



Colonie, New York, Site

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about the Colonie, New York, Site.

This site is currently managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but will eventually transfer to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.

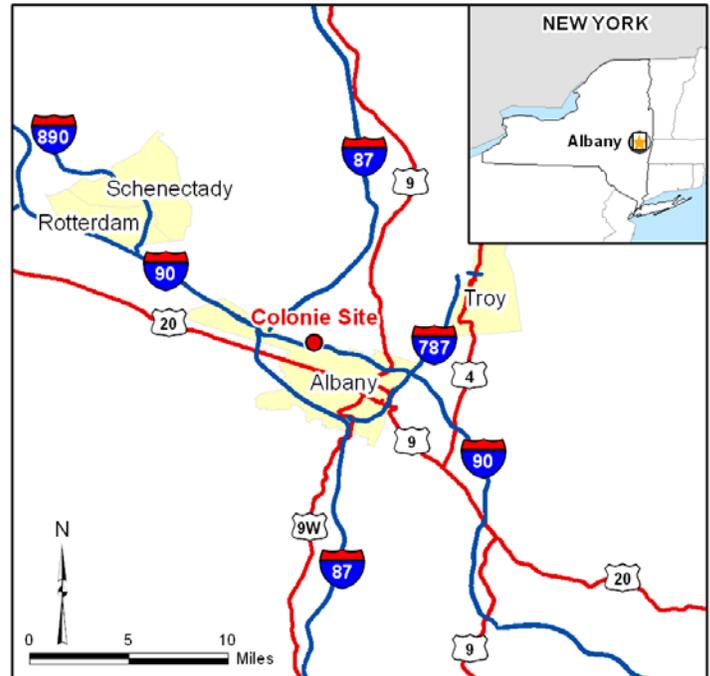
Site Description and History

The Colonie, New York, Site (formerly the National Lead Industries Site) is located near Albany, New York, at 1130 Central Avenue in the town of Colonie, Albany County. The site comprises 11.2 acres plus 56 vicinity properties. National Lead Industries owned and operated the facility from 1937 to 1984 and used it for electroplating and manufacturing various components from uranium and thorium. Radioactive materials were released from the plant exhaust stacks and spread to site buildings, to portions of the grounds, and to 56 commercial and residential vicinity properties. In addition, the company dumped contaminated casting sand and debris into the former Patroon Lake area on the site. In 1984, the New York State Supreme Court shut down the National Lead Industries plant.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) acquired the site and managed it from 1984 to 1997 as a decontamination research and development project under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1984. During that time, 53 vicinity properties were remediated and all National Lead buildings were demolished. In 1997, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assumed responsibility for the remaining cleanup activities at the site by executing DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

Two types of contaminated media were present at the Colonie site: source media (soil, processing waste, and bulk waste) and remnants of structures. The principal contaminants at the site were uranium, thorium, lead, copper, and tetrachloroethene.

Under a 2001 Action Memorandum, USACE implemented Alternative 2B—Large-Scale Excavation and Disposal—wherein soils with radionuclide and metals concentrations that exceeded removal action goals were removed and disposed of off site. In 2006, soil excavation of the main site was completed, the soils were staged for shipment and disposal, clean soils were placed over remediated areas, and 192,080 tons of backfill material were placed onsite. Also, cleanup of the 6.5-acre CXS Rail vicinity property was completed



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Location of the Colonie, New York, Site

in 2007. Contamination directly beneath the rail line and utility rail spur will be left in place. In 2010 USACE finalized a groundwater record of decision and is working on completing remediation of vicinity properties.

Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor agency to DOE, 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 Colonie site. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to USACE in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated FUSRAP sites.

The Colonie site is being remediated to criteria in an Action Memorandum, which was signed in December 2001, and under guidelines defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Current Site Conditions

Remedial action will continue in 2011 in accordance with the Action Memorandum.

DOE owns the Colonie site property and will offer the property for beneficial reuse upon transfer. Long-term surveillance and maintenance requirements will be determined once final site conditions are known. When remediation is complete, responsibility for the Colonie site will eventually transfer from USACE to the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM).

Additional Information

Documents related to the Colonie site and links to additional information about the site are available at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil> or on the LM website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/colonie/Sites.aspx>.

For more information about LM's activities at the Colonie site, contact

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Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way, Grand Junction, CO 81503

(970) 248-6070 (monitored continuously), or
(877) 695-5322 (toll-free)