



Buffalo, New York, Site

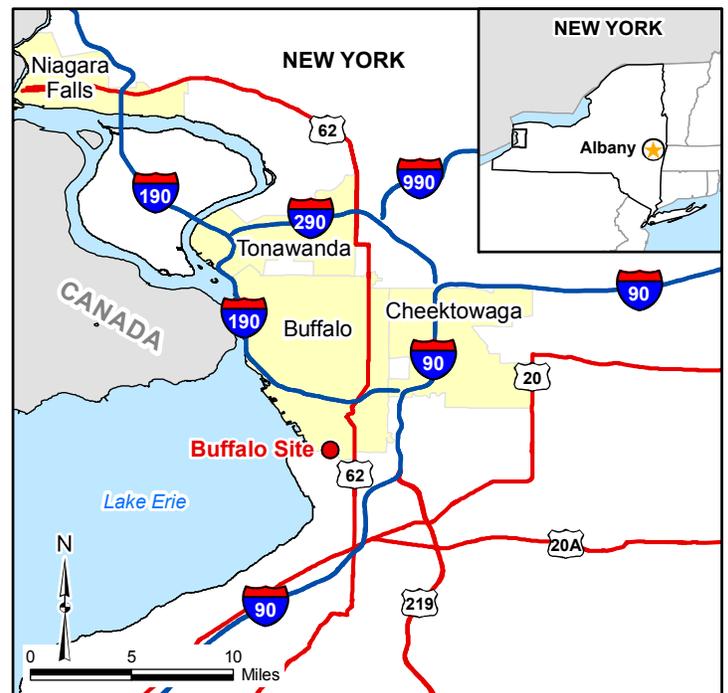
This fact sheet provides information about the Buffalo, New York, Site. This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

Site Description and History

The Buffalo, New York, Site (formerly the Bliss & Laughlin Steel 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 to 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 that 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) in that year.



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Location of the Buffalo, New York, Site

A subsequent site characterization 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 established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites where work was performed to develop the nation's nuclear weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiological surveys for more than 600 sites connected with the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup, including the Buffalo site. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated FUSRAP sites.

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 responsibility for the site to the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM).



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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.

Additional Information

In case of an emergency at the site, contact 911.

Documents related to FUSRAP activities at the Buffalo site are available on the LM website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/buffalo/Sites.aspx>.

For other information on site history or current long-term stewardship activities, please contact us at:

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