Fact Sheet

Colonie, New York | Site

A FUSRAP SITE

This fact sheet provides information about the **Colonie site**. Long-term stewardship responsibilities for this site are managed by the **U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management** under the **Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program**.

Site Information and History

The Colonie site is an 11.2-acre vacant property located at 1130 Central Avenue (New York State Route 5) in the town of Colonie in Albany County, New York. Colonie is a suburb of the city of Albany.

Industrial operations began at the site in 1923, when a factory was built to manufacture wooden products. In 1927, the factory was converted to a brass foundry for manufacturing railroad components. In 1937, National Lead Industries (NL) purchased the facility to conduct electroplating operations. NL also bought an adjacent lot that contained a portion of Patroon Lake and used it to dispose of used casting sands, which contained high concentrations of heavy metals, primarily lead, copper, and arsenic. The lake was used for additional waste disposal through 1961. In 1958, NL began producing items, including fuel components, made from uranium and thorium under licenses issued by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the state of New York. The plant handled enriched uranium from 1960 to 1972, as well as depleted uranium (DU) until 1984. AEC terminated the contract in 1968, and work afterwards was devoted to fabricating shielding components, artillery projectiles, and aircraft counterweights from DU. Waste DU powder is pyrophoric and was disposed of in an on-site incinerator, which resulted in DU dust contamination on the site and 56 surrounding vicinity properties (VPs). The New York State Supreme Court shut down the NL plant in 1984 due the violation of air emissions regulations, and the site was sold to U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). As part of the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-50), DOE was directed to remediate the site. DOE managed the site and cleanup under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) from 1984 to 1997. During this period, DOE investigated the vicinity properties, on-site structures, groundwater, and surface and subsurface soils; developed a plan to remove radiologically impacted soils; cleaned up 53 of 56 vicinity properties; removed the on-site buildings; and stored the resulting waste materials.

DOE purchased the Niagara Mohawk property bordering the National Lead site to the west in 1985 to assist the cleanup. DOE performed investigation and cleanup activities until remediation responsibilities were transferred by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1997.

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Colonie National Lead Industries plant, 1983.

Colonie, New York, Site, 2020.

In 2007, USACE completed a large-scale soil removal at the main site and the three remaining vicinity properties by excavating and disposing of 135,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated with radionuclides, metals, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) off-site and then backfilling with clean soil. In 2010, USACE began a groundwater monitoring program to measure how VOCs with concentrations above safe levels were naturally diminishing. Between 2011 and 2014, USACE investigated depleted uranium dust contamination in vicinity properties, including homes and commercial properties. USACE determined that the residual dust contamination required no further action.

The cleanup at the Colonie site and vicinity properties was completed in accordance with Records of Decision (RODs) for the three site operable units (OUs). The Groundwater OU (completed April 2010), Main Site Soils OU (completed March 2015), and the Vicinity Property OU (completed September 2017) comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The Colonie Site Closeout Report documenting the completion of the remedial actions was finalized in April 2018.

Colonie, New York, FUSRAP site boundary and environmental easements.

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Responsibility for the long-term stewardship was transferred to LM on Sept. 19, 2019. In January 2023, the property was sold to a private party. LM maintains access rights for the purpose of monitoring the effectiveness of the remedy and for sampling groundwater

All radioactive materials that were at levels above the cleanup requirements, as defined by the RODs, have been cleaned up on site property, on vicinity properties, and in the groundwater. No further action is required to address surface soil contamination. However, metals contamination remains on-site in subsurface soils in three specific inaccessible areas near utility infrastructure (indicated in the figure on the previous page). These areas are managed by institutional controls administered by a New York state-issued environmental easement that prohibits excavating these soils without supervision. The cleanup remedy for VOCs in the groundwater is monitored natural attenuation (natural reduction over time), and long-term groundwater monitoring will continue until the site reaches its target cleanup goals for VOCs.

Regulatory Setting

FUSRAP is the regulatory driver for the Colonie Site. AEC, a predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites used to develop the nation's nuclear weapons and atomic energy programs. DOE has the regulatory authority, under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to perform radiological investigations at sites used to support the nuclear activities of DOE predecessor agencies.

USACE conducts response actions at FUSRAP sites in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation actively reviews plans and reports for Colonie and other New York FUSRAP sites.

Current Site Conditions

The USACE cleanup resulted in a site suitable for commercial or restricted residential use. DOE made the site available to the public for redevelopment and sold the site to a private party in January 2023. The site has not yet been developed and remains vacant.

Legacy Management Activities

The DOE Office of Legacy Management's long-term stewardship responsibilities consist of monitoring groundwater, managing site records, conducting long-term periodic reviews every five years, and responding to stakeholder inquiries. The Office also conducts an annual desktop assessment to review site ownership, current land use, and compliance with land-use restrictions.

Contact Information

In case of an emergency at the site contact 911.

LM toll-free emergency hotline: (877) 695-5322

Site-specific documents related to the Colonie, New York, Site are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov/lm/colonie-new-york-site**.

For more information on FUSRAP site history or current long-term stewardship activities, contact:

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