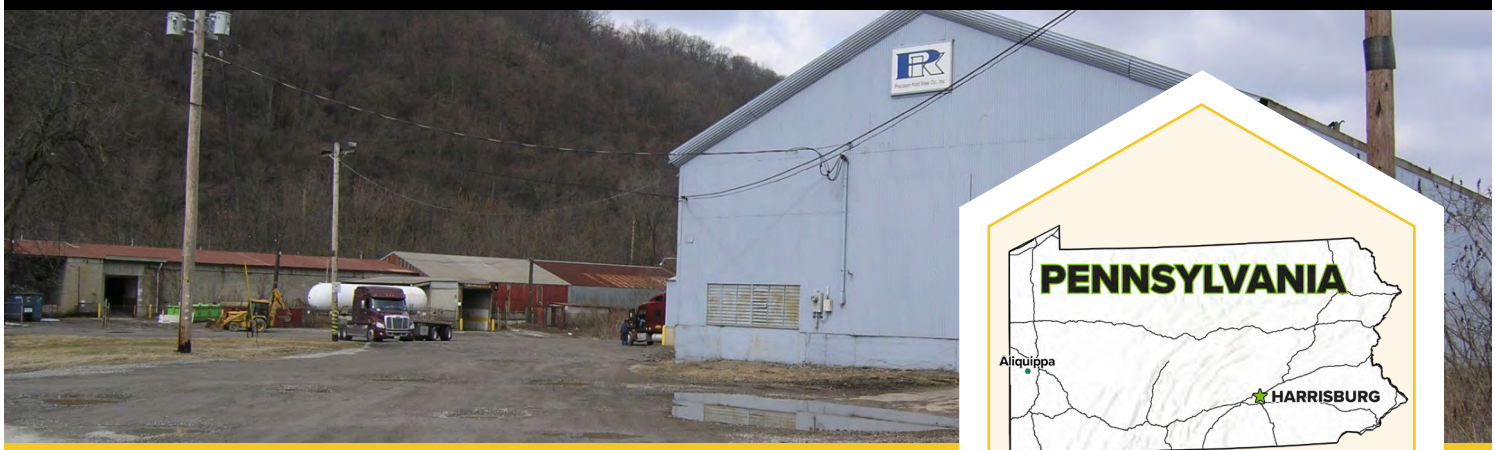
Fact Sheet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management



Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Site

A FUSRAP site

This fact sheet provides information about the **Aliquippa 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 Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Site (formerly the Aliquippa Forge site) is located at 100 First Street in an industrial area along the Ohio River in West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, which is approximately 15.6 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. The 8-acre site is currently owned by Precision Kidd Steel Company.

From mid-1948 to late 1949, Vulcan Crucible Steel Company operated a uranium-rolling process for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in Building 3. Uranium billets were sent to the 26,000-square-foot structure and formed into rods, which were then boxed and shipped to other facilities. Building 8, the other affected building on this site, extended north of Building 3 and housed two large air compressors. It had a total floor space of approximately 5,400 square feet. Building 8 has since been demolished. After completion of AEC operations, the Aliquippa site was decontaminated to then-applicable guidelines.

In 1978, Argonne National Laboratory conducted a radiological survey at the site and identified radioactive contamination exceeding U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines on floors, walls, and overhead beams. The site was designated for remediation under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in August 1983. Fourteen areas of contamination in and around Building 3 were identified during a 1987 radiological characterization survey.

In 1992, the Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education performed a radiological survey for remedial design of Building 3, the outdoor area along the western side of the building, and portions of Building 8.

Before remedial action began, the contaminated areas of both buildings were more accurately defined, revealing more residual uranium contamination than had been originally identified. In Building 3, contaminated areas included approximately 11,000 square feet of overhead area (11 trusses, roof panels, two exhaust turrets and associated ducts, light fixtures, wiring, and conduit); 990 cubic yards of soil and concrete from the west bay area; 1,100 square feet of contaminated walls; 19,000 square feet of contaminated floors; 5 cubic yards from a mica pit; 14 cubic yards from the west cutter pit; and 35 cubic yards of soil from along the western side of the building. The contamination for Building 8 consisted of 530 square feet of overhead area (three trusses and roof panels), approximately 5,400 square feet of floor area, 1,140 square feet of wall area, and 13 cubic yards of brick and soil. These areas were decontaminated in 1993 and 1994 using HEPA-filtered vacuums for dust; wire brushes, scrapers, and sandpaper for rust; excavation for soil and concrete; and removal of equipment, exhaust turrets, ductwork, and ventilators. Approximately 100 cubic yards of building material waste was reduced in size and sent to a licensed, low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Clive, Utah.

DOE verified that no residual contamination above applicable guidelines was detected in any area of Building 3 or Building 8, except Building 3 roof panel joints on the western side, the area between the roof panels and purlins (dust and debris), and three concrete support pedestals. A risk assessment concluded that the material left in place would not pose an unacceptable present or future risk to

workers or members of the public, and supplemental limits were approved for these areas. Supplemental limits have been applied in place of primary limits in situations in which the cost of remediation would be unreasonably high compared to the long-term benefits.

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 predecessor agencies. DOE also has 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 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) retains responsibility for long-term care of remediated FUSRAP sites. For more information about the program, please see the FUSRAP fact sheet.

The Aliquippa site was remediated to criteria in *Guidelines for Residual Radioactive Material at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites*. A certification notice for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 1996.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred long-term stewardship responsibilities for the Aliquippa FUSRAP site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to LM.

Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the Aliquippa site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. Based on a review of this post-remedial action data, DOE certified that reasonably foreseeable future use of the property will result in no radiological exposure above current guidelines established to protect members of the public as well as occupants of the site. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use.

Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Aliquippa site. LM's responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

Buildings at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Site

CONTACT INFORMATION

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AT THE SITE, CONTACT 911.

Site-specific documents related to the **Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Site** are available on the LM website at **www.energy.gov/lm/aliquippa-pennsylvania-site.**

For more information on FUSRAP site history or current long-term stewardship activities, contact:
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05/2020