



Buffalo, New York, Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Buffalo 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 Buffalo, New York, Site (formerly the Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company site) is located at 110 Hopkins Street in the southern portion of Buffalo, New York. The site consists of a single, approximately 129,600-square-foot building surrounded by approximately 161,460 square feet of grounds. Used for finishing steel products, the facility is currently owned by the Niagara LaSalle Corporation.

In September and October of 1952, the Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company machined and straightened uranium rods under subcontract with National Lead of Ohio (NLO), who operated the Fernald Site in Ohio under contract to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). These activities at the Buffalo site generated 53 drums of uranium waste cuttings, which AEC shipped to the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in Lewiston, New York, for disposal or recycling. At the completion of the uranium-machining operations, NLO conducted radiological surveys of the facility and identified contamination on the machining equipment. These machines were subsequently replaced.

Because no records could be located indicating the radiological condition of the site following uranium machining, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management recommended a survey of current radiological conditions. A 1992 preliminary survey of the building interior and exterior indicated residual radioactive material on the floor of the Special Finishing Area, a 3,230-square-foot section of the facility where the machining operations were performed. Samples confirmed the

contaminant was processed uranium metal. As a result of the 1992 survey, DOE designated the Buffalo site for inclusion into the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

A subsequent site characterization in 1995 identified elevated levels of radioactivity on the surfaces of the trusses and the floor of the former Special Finishing Area and on the concrete poured over a trench located west of this area. In addition, contamination in a second trench in the former Special Finishing Area was identified during the remediation process.

Remediation of the Buffalo site began in December 1998 and continued through March 1999. Trusses were remediated by scraping, wiping, and then removing the residual dust with a high-efficiency vacuum. Scabbling (a process that grinds and removes the surface of concrete) and jackhammers were used to remove surface contamination from the floor and from the concrete over the trench west of the Special Finishing Area. The second trench and a pit area contained metal shavings and debris, which were removed manually. The concrete pad covering this trench was jackhammered, and the trench walls and floors were scabbled, jackhammered, and sand-blasted. Approximately 60 cubic yards of construction debris was generated during the decontamination of the trusses, floors, and trenches. This debris was handled as radiologically contaminated waste and shipped to a licensed facility in Clive, Utah, for disposal.

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



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predecessor agencies. DOE also had 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 USACE, and since 1997, response actions at FUSRAP sites have been conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. The Office of Legacy Management (LM) retains responsibility for long-term stewardship of remediated FUSRAP sites. For more information about the program, please see the [FUSRAP fact sheet](#).

USACE remediated the contaminated areas of the Buffalo site to site-specific numerical standards established in a Record of Decision issued on December 11, 1998. The standards were based on criteria in Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 20, Subpart E. USACE Buffalo District completed remediation of the Buffalo site in March 1999.

After obtaining concurrence from the state of New York that the site complied with applicable cleanup criteria, USACE issued the site closure report and declaration of completion of remedial action on September 30, 1999.

In 2002, USACE transferred long-term stewardship responsibility for the Buffalo FUSRAP site to DOE, which in 2004 assigned FUSRAP management to LM.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial-action survey results indicate that the radiological condition of the Buffalo site is in compliance with the standards established in the Record of Decision, and USACE has released the site for unrestricted use.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Buffalo site. 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**

**LM TOLL-FREE EMERGENCY HOTLINE:
(877) 695-5322**

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

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

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