

U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

Office of Legacy Management

NEW YORK

NIAGARA FALLS
STORAGE VICINITY
PROPERTIES

★ ALBANY

Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties, New York | Site

A FUSRAP SITE

This fact sheet provides information about the **Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties** 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 Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties, New York, Site is located in Lewiston, New York, approximately 10 miles north of the city of Niagara Falls, New York. The site is a remnant of the U.S. Army's 7,500-acre Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, which was used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Manhattan Engineer District (MED) for the storage and transshipment of radioactive materials during World War II. By 1948, the War Assets Administration had transferred or sold 6,000 acres of the original property, and the remaining 1,500 acres were subsequently given to the newly formed U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). From 1955 to 1975, more than 1,300 acres were transferred or sold to private concerns, leaving the current 191 acres that comprise the Niagara Falls Storage Site.

From 1944 to 1947, MED stored uranium ore processing residues at the site. In addition, the original site was used as a storage site for uranium metal rods and as a disposal site for radioactive wastes. Between 1953 and 1959, a major cleanup was conducted, including consolidation, removal,

and transportation off-site of surface debris. However, despite these cleanup efforts, radioactively contaminated soils and residues remained.

Residual radiological contamination persisted on portions of the 1,300 acres that AEC had sold or transferred. The original property was broken into smaller parcels. Referred to as vicinity properties, they included 25 properties designated as A, B, C', D, F, H', L, M, N/N' North, N/N' South, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, West and Central Drainage Ditches, and areas along Pletcher Road — plus three anomaly properties: Anomaly AA (located in the town of Lewiston), Anomaly BB (in the town of Niagara Falls), and Anomaly CC (in the city of Niagara Falls).

From October 1970 to June 1971, radiological surveys of the vicinity properties indicated that approximately 6.5 acres had residual radioactive material that exceeded AEC guidelines. As a result, 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed. DOE conducted an aerial radiological survey of the region in 1978. Detailed radiological characterization surveys conducted in 1979

and 1980 identified contamination in excess of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines along the entire length of the West Drainage Ditch and most of the Central Drainage Ditch. From 1981 to 1985, Oak Ridge National Laboratory performed radiological surveys of the vicinity properties and ditches. Of these, 23 were found to be contaminated. The 1979-1980 radiological characterization and subsequent remedial action were performed as part of DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

Remedial action of these 23 properties, which was completed in 1986, consisted of excavating soil and rubble and restoring off-site drainage ditches. Approximately 50,000 cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste were removed, placed in watertight dump trucks, and transported to an interim waste containment structure constructed on the Niagara Falls Storage Site.

Contamination was left in place along portions of the Central Drainage Ditch where radium-226 concentrations exceeded FUSRAP guidelines. Because a hazard analysis indicated that the contamination posed no risk to members of the public, supplemental limits were applied to that section of the ditch. Supplemental limits have been applied in place of the primary limits in situations where the cost of remediation would be unreasonably high compared to the long-term benefits, and the residual contamination does not pose a present or future risk to human health or the environment.

Regulatory Setting

AEC, the predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites used in the development of the nation's nuclear weapons and atomic energy programs. DOE has the legislative authority under the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, to perform radiological surveys, monitoring, and maintenance at sites used to support the nuclear activities of DOE's predecessor agencies. DOE also has legislative authority under the AEA to

remediate FUSRAP sites identified as requiring some form of response action. In 1997, Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) retains responsibility for long-term care of remediated FUSRAP sites. For more information about the program, please see the [FUSRAP fact sheet](#).

The Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties sites were remediated to criteria in Guidelines for Residual Radioactive Material at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the Federal Register on October 25, 1991.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties FUSRAP sites from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to LM.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the vicinity properties is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. Contamination in the supplemental limits area of the Central Drainage Ditch is below the risk-based standard established specifically for that area. An independent verification survey conducted after the completion of remedial action detected no residual radioactivity that exceeded current guidelines. Therefore, DOE released the individual vicinity properties for unrestricted use.

DOE did not complete investigations on three VPs (E, E', and G) because the properties were either in use or portions were inaccessible. USACE will investigate these properties once the areas are accessible. VPs H' and X were identified as eligible for FUSRAP and are currently under investigation by USACE.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties. LM's responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

Contact Information

In case of an emergency at the site contact 911.

Site-specific documents related to the **Niagara Falls Storage Site Vicinity Properties, New York, Site** are available on the LM website at www.energy.gov/lm/niagara-falls-storage-site-vicinity-properties-new-york-site.

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

**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503**

Email:
public.affairs@lm.doe.gov

DOE Office of Legacy Management
(970) 248-6070

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