

# Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Update

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
June 2006



## Introduction

This fourth edition of *The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Update* shares information about the progress the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is making in cleaning up FUSRAP properties.

FUSRAP focuses on protecting human health, public safety and the environment while conducting radiological cleanups that ensure these sites are safe for appropriate future use.

The public is a vital partner in the FUSRAP effort. The Corps, which administers FUSRAP, has an active public involvement program and encourages those people living near the sites to participate in the cleanup activities.

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) created FUSRAP in March 1974 to identify, investigate and take appropriate cleanup action at sites contaminated with low concentrations of radioactive materials resulting from the nation's early atomic weapons and energy program.

Since October 1997, the Corps has continued the cleanups AEC and the Department of Energy (DOE) began. The Corps cleans up the remaining contamination in accordance with federal laws and predominantly under the framework of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA). The Corps coordinates with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or state regulators on all sites.

DOE plays an active role in the program under a Corps/DOE Memorandum of

Understanding. Using historical evaluations of site activities, DOE determines site eligibility for the program, referring eligible sites to the Corps for further evaluation, and, where warranted, designation by the Corps for response action. The Corps' evaluation consists of a CERCLA preliminary assessment and sometimes a site inspection.

Two years after completing response actions and final closeout activities at a site, the Corps transfers responsibility for long-term stewardship back to DOE.

The program currently includes 23 active sites in nine states, although at two sites, the Wayne Interim Storage Site in Wayne, N.J., and the Ashland 1 Site in Tonawanda, N.Y., site closeout activities are occurring, and they are being transitioned to DOE. Each FUSRAP site may include multiple operable units, and sites may be undergoing multiple phases depending on the work being done at the operable units. Two new sites recently were added to the program: Guterl in Lockport, N.Y., and the Sylvania-Corning Plant in Hicksville, N.Y.

Seven Corps districts work on FUSRAP sites: Philadelphia, Baltimore, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, New England, New York and Buffalo. The Corps' Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Center of Expertise in Omaha, Neb., and the Kansas City District also provide assistance to the program.

Program funding has been relatively level at about \$140 million a year since the Corps began administering FUSRAP. The FUSRAP budget for this year, fiscal year 2006, is \$139 million.



*With removal actions nearly completed at the former Colonie Site, newly found contamination could impact cleanup.*

More FUSRAP information can be found at: <http://hq.environmental.usace.army.mil/programs/fusrap/fusrap.htm>.

## Site Updates

### ***Combustion Engineering Site, Windsor, Conn.***

In 2005, New England District completed a feasibility study at this 600-acre site in Windsor, Conn. This year, plans call for completing the proposed plan and record of decision as well as continuing potentially responsibility party discussions.

In 2007, the district plans to spend funds on project management and quality assurance activities associated with the remedial design/remedial action the responsible party will take.

### ***Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Middletown, Iowa***

A final Federal Facilities Agreement and sampling and analysis plan for the remedial investigation/feasibility study are expected this fiscal year at this 19,000-acre site near Burlington in southeastern Iowa. St. Louis District also expects to begin field work.

In 2005, the district continued to negotiate the Federal Facilities Agreement with the regulatory partners – Region 7 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Other stakeholders playing a role at the site, which was placed on the National Priorities List in 1990, include the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant and the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Advisory Board. Also in 2005, the district conducted additional walkover surveys to gather data useful for the remedial investigation/feasibility study and began developing the sampling and analysis plan.

Next year, the district plans to continue the remedial investigation/feasibility study.

### ***W.R. Grace Site, Baltimore***

In 2005, Baltimore District finalized the record of decision for Building 23, located on this 260-acre site on an industrialized peninsula in south Baltimore.

The district also began negotiating an agreement with the site owner to perform the cleanup work and drafted a remedial investigation/feasibility study for the Radioactive Waste Disposal Area, east of the plant proper.

This year, the district plans to complete the remedial investigation/feasibility study for the disposal area.

In 2007 negotiations will continue with the site owner to clean up the disposal area.

### ***Shpack Landfill, Norton/Attleboro, Mass.***

In August 2005, the Corps contractor mobilized to the Shpack Landfill Site, an 8-acre abandoned domestic and industrial landfill, and began preparing to clean up the radioactive material onsite. Once excavation began, it became apparent that the initial estimates of the project cost were not adequate to cover the radioactive removal part of the project as planned. The New England District project managers plan to remove as much radioactive material as possible this year for out-of-state disposal before shutting down the project while awaiting additional funds.

The Corps is responsible for removing the radioactive soil and debris from the site, while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the removal of chemical waste and heavy metals by the potentially responsible party group. The site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1986, primarily to address contaminants, other than the low-level radioactive waste.

Depending upon funding, the district will start Phase 2 of the remedial action in 2007 or 2008.

### ***North County Sites, St. Louis***

In September 2005, St. Louis District completed the record of decision for the North St. Louis County Sites, which include the St. Louis Airport Site, the St. Louis Airport Site Vicinity Properties and the Latty Avenue Properties. This document establishes the final remedy for cleaning up these sites.

### ***St. Louis Airport Site, St. Louis***

In 2005, the St. Louis District removed and shipped about 100,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil as part of an interim removal action at the St. Louis Airport Site. This year, the district expects to remove and ship about 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil in accordance with the record of decision, and in 2007, will remove and ship about 25,000 cubic yards of soil so it can backfill and restore the site, thus completing the construction activities. The St. Louis Airport Site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1989.

### **St. Louis Airport Site Vicinity Properties, St. Louis**

This year, the district expects to perform design work and clean up about 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil at the St. Louis Airport Site Vicinity Properties, about the same amount of soil removed during 2005. The activities will continue each year until cleanup is completed.

### **Latty Avenue Properties, St. Louis**

In 2005 the district removed 800 cubic yards of contaminated soil in utility support of Latty Avenue Property landowners, and plans to continue to remove contaminated soil this fiscal year. In 2007, depending on funding, the district expects to excavate and ship approximately 10,000 cubic yards.

### **St. Louis Downtown Site, St. Louis**

In accordance with the record of decision, St. Louis District completed the cleanup of two vicinity properties (Midtown Garage and Thomas and Proetz Lumber Company) in 2005 at the St. Louis Downtown Site. It also completed the design for three vicinity properties and removed 9,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

This year, the district is beginning to develop the feasibility study/proposed plan for inaccessible soils at the Mallinckrodt, Inc., site; completing the remedial design for one vicinity property; and cleaning up about 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the Mallinckrodt Plants 7 North, 6 West and one vicinity property.

In 2007, the district will clean up about 14,000 cubic yards of soil from Plant 6 West and a vicinity property while continuing work on the feasibility study/proposed plan/record of decision for inaccessible soils.

### **DuPont Chambers Works, Deepwater, N.J.**

In 2005, the Philadelphia District performed the gamma walkover and about 90 percent of the sampling and well installation needed in Operable Unit #3 at this 700-acre active chemical plant on the Delaware River southeastern shore. Operable Unit #3 includes the Historical Lagoon A Basin and the East Area.

This year, the district will complete the final intrusive site soil contamination investigation and analysis on Operable Unit #3. The district has begun incorporating the resulting data into a site-wide remedial investigation and risk



*A health physics technician swings a meter as part of the gamma walkover survey at the Maywood site.*

assessment and will continue the ground-water contamination investigations at the site.

During 2007, the district will finalize both the site wide feasibility study and the ground-water investigations and analysis.

### **Maywood Chemical Superfund Site, Maywood, N.J.**

A combination of many privately and government-owned properties, this site is listed on the National Priorities List. New York District finalized the ground-water remedial investigation, continued remedial action for soils remaining under the record of decision, and continued to develop the ground-water feasibility study and proposed plan in 2005.

This year, the district is working three different actions – continuing the remedial action for the soils, completing the ground-water feasibility study and proposed plan, and initiating the ground-water record of decision. The district plans to complete the ground-water record of decision and continue the soils remedial action in fiscal year 2007.

### **Middlesex Sampling Plant, Middlesex, N.J.**

In 2005, New York District completed a record of decision for contaminated soils at this federal government-owned site and the ground-water remedial investigation. It also initiated a ground-water feasibility study and proposed plan.

This year, the district is continuing the soils cleanup and plans to complete the ground-water feasibility study and proposed plan as well as beginning work on the ground-water record of decision. It expects to use fiscal year 2007 funding to complete the soils cleanup and the ground-water record of decision.

### **Ashland 1, Tonawanda, N.Y.**

With more than 33,000 tons of contaminated soil removed from Rattlesnake Creek at a cost of \$17 million, Buffalo District is nearing completion of the larger \$95 million Ashland Sites Cleanup Project.

The Ashland Sites, consisting of Ashland 1, Ashland 2 and Rattlesnake Creek, were contaminated with low-level radiological material, including thorium, radium and uranium. The district completed the cleanup (excavation and disposal of contaminated soils) at the Ashland 2 site in September 1999 and the Ashland 1 site in December 2002. A total of 225,250 tons of contaminated soils were shipped out of New York State for proper disposal.

The district identified additional contamination along a one-mile stretch of the adjacent creekbed, Rattlesnake Creek, and included its cleanup in the program; completing the cleanup in September 2005. That project added 6.2 acres of "cleaned property" to the already "clean" 14 acres, thus making this privately held property available for future unrestricted development. To help complete the project, the district used a team/partner approach that resulted in more routine coordination and working relationships with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and local community leaders.

During this year, the district plans to complete both the Rattlesnake Creek site restoration work and construction report. In

2007, it will close out the Ashland Sites record of decision and turn the site back to the Department of Energy.

### **Colonie Site, Colonie, N.Y.**

New York District is nearing completion of removal actions on the main portion of the former National Lead Industries site and starting a removal action at the adjacent railroad vicinity property this year while developing the draft record of decision. However, additional soil contamination has been discovered on the main portion of the site.

In 2005, the district continued removal actions on the site and developed the engineering evaluation/cost analysis for the



*Construction debris is all that remains after the September demolition of a building at the Middlesex Sampling Plant in Middlesex, N.J.*

railroad property. Earlier this year, the district finalized and the division approved the action memorandum for the adjacent railroad vicinity property. Work continues on the removal

action at the main site under a revised action memorandum.

Plans are under way to address the additional contamination found under building foundations on the main portion of the site. This additional contamination may affect the district's plans to complete the record of decision in fiscal year 2007.

### **Seaway Industrial Park, Tonawanda, N.Y.**

A closed sanitary landfill, the Seaway Industrial Park is a privately owned 93-acre site. In fiscal year 2005, Buffalo District completed the draft feasibility study addendum, coordinated that draft addendum with project stakeholders and responded to their comments.

This year, the district is revising the feasibility study addendum in accordance with stakeholder comments, initiating the proposed plan. In fiscal year 2007, the public will have the

opportunity to review and comment on the proposed plan. The district also expects to initiate work on the record of decision in 2007.

**Former Linde Air Products, Tonawanda, N.Y.**

A 60-year-old, 31,000-square foot steel building that once had radiological contamination internally, externally and beneath it is no longer a concern at the former Linde Air Products site, now known as Praxair Technology Center. Buffalo District successfully completed cleanup of the Building 14 Operable Unit in May 2005, dismantling the structure, removing 14,200 tons of radiologically contaminated debris and soils, and completing it \$1.5 million (14 percent) under budget by sharing contract resources with a soils cleanup contractor concurrently performing work at the site.

The district credits effective coordination and project management as major factors in the successful completion of the Building 14 remedial action as well as frequent communication and coordination with the public, the property owners and state and federal regulators.

In addition to finishing up the Building 14 remedial action this past year, the district completed the remedial investigation/feasibility study on the ground-water operable unit and the remedial investigation for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity Property, and continued soils cleanup.

In 2006, the district will continue cleaning up the soils, will complete the ground-water proposed plan, and initiate the record of decision on the ground-water operable unit. In addition, the district will complete the proposed plan for the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Vicinity Property. The soils cleanup includes a significant volume of newly discovered contaminated materials uncovered near the



*Crews remove some of the contaminated soil from Rattlesnake Creek.*

railroad tracks on the eastern border of the site.

Fiscal year 2007 funding is expected to be used to continue the soils cleanup and complete the ground-water record of decision for the Linde site.

**Niagara Falls Storage Site, Lewiston, N.Y.**

In 2005, Buffalo District continued to make progress on the remedial investigation/feasibility study at this 191-acre federally owned site, 19 miles northwest of Buffalo, N.Y. It also continued the yearly site maintenance, monitoring and surveillance activities as well as community involvement efforts.

This year, the district plans to complete the first draft of the remedial investigation report and continue the feasibility study in addition to the

yearly site maintenance of the below-ground interim repository.

In 2007, the district expects to conclude the remedial investigation and any necessary treatability studies, continue the development of the

feasibility study and report, and continue the maintenance, monitoring, surveillance and community involvement activities.

**Guterl Specialty Steel, Lockport, N.Y.**

The former Guterl Specialty Steel site, also known as Simonds Saw and Steel Corporation, encompasses about 70 acres in Lockport, N.Y., about 20 miles north of Buffalo. The site, which is adjacent to an active steel plant currently in operation, was used to perform rolling mill operations on uranium and thorium metals. In fiscal year 2005, Buffalo District initiated a remedial investigation on the site, which was added to FUSRAP in mid-2005.

In 2006, Buffalo District will complete field sampling plans and work plans.

In 2007, the district plans to continue the field work for the remedial investigation and initiate the feasibility study.

### ***Sylvania Corning Plant, Hicksville, N.Y.***

Another new addition to FUSRAP, the Sylvania Corning Plant sits atop 10.5 acres divided into three separate properties. The facility was used for two distinct, but similar operations. From 1952 to 1965, the facility operated under contracts with the Atomic Energy Commission for research, development and production primarily in support of the government's nuclear weapons program. From 1952 to 1967, a second operation concentrated on AEC-licensed work primarily for the production of commercial reactor fuel, and other reactor core components.

New York District used fiscal year 2005 funding to prepare a preliminary assessment of the site and to coordinate with stakeholders. This year, it plans to initiate a remedial investigation and baseline risk assessment and will complete both in fiscal year 2007.

### ***Harshaw Chemical Company, Cleveland***

In 2005, Buffalo District completed the second phase of field sampling and analysis for the remedial investigation of this privately owned 40-acre site along the Cuyahoga River, five miles southwest of downtown Cleveland.

In 2006, the district plans to complete the remedial investigation report and begin the feasibility study. In fiscal year 2007, the district's plans call for continuing the feasibility study and beginning work on the proposed plan.



*A worker installs a monitoring well that will be sampled under the long-term monitoring program at the Wayne Interim Storage Site.*

### ***Luckey Site, Luckey, Ohio***

Completing the record of decision and conducting annual ground-water sampling are scheduled for Buffalo District in 2006 at this privately owned 40-acre site southeast of Toledo, Ohio.

In 2005, the district began work on the record of decision and conducted ground-water sampling. The soils record of decision will be completed in 2006, and the ground-water record of decision is scheduled for completion in 2007.

Initiating preliminary remedial design and conducting annual ground-water sampling are both proposed for fiscal year 2007.

### ***Painesville Site, Painesville, Ohio***

Buffalo District completed the feasibility study addendum and the proposed plan and initiated a record of decision in 2005 for this 30-acre site northeast of Cleveland.

The district completed the record of decision in April 2006, and remedial design is under way. Site cleanup and restoration will start in 2006 and be completed in 2007 followed by preparation of closure reports and the beginning of site transition to the Department of Energy.

### ***Shallow Land Disposal Area, Parks Township, Pa.***

Pittsburgh District completed remedial investigation field work and began a feasibility study at this 44-acre site, northeast of Pittsburgh, in 2005.

The district plans to complete the feasibility study and initiate a proposed plan this year. With fiscal year 2007 funding, the district expects to complete the proposed plan and record of decision.

### ***Wayne Interim Storage Site, Wayne, N.J.***

On April 17, this 6.4-acre site took a giant leap toward becoming a future ball field. On that day, city officials and a member of Congress opened the chain-link gates to the property listed on the National Priorities List, once owned by W.R. Grace and Company, which had been sitting dormant for two decades.

But now, thanks to efforts of New York District at a cost of \$95 million, with an additional \$30 million contributed by Grace, the site will be transferred to township officials in June to be turned into ball fields. District personnel faced two challenges at the site —

removing about 70,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil underneath the surface and the management of ground water under artesian conditions. The site was declared "clean" in 2001, but monitored through a long-term ground-water testing program. The final test is scheduled for June, and if that test shows the same results, radioactivity in soil well below the federal environmental safety standard of 5 picocuries per gram of thorium, then the township will take over the land.

The district is negotiating a land-use control contract with the county to address inaccessible soils under a county-owned road nearby.

### **Potential New Sites**

The Department of Energy considered several hundred sites in the public and private sectors with the potential for residual radioactive contamination as a consequence of work done in support of nuclear energy technology development, stated in the early 1940s by the Manhattan Engineer District. Of these sites, DOE designated a limited number for cleanup under FUSRAP and eliminated the others from

further consideration at that time. However, new information does become available. When that happens, DOE notifies the Corps of that information changing the status of eliminated sites to eligible according to FUSRAP criteria.

Three Dayton, Ohio, sites — Dayton Units 1, 3 and 4, all considered potential FUSRAP sites — were investigated and a determination has been made that there is no FUSRAP-related contamination detected that warrants any further action. At a fourth Dayton, Ohio, site, the Dayton Warehouse site, studies have been completed and a final decision is expected by the end of this fiscal year. Buffalo District completed a preliminary assessment for the Scioto Laboratory Complex, in Marion, Ohio, and is planning a limited sampling event, which is expected to be completed later this year.

The Corps is evaluating the former Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Company in Fort Wayne, Ind., to determine if it should be designated for inclusion in FUSRAP. In February, the former Superior Steel Company site, in Carnegie, Pa., was identified as eligible for FUSRAP. Buffalo District currently is planning preliminary assessment activities.

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