# Fact Sheet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management






# Painesville, Ohio, Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Painesville 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 Painesville, Ohio, Site is a privately owned, 30-acre parcel located at 720 Fairport Nursery Road in the township of Painesville, approximately 22 miles northeast of downtown Cleveland. During active operations, the Painesville site was covered by production buildings, warehouses, office buildings, aboveground storage tanks, and rail spurs. The property owner has removed this infrastructure, with the last building removal (Building 400) occurring in 2017. Only a sheltered staging pad near the old rail spur remains in place.

In the early 1940s, the Defense Plant Corporation financed construction of a magnesium production facility on property acquired by the federal government. The Diamond Magnesium Company operated the facility under contract to the federal government from 1942 to 1953. Between 1952 and 1953, Diamond Magnesium received about 1,650 tons of radioactively contaminated scrap steel from the Lake Ontario Storage Area (now the Niagara Falls Storage Site) for use in the magnesium production process.

In 1963, the General Services Administration sold the facility to the U.S. Rubber Company, which later became the Uniroyal Chemical Company. The Uniroyal Chemical Company produced nitrile rubber, polyvinyl chloride nitrile rubber, and various polymers at the site until 1999, when they closed the facility and were acquired by the Crompton Manufacturing Company, Inc. (now known as the Chemtura Corporation). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) designated the Painesville site for inclusion into the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in 1992 on the basis of preliminary investigations DOE had completed in 1990 and 1991. DOE conducted a more detailed investigation of the site in 1996.

In 1997, remedial actions under FUSRAP were transferred from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). USACE conducted a removal action at the site in 1998 by removing approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil before suspending work due to the onset of winter conditions and discovery that the extent of contamination was greater than anticipated. USACE then completed a remedial investigation and feasibility study of the Painesville site in 2003 to determine the extent of FUSRAP-related soil contamination and to develop remedial alternatives to address it. USACE signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Painesville site on April 7, 2006. The selected remedy for site cleanup was excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated materials. Site remediation began in April 2007, and approximately 9,400 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and disposed of off-site in 2007 and 2008. Additional quantities of contaminated soil were discovered during the excavation phase, but a lack of funding forced a temporary halt in remediation in March 2008. Funding provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allowed resumption of site remediation in June 2010, using an innovative soil-segregation technology that minimized the potential for noncontaminated soil to be shipped off-site for disposal.

USACE completed final remediation of the Painesville site soils in August 2011. During the three site cleanup efforts, a total of 14,800 cubic yards of contaminated material was shipped off-site for disposal. USACE completed the site closeout report in 2014.

## Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (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 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 DOE 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.

In 2016, USACE transferred long-term stewardship responsibility for the Painesville FUSRAP site to LM.

## Current Site Conditions

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required by the Painesville site ROD. LM's long-term surveillance and maintenance responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries. Current stewardship activities also include periodic site inspections, and an annual desktop assessment reviewing site ownership, current land use, and compliance with current land use regulations.



*A View of the Entrance to the Painesville Site (2017).*



*Looking East Across the Painesville Site (2017).*

## 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 **Painesville, Ohio, Site** are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov/lm/painesville-ohio-site**

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