cleanup technologies and develop remedial response alternatives.
- To conduct an initial screen of technologies based on effectiveness, implementability and cost.
- To assemble remedial alternatives from the technologies retained after the initial screening process.
- To perform a detailed analysis and evaluation of each remedial alternative based upon its:
  - 1) Overall protection of human health and the environment;
  - 2) Compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs);
  - 3) Long-term effectiveness and permanence;
  - 4) Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment;
  - 5) Short-term effectiveness;
  - 6) Implementability; and
  - 7) Cost.

#### Proposed Plan (Corps of Engineers)

- To document the lead agency's preferred remedial alternative,
- To seek and consider comments from federal and state environmental regulatory agencies, and

- To seek and consider comments from the public through a mandatory minimum 30-day public review period.

#### Record of Decision (Corps of Engineers)

- To document the lead agency's selection of the remedial alternative based upon the remedial investigation, the feasibility study, and comments received from federal and state environmental regulatory agencies and the public on the proposed plan.

#### Remedial Design (if necessary - Corps of Engineers)

- Detailed designs, plans, specifications, and bid documents for conducting the remedial action are developed during this phase.

#### Remedial Action (if necessary – Corps of Engineers)

- Upon approval of the remedial design, remedial action (the actual construction and implementation of the selected remedial alternative) is initiated. The remedial action is conducted until the remedial action objectives are achieved.

#### Site Closeout (Corps of Engineers)

- Documents and demonstrates that the executing lead agency completed the response action in accordance with the record of decision and in compliance with CERCLA, as amended, and the NCP.

#### Long-Term Management (Department of Energy)

- Certain remedies may require a period of operation and maintenance, after the remedy is implemented, before the remedial action objectives and cleanup criteria are achieved.
- In the NCP, if a remedial action is selected that results in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, the lead agency shall review such action no less often than every five years after initiation of the selected remedial action; this includes site monitoring, if necessary, to ensure the effectiveness of the response.
- Under FUSRAP the Corps of Engineers is responsible for conducting the first two years of any necessary operations and maintenance and/or site monitoring following remedy completion, after which the site is turned over to the DOE for long-term stewardship.

The Corps of Engineers initiated a remedial investigation of the Tonawanda Landfill VP in 2001. The remedial investigation report, released in 2005, indicated that some small, isolated locations within the Landfill OU contained levels of radium, uranium and thorium above normal background levels. The report included a baseline risk assessment (BRA), which concluded that the risk levels in regard to potential exposure to FUSRAP-related material for current and future site uses of the Tonawanda Landfill VP were at or below the CERCLA risk threshold for all plausible scenarios.

During 2007 the Corps of Engineers released a proposed plan for the Tonawanda Landfill VP with no action as the preferred alternative for both the landfill and mudflats. The plan was opposed by the community.



In response to requests from the community, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) conducted a radiological gamma walkover survey of several residential properties and the Riverview Elementary School property in the vicinity of the Landfill OU in 2007. The survey concluded that there was no evidence of surficial radioactive materials from uranium ore processing in the areas surveyed.

At the urging of City of Tonawanda officials, the NYSDEC in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) developed a program for testing water from sumps in homes bordering the Landfill OU to determine whether FUSRAP-related materials buried in the Landfill OU had migrated through the groundwater and beneath the homes. The NYSDEC and the NYSDOH concurred that the results of the sampling conducted in March 2008 indicated that FUSRAP-related contaminants from the landfill were not entering the sumps of homes immediately bordering the Tonawanda Landfill VP.

In September 2008 the Corps of Engineers signed a no action record of decision for the mudflats and began addressing the landfill as a separate OU.

The Corps of Engineers determined, based on input received during the public comment period, that several assumptions used in the site-specific exposure assessment used to support the risk characterization for exposure to FUSRAP-related material in the BRA needed to be reevaluated and further investigation of the Landfill OU was necessary. Furthermore, a closer evaluation of the radium, thorium, and uranium in the landfill indicated that the material was similar to the radioactive materials that were being addressed under FUSRAP at the other Tonawanda FUSRAP sites (Linde, Ashland, Seaway).

A geographic information system-based historical photographic analysis of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property was conducted by the U.S. Army Geospatial Center in 2009. This was used in planning further investigations of the landfill.

Additional soil, groundwater, sediment and surface water sampling was conducted on the Landfill OU between 2009 and 2011. The 2011 *Report for the Phase 2 Remedial Investigation at the Tonawanda Landfill Operable Unit at the Tonawanda FUSRAP Site in Tonawanda, NY*, contains the results of the soil and some of the groundwater sampling conducted. After analysis of the sampling data, and a review of site-specific exposure information for the neighboring community, an updated BRA was finalized and released in 2012.

The updated BRA indicates that there is a potential for limited risk to potential future site users of the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP. Based on the conclusions of the updated BRA, the Corps of Engineers is preparing a FS to develop remedial alternatives, which would be appropriate to mitigate potential future unacceptable risks from exposure to the buried FUSRAP-related material in the Landfill OU. A preferred alternative will be recommended in a proposed plan which is currently scheduled to be released at the same time as the FS.

#### **d) Identified Contaminants**

FUSRAP-related materials have been identified in subsurface soils in the Landfill OU. The human-health constituents of concern for soil at the Landfill OU are radium-226, thorium-

230 and total uranium (uranium 234, uranium-235 and uranium-238). Although uranium concentrations in the on-site drainage ditch have consistently been elevated, surface water samples collected from the off-site portion of the drainage ditch in 2011, 2012 and 2013 exhibited background levels of uranium. However, the drainage ditch is temporary in nature and is not a drinking water source, and the actual use of the drainage ditch by aquatic receptors is likely to be very limited to none. Samples collected in November 2013 and April 2014 from Two Mile Creek, the most likely aquatic habitat into which the ditch discharges, exhibited uranium levels that were below the ecological screening level for aquatic life. Surface water is not a media of concern for the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP.

**e) Potential Risks:**

Throughout the FUSRAP investigations of the Tonawanda Landfill VP, the Corps of Engineers has not identified any imminent threat to human health or the environment resulting from exposure to FUSRAP-related materials. The Tonawanda Landfill is currently zoned for industrial use; however, the Town of Tonawanda has identified future use for the landfill as recreational. For determining potential risks, land users for the Landfill OU are identified as trespasser (current user), recreational user (reasonable future user), and construction worker (current user). The human health constituents of concern are based upon their contribution to carcinogenic radiological risk. There are no FUSRAP-related ecological constituents of concern. The updated BRA indicates that if the surface of the Landfill OU is not maintained and is allowed to erode over time, there is a potential for FUSRAP-related material that is currently buried to be exposed. If that should occur, risks to trespassers or recreational users of the Landfill OU could increase above the NCP acceptable risk range within the 1,000-year evaluation period.

**f) Lead Agency Responsibilities:**

The Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for FUSRAP, and coordinates with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the DOE's Office of Legacy Management, the NYSDEC, and the NYSDOH during the conduct of its investigations. Contact information for these agencies is provided in Appendix D.

**3) Community Information**

**a) Community Profile:**

Although the Tonawanda Landfill VP is owned by the Town of Tonawanda, the residences along its northern border are located in the City of Tonawanda. The Mudflats OU portion of the Tonawanda Landfill VP is currently being developed as a commercial/industrial park. The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder indicates that 73,567 people live in the Town of Tonawanda which includes 15,130 who live in the City of Tonawanda. The median household income from the U.S. Census Bureau's, American Fact Finder is approximately \$52,288 for the residents in the town and \$47,492 for the city residents.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [United States Census Bureau](#). Retrieved on June 9, 2014.

Town of Tonawanda voters elect a supervisor every four years, and elect four town council members to the town board for alternating four-year terms. Residents direct their questions and comments to the town clerk, who forwards them to the proper department or official. City of Tonawanda voters elect a mayor every four years; a common council president and four council members are elected to two-year terms. Erie County government includes a county executive that is the chief executive officer and administrative head of the county. The county executive is elected for a four-year term. Erie County has an 11-member legislature presided over by a chairman that is elected each year by a majority vote of the full legislature. The members of the county legislature are elected for a two-year term.

**b) Community Perception:**

Based on the Corps of Engineers' interpretation of historical information including newspaper clips, correspondence, and input received from the community, the community's perception of the Tonawanda Landfill is that it contains contamination that could potentially impact human health.

The Town of Tonawanda is currently capping the landfill portion that does not contain FUSRAP-related material and City of Tonawanda residents often complain about truck traffic raising dust that blows into their yards, odors, and the abundance of nuisance species, such as rats and ticks, living in the Landfill OU. Residents are concerned that materials are still being dumped in the landfill even though it is in the process of being capped.

**c) Community Involvement History:**

In 2001, residents living along the northern border of the Tonawanda Landfill VP were provided the opportunity to have representatives from the Corps of Engineers meet with them individually in their homes to answer questions regarding upcoming sampling before the Corps met with the community through an information session March 29, 2001. Four of the residents requested individual meetings. On March 26, 2002, former Erie County Legislator Chuck Swanick sponsored an information session for nearby residents, to which he invited the Corps of Engineers to present the initial results of the remedial investigation sampling conducted in 2001. News releases were distributed to local media during February 2002 and March 2006 regarding the results of investigations performed by the Corps of Engineers. On February 8, 2007, former Erie County Legislator Michele Iannello sponsored an information session to discuss the Town of Tonawanda Landfill. The Corps of Engineers, NYSDEC, and the Town of Tonawanda provided presentations. Questions received from the community at the meeting were responded to in a fact sheet that remains available on the project's public website.

A proposed plan was released for public review and comment March 26, 2007, with an initial comment period of 90 days, based on the heightened level of community interest. A public meeting regarding the proposed plan was conducted April 25, 2007. Numerous requests were received for extensions of the public comment period resulting in a comment period that totaled 203 days. Although a record of decision was released for the Mudflats OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP in September 2008, the Corps of Engineers determined that parameters in the BRA needed to be adjusted and additional sampling was necessary for the Landfill OU based on information provided by the community in comments on the proposed plan. A news release was

distributed to the media in July 2012 announcing the availability of an updated BRA. The Corps of Engineers conducted a poster/availability session regarding the updated BRA on July 17, 2012.

**d) Key Community Concerns:**

Concerns expressed by the community to the Corps of Engineers regarding the Tonawanda Landfill VP have focused on the proximity of the Tonawanda Landfill VP to the City of Tonawanda residents and potential impacts to their health, specifically the increased potential to develop cancer. City of Tonawanda residents expressed concern that contaminants in the landfill could potential spread to their property. The community would like the Tonawanda Landfill VP to receive priority over other FUSRAP projects because City of Tonawanda residents live along the fence line that borders the Landfill OU to the north. There is an overall desire to be kept informed in regard to Corps activities at the Tonawanda Landfill VP.

**Concern 1: Human Health**

- Many members of public fear the potential health impacts of radioactive materials.
- Some have expressed concern that the Tonawanda Landfill VP is the cause of increased incidences of cancer in the area.

**Concern 2: The potential for exposure to and the spread of FUSRAP-related contamination from the site**

- Some residents were concerned that contaminated groundwater would get into the sumps in the basement of their houses.
- Some residents were concerned that FUSRAP-related contamination may have spread into their yards.
- Parents of students in the elementary school or students that used the athletic fields and play ground were concerned regarding potential FUSRAP-related contamination on the school yard.

**e) Response to Community Concerns:**

The Corps of Engineers values the input received from the community. The goal of this plan and its implementation is to address the community's informational and participation needs to the extent allowed by law and within the agency's resources.

A gamma walkover survey of several residential properties and the Riverview Elementary School property conducted by the NYSDEC in 2007 alleviated concerns regarding the spread of FUSRAP-related contamination in soil outside of the Landfill OU boundaries. Results from additional testing by the NYSDEC of water from sumps in the basement of houses along the Landfill OU fence line alleviated the concern regarding groundwater contaminated with FUSRAP-related material making its way into the houses. When the Corps of Engineers updated the BRA and performed additional sampling at the Landfill OU, many of the community's additional concerns were addressed.

**f) Summary of Communication Needs:**

The community desires to be kept informed regarding all current and proposed investigations and activities by the Corps of Engineers at the Landfill OU, the impact of these activities, and any potential impacts to human health or the environment caused by conditions at the Landfill OU. This will be addressed through the implementation of this plan.

**4) Community Relations Program****a) Approach/Plan:**

The Corps of Engineers is committed to informing and involving the public as it moves through the CERCLA process for the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP. The Corps of Engineers has established the following overall goals for the community relations program that will attempt to address the expressed concerns of the community. The Corps of Engineers will:

- Foster and maintain a climate of understanding and trust between the public and the Corps of Engineers;
- Ensure that the public understands that protection of human health and the environment is the paramount concern at the Tonawanda Landfill VP;
- Encourage and enable all interested members of the public to be involved and provide input;
- Foster opportunities for genuine dialogue regarding issues of importance to the community;
- Prepare information and provide opportunities for the public to fully understand, ask questions about, and provide input on the technical issues involved in decision-making for the Tonawanda Landfill VP;
- Listen carefully to what the public expresses;
- Identify and act responsively on valid public concerns; and
- Allow for flexible planning to enable public comments or concerns to be considered during decision-making and prior to execution of actions.

The Corps of Engineers' community relations goals and needs will be considered and balanced with the project's technical and scientific requirements as well as limitations on funding, staffing, and legal and contracting actions. The Corps of Engineers will focus its community involvement efforts on receiving public input on matters that are most important to community members and critical to achieving a long-term remedy for the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP. The following plan was developed to address the communication needs during the development of a FS and a proposed plan.

**Concern 1:** Health-related concerns.

**Activity 1:** The Corps of Engineers evaluates risk of exposure, but does not determine potential health-related impacts. The Corps will involve representatives of federal and state agencies that do assess health-related impacts in the planning and review process for the site. Representatives

from the various agencies will be invited to participate during any public meetings or information sessions.

- **Objective:** Provide agencies with accurate project information so they can assess and convey potential health-related impacts to constituencies.
- **Method:** Representatives from the EPA, NYSDEC, and the NYSDOH are identified in Appendix D. Representatives of these agencies are on the Corps of Engineers' postal mailing list. Corps of Engineers' staff maintains ongoing interaction with key staff from these agencies.
- **Timing:** The Corps of Engineers will engage the agencies as necessary to discuss project progress. The Corps of Engineers currently distributes meeting invitations by postal mail to all interested agency representatives.

### **Concern 2: The potential for exposure to and the spread of FUSRAP-related contamination from the site**

The Corps of Engineers will engage the community on an ongoing basis throughout the development of the FS and the proposed plan by implementing the following activities to continue to alleviate this concern.

#### **Activity 2A:** Activities of the outreach program specialist

- **Objective:** Provide a primary liaison between the community and the Buffalo District, and to ensure prompt, accurate, and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site. In those instances where the outreach program specialist may be unable to provide adequate information (such as on technical issues), responses will be coordinated with the appropriate contact.
- **Method:** [REDACTED] will handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members.
- **Timing:** [REDACTED] was designated as the outreach program specialist for the site on November 11, 2007, and continues in that role.

#### **Activity 2B:** Provide a toll-free "800 number" and an e-mail address for the community to contact the Corps of Engineers.

- **Objective:** Enable citizens' ability to request the latest information available when they want it rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet.
- **Method:** The toll-free number and e-mail address will be included in any news releases, fact sheets and advertisements made that pertain to the Landfill OU.
- **Timing:** Both the toll-free line, 1-800-833-6390 option 4, and the e-mail address: fusrap@usace.army.mil are currently operational.

#### **Activity 2C:** Public website

- **Objective:** Provide a publicly accessible repository for project information.
- **Method:** The Tonawanda Landfill VP website is <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/TonawandaLandfill.aspx>
- **Timing:** The website is available now and will be updated periodically as necessary.

**Activity 2D:** “Beyond the Headlines” website postings

- **Objective:** Correct factual errors or omissions in media reports on Corps projects.
- **Method:** A “Beyond the Headlines” section will be created in the “News” section of the Corps of Engineers’ website for the Tonawanda Landfill VP at:  
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/TonawandaLandfill.aspx>
- **Timing:** “Beyond the Headlines” postings will be added to the website as necessary.

**Activity 2E:** Maintain a postal mailing list for the site.

- **Objective:** Facilitate the distribution of new site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the site.
- **Method:** The Corps established a mailing list compiled of addresses gathered over the years from public information session sign-in sheets. Owners of property along the border of the Tonawanda Landfill VP were also added to the mailing list from Erie County property tax records.
- **Timing:** The postal mailing list will be reviewed and revised periodically (at least annually) to keep it current.

**Activity 2F:** Improve public access to historic documents and project information.

- **Objective:** Continue to improve the overall transparency of the process, create easy access to information for all stakeholders, and to improve the accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness of Corps record retrieval capabilities.
- **Method:** The Buffalo District will update the administrative record file (ARF) to provide a current and complete body of documents in a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the site and Corps activities. The Corps is required to maintain at least one set of hardcopy ARF records for public access. Currently, the ARF is located in the US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District Office, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207 by appointment, (800) 833-6390 (Option 4). The ARF is also available electronically at the Tonawanda Library, 333 Main Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150.
- **Timing:** The Corps is in the process of updating the ARF for the Tonawanda Landfill VP. The update will be complete before the release of the FS and proposed plan.

**Activity 2G:** Environmental monitoring

- **Objective:** To ensure the protection of human health and the environment from FUSRAP-related constituents of concern in the Landfill OU.
- **Method:** Environmental monitoring is performed annually to ensure an unacceptable risk does not develop in regard to uranium, radium and thorium in water pathways within the Landfill OU. Results are provided to the community in an environmental monitoring fact sheet.
- **Timing:** The environmental monitoring fact sheet is released annually. It is distributed to those listed in the appendices to this document and is made available to the community by placement on the Buffalo District website.

**Activity 2H:** Prepare and distribute site fact sheets, technical summaries and reports.

- **Objective:** Provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the site.

- **Method:** Fact sheets, technical summaries and reports will be prepared as necessary and be placed on the public website when complete.
- **Timing:** The Corps will prepare and distribute fact sheets, technical summaries and reports as they become available throughout the lifecycle of the project.

**Activity 2I:** Social media

- **Objective:** Expand the dissemination of information beyond those that have expressed an interest in the Landfill OU.
- **Method:** Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and Pinterest will be used when pertinent.
- **Timing:** The Corps will explore using social media for the Landfill OU as the opportunity presents itself.

**Activity 2J:** Information Sessions

- **Objective:** Provide the public with the opportunity to learn what contamination is on the site, how future land-use considerations will be taken into account when determining risks, and how the Corps will establish cleanup criteria if remediation is required.
- **Method:** Information sessions will be conducted at VFW Post 7545, 110 Elgin, Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150. The Corps will schedule and prepare for all announced meetings. The Corps of Engineers' project manager, project engineer, risk assessor, outreach program specialist and other appropriate staff will attend.
- **Timing:** As necessary.

**Activity 2K:** Publish newspaper announcements of all meetings.

- **Objective:** Ensure that the full community is informed about upcoming meetings.
- **Method:** Create and post a display ad in local newspapers to include *The Buffalo News*, *Tonawanda News* and *Ken-Ton Bee*. Announcements will be formatted to provide the following information at a minimum:
  - Date, times, and location for the meeting;
  - Statement of purpose for the meeting;
  - Proposed agenda and structure of the meeting; and a
  - Website for supporting documents.
- **Timing:** Announcements will be made a minimum of 14 days in advance.

**Activity 2L:** Public meeting regarding the proposed plan.

- **Objective:** Receive comments from the community regarding the preferred alternative for the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP.
- **Method:** In addition to the information provided in the method for 2J, a court recorder will be available to capture comments from the community.
- **Timing:** A public meeting is required during the proposed plan comment period.

**Activity 2M:** Solicit comments during a public comment period.

- **Objective:** Provide meaningful involvement in the process by providing an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed plan. This also provides the project delivery team with valuable information for use in making decisions.



- **Method:** The Corps will announce the comment period in local newspapers. The announcements will include information on the duration of the comment period, how to submit comments, where to submit comments, etc.
- **Timing:** Comment periods will be announced as appropriate. A comment period is required in conjunction with the release of a proposed plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.

**Activity 2N:** Prepare and issue a responsiveness summary for the comments received during the release of the proposed plan with the record of decision.

- **Objective:** Summarize comments received during comment periods, document how the Corps of Engineers has considered those comments during the decision-making process, and provide responses to comments.
- **Method:** The Corps of Engineers will prepare a responsiveness summary as a section of the record of decision. Both technical and non-technical information will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.
- **Timing:** The Corps of Engineers will issue the responsiveness summary as part of the record of decision.

**Activity 2O:** Issue the community relations plan and revise it as necessary.

- **Objective:** Identify and address community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the Tonawanda Landfill VP.
- **Method:** The written community relations plan will be placed in the ARF. The plan will be revised as necessary based on input.
- **Timing:** The Corps of Engineers will update the community relations plan as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the site is returned to the DOE. Community relations activities for the development of the FS and proposed plan for the Landfill OU of the Tonawanda Landfill VP are listed in the table in the next section.

**b) Projected Schedule for Community Relations Activities**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
1A Identify EPA, NYSDEC, and NYSDOH Representatives	Complete
2A Designate Corps of Engineers outreach program specialist	Complete
2B Provide a toll-free “800 number” and e-mail address for the community to contact the Corps of Engineers	Currently in operation
2C Maintain a public website	Ongoing
2D “Beyond the Headlines” website postings	As needed
2E Maintain a postal mailing list for the site	Ongoing
2F Establish and maintain the ARF	Ongoing (Locations for the ARF are listed in Appendix I)
2G Environmental monitoring	Reported annually
2H Prepare and distribute site fact sheets, technical summaries and reports	As needed
2I Social media	As needed
2J Information sessions	As needed
2K Public announcements	As necessary
2L Public meetings	Within the public comment period for the proposed plan
2M Solicit comments during a public comment period	As needed and required
2N Prepare and issue a responsiveness summary	Released as part of the record of decision
2O Issue the community relations plan and revise the plan as necessary	Complete. Will be updated as needed, depending on the phase of the CERCLA process

**5) References**

USACE 2005. *Remedial Investigation Report, Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, Tonawanda, New York*, April.

USACE 2007. *Proposed Plan for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property Site, Tonawanda, New York*, January.

USACE 2008a. *Formerly Used Defense Sites Program Public Involvement Toolkit*, January.

USACE 2008b. *Record of Decision for the Mudflats Operable Unit, Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, Town of Tonawanda, New York*, September.

USACE 2011a. *Phase 2 Remedial Investigation, Tonawanda Landfill FUSRAP Vicinity Property, Tonawanda, New York*, March.

USACE 2011b. EP 200-3-1. *Environmental Quality Public Participation Requirements for Defense Environmental Restoration Program*, September.

USACE 2012. *Updated Baseline Risk Assessment for the Landfill Operable Unit of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, Tonawanda, New York*, June.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2005. *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook*, April.

U.S. Army Geospatial Center 2009. *Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area GIS-Based Historical Photographic Analysis*, April.

**Appendices**

**A. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Delivery Team**

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
[fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil)  
800-833-6390 Option 4

Project Manager

Outreach Program Specialist

Project Engineer

Regional Technical Specialist

Risk Assessor

Health Physicist

Senior Health Physicist

Chemist

Industrial Hygienist

GIS Specialist

Cost Engineer

District Counsel

Hydrogeologist

Real Estate Specialist

## **B. Local Elected Officials**

### **Erie County**

Edward A. Rath County Office Building  
95 Franklin Street, 16th Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
(716) 858-6000  
<http://www.erie.gov>

Erie County Executive: Mark Poloncarz, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor; Phone: (716) 858-8500; Fax: (716) 858-6679; E-mail: [countyexecutive@erie.gov](mailto:countyexecutive@erie.gov)

Erie County Legislature Chairperson: John J. Mills, Old Erie County Hall, 92 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor, Buffalo, New York; Phone: (716) 858-8850; Fax: (716) 858-8895; E-mail: [john.mills@erie.gov](mailto:john.mills@erie.gov)

Erie County Legislator (District 4): Kevin Hardwick, 92 Franklin St., 4th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202; Phone: (716) 858-8672; Fax: (716) 858-8818; E-mail: [Kevin.Hardwick@erie.gov](mailto:Kevin.Hardwick@erie.gov)

### **Town of Tonawanda**

Municipal Building  
2919 Delaware Avenue  
Kenmore NY, 14217  
(716) 877-8800  
<http://www.tonawanda.ny.us/>

Town Supervisor: Anthony Caruana, Room 11; Phone: (716) 877-8804; Fax: (716) 877-1261; E-mail: [acaruana@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:acaruana@tonawanda.ny.us)

#### Town Board:

Councilman John Bargnesi, Jr., E-mail: [jbargnesi@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:jbargnesi@tonawanda.ny.us)  
Councilwoman Lisa Chimera, E-mail: [lchimera@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:lchimera@tonawanda.ny.us)  
Councilman Daniel Crangle, E-mail: [dcrangle@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:dcrangle@tonawanda.ny.us)  
Councilman Joseph Emminger, E-mail: [jemminger@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:jemminger@tonawanda.ny.us)

Town Clerk: Marguerite Greco, Room 14; Phone: (716) 877-8800 ext. 810; Fax: (716) 877-0578; E-mail: [mgreco@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:mgreco@tonawanda.ny.us)

**City of Tonawanda**

200 Niagara Street

Tonawanda, NY 14150

(716) 695-1800

<http://www.ci.tonawanda.ny.us/>

Mayor: Rick Davis; Phone: (716) 695-8645; Fax: (716) 695-8314; E-mail:

[mayor@ci.tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:mayor@ci.tonawanda.ny.us)

Common Council:

Carleton R. Zeisz, Council President, (716) 693-5751

Chuck Gilbert, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Councilmember, (716) 743-1045

Jackie Smilinich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Councilmember, (716) 695-1321

Jay Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilmember, (716) 481-1587

Jenna Koch, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilmember, (716) 692-3070

City Clerk: Janice Bodie, Phone: (716) 695-8318; E-mail: [jbodie@ci.tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:jbodie@ci.tonawanda.ny.us)

### **C. Federal and State Elected Officials**

Honorable Charles Schumer, United States Senator, District office: United States Senate, Federal Building, 130 South Elmwood Avenue, #660, Buffalo, New York 14202, (716) 846-4111; Fax: (716) 846-4113. Washington: United States Senate, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-6542; Fax: (202) 228-3027

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator, District office: Larkin at Exchange, 726 Exchange Street, Suite 511, Buffalo, NY 14210, (716) 854-9725; Fax: (716) 854-9731; Washington: United States Senate, 478 Russell, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-4451; Fax: (202) 228-0282

Honorable Brian Higgins, United States Congressman, 26th District: District office: Larkin at Exchange, 726 Exchange Street, Suite 601, Buffalo, NY 14210, (716) 852-3501 Fax: (716) 852-3929; Washington: 2459 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3306; Fax (202) 226-0347

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State, State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224, (518) 474-8390; Fax: (518) 474-1513

Honorable Marc Panepinto, New York State Senator, District 60 office: 65 Court Street, Room 213, Buffalo NY 14202, (716) 854-8705; Fax: (716) 854-3051; Albany Office: Room 302 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; Phone: (518) 455-2760; Fax (518) 426-6760

Honorable Robin Schimminger, New York State Assemblyman, District 140 Office, 3514 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217, (716) 873-2540; Albany Office: Legislative Office Building Room 847, Albany, NY 12248; Phone: (518) 455-4767



## **D. Federal, State and Local Agencies**

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007-1866

- Judith A. Enck - Regional Administrator (212) 637-5000
- Paul Giardina - Chief, Radiation & Indoor Air Branch, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor (212) 637-4010
- Dr. Oleg Povetko - Health Physicist (212) 637-3746

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II, Western New York Public Information Office, 186 Exchange Street, Buffalo, NY 14204;

- Mike Basile - Public Affairs Specialist (716) 551-4410

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 9, 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14203

- Abby Snyder - Regional Director (716) 851-7200

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Central Office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7255; (518) 402-8579; Fax: (518) 402-9025

- Jim Harrington - Bureau Director, Remedial Bureau A (518) 402-9625

New York State Department of Health, Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237.

- Cynthia Costello - Chief, Environmental Radiation/Radon and Emergency Response Section (518) 402-7556
- Matt Forucci - Project Manager, Western Regional Office, 584 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202-1202, (716) 847-4501.
- Aura Weinstein, (518) 473-7817, is the contact person for NYSDOH, in regard to health related concerns as they pertain to radiological constituents.

Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, 95 Franklin Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202

- Maria Whyte - Commissioner (716) 858-8390

### **E. Environmental and Active Citizens Groups**

Citizens' Environmental Coalition, 425 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222, (716) 885-6848,  
Contact: Janet Hinkel and Kristin Sebastian

Clean Up Riverview's Environment (CURE), Tonawanda, NY

League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2401,  
(716) 884-3550,

## **F. Property Owners**

Town of Tonawanda, Municipal Building, 2919 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore NY, 14217.

- Michael Kaiser, Director of the Technical Support Department (716) 877-8805.

## G. Media Contacts

### Newspapers

Buffalo News

1 Fountain Plaza

Buffalo, NY 14240

Env. Reporter: Joe Popiolkowski or T. J. Pignataro

(716) 849-3434

E-mail: [citydesk@buffnews.com](mailto:citydesk@buffnews.com)

Ads: Marcy Lombardo

(716) 849-5535, Fax: (716) 949-3455; e-mail: [mlombardo@buffnews.com](mailto:mlombardo@buffnews.com) (pdf)

Column inches: 1-column 1.729; 2-column 3.558,

Tear Sheets: (716) 849-5453

Ken-Ton Bee (weekly publication Wednesdays)

5564 Main Street

Williamsville, NY 14221

Ads: [production@beenews.com](mailto:production@beenews.com)

(716) 632-4700; Fax: (716) 633-8601

## Television

WGRZ-TV (channel 2)

Assignment Editor

259 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 849-2222 (Switchboard), (716) 849-2200 (Direct); Fax: (716) 849-7602

WIVB-TV (channel 4) and WNLO (channel 23)

Assignment Editor

2077 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14207

(716) 876-7333; Fax: (716) 874-8173

WKBW-TV (channel 7)

Assignment Editor

7 Broadcast Plaza

Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 845-6100; Fax: (716) 856-8784

## Radio

WBEN 930 AM or 107.7 FM

500 Corporate Parkway

Amherst, NY

(716) 843-0600

## **H. Potential Meeting Locations**

VFW Post 7545, 110 Elgin, Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150, (716) 693-7160.

## **I. Administrative Record and Information Repositories**

### Administrative Record Location

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/TonawandaLandfill.aspx>

USACE FUSRAP Library (by appointment), 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207,  
(800) 833-6390 (Option 4)