



NEW YORK

TONAWANDA
LANDFILL

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Tonawanda, New York | Landfill Site

A FUSRAP SITE

This fact sheet provides information about the **Tonawanda Landfill 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 Tonawanda, New York, Landfill Site is in Tonawanda, Erie County, New York, north of Buffalo. The Landfill site is owned by the Town of Tonawanda and is about 1 mile north of the Tonawanda, New York, Site (formerly known as the Linde site or Linde Air Products), which is a related Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) site.

Originally the site of a quarry in the 1920s, the 170-acre Tonawanda Landfill operated as a municipal landfill from the 1930s to 1989 that accepted a variety of waste, including incinerator ash, sewage sludge, construction debris, and municipal and yard waste. The landfill had two areas: the 115-acre mudflats used for sewage sludge placement and dewatering and the northern 55-acre landfill used for solid waste.

While inspecting areas bordering the Tonawanda site in 1991, investigators detected irregular readings of elevated gamma radiation in the landfill. The contamination source was waste material from the Tonawanda site. Between 1942 and 1946, Linde Air Products processed uranium ore under contract with the Manhattan Engineer District. Disposing and relocating processing wastes from the site resulted in higher radionuclide levels at four nearby properties in Tonawanda, including the Tonawanda Landfill site.

In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) split the Landfill site into two operable units, known as OUs: the Landfill OU and the Mudflats OU. In 2008, USACE determined the Mudflats OU did not need any further remediation.

The Landfill OU is within an inactive landfill owned and closed by the Town of Tonawanda in 2024 under authority of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. USACE conducted investigations and removal actions at the Landfill OU, completing remediation in 2020. After USACE released the Site Closeout Report in 2022, and after a two-year maintenance and monitoring period, the site was turned over to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) in 2024 for long-term stewardship.

Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites used in developing the United States' nuclear weapons and atomic energy programs.

DOE had legislative authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to perform radiological surveys, monitoring, and maintenance at sites used to support DOE predecessor agencies' nuclear activities. DOE also had legislative authority under the Atomic Energy Act to remediate FUSRAP sites that required some form of response action.

