



LTSM012586

# FUSRAP

September 1998

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

## Community Relations Plan

Bliss & Laughlin Site

Buffalo, New York



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.  
Buffalo District

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## **1.0 Overview of the Community Relations Plan**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District (USACE) has designed this Community Relations Plan to facilitate communication between the community surrounding the Bliss and Laughlin Site and USACE during the removal action to be performed under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

Federal regulations require that during a removal action, federal agencies develop community relations programs to be consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). These requirements are the basis for more comprehensive and effective community relations activities.

A removal action will be performed at the Bliss and Laughlin Site. It is USACE policy to continue to involve the public during the decision making process for the site. Included in this plan will be:

- Public Involvement Goals and Objectives
- FUSRAP Historical Information
- Site Information
- Community Information
- Community Relations Activities

The information in this plan is based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance on community relations.

### **1.1 Goals and Objectives**

It is the goal of USACE to be honest, forthright, responsive, and clear in dealing with the public, elected officials, interest groups, and the media.

It is the objective of USACE to increase public awareness of the program and its activities; decrease misunderstanding about environmental problems and potential dangers; facilitate two-way communication with the affected public; establish an effective means for dispute resolution; and enhance USACE's ability to perform this mission in the most effective and efficient manner.

## **1.2 Schedule of Activities Addressed by this Community Relations Plan**

The tentative schedule for the removal action for the Bliss and Laughlin FUSRAP Site is as follows:

<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Activity</b>
September, 1998	Establish and release Administrative Record for public comment.
September, 1998	Release Proposed Plan for public comment.
November, 1998	Release Responsiveness Summary to comments and Record of Decision.
November, 1998	Initiate removal action.

## **1.3 Access to Information and Opportunities for Public Comment**

Information about the Bliss and Laughlin FUSRAP Site can be found in the Administrative Record File in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Dudley Branch, located at 2010 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14220, and the USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center located at 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207.

The Administrative Record File contains documents used to develop the proposed action for the Bliss and Laughlin Site. Individuals and organizations may be placed on the mailing list by calling the 1-800-833-6390.

Public comments should be mailed to Ms. Arleen Kreuzsch at the USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207.

## **2.0 Program Historical Information**

In 1974 the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, initiated the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) to identify and clean up or otherwise control sites where residual radioactivity remains in excess of current guidelines from work that supported the Manhattan Project. The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998, authorized USACE to manage FUSRAP. USACE will conduct the site clean up in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

### **3.0 Bliss and Laughlin Site Information**

#### **3.1 Site Location, Description, and History**

The Bliss and Laughlin Site is located at 110 Hopkins Street in Buffalo, New York (Figure 3.1a). The facility consists of a single building with a floor area of approximately 129,600 square feet. Only minor modifications to the building have been made during the last 40 years, and it is still used for production of steel products.

In 1952, the Bliss and Laughlin Steel Company machined and straightened uranium rods under contract to National Lead of Ohio, which operated for the former Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio. The finished rods were then shipped directly to Fernald.

In 1972 Ramco Steel, Inc., bought the facility. The facility was sold again in 1992 to its current owner, the Niagara LaSalle Corporation.

#### **3.2 Surrounding Area**

The Bliss and Laughlin Site is located in an industrial and residential area in south Buffalo approximately one mile from Lake Erie and one mile from Lackawanna. An area of single family homes is located to the east of the site. A park with a golf course and botanical gardens is 3/4 miles to the south.

#### **3.3 Type of Hazardous Substances at the Site**

Historical investigations of the Bliss and Laughlin Site indicate the primary radiological constituent of concern for the site is Uranium-238 and its associated decay products.

### **4.0 Community Information**

#### **4.1 Government Entities**

The Bliss and Laughlin Site is located in the City of Buffalo, in Erie County, New York. City of Buffalo voters elect a mayor, a comptroller, and thirteen common council members as legislators and city administrators. The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city and is elected to a four-year term.

The Erie County government includes a county executive and county legislature. The county executive is the chief administrative officer of the county and is elected to a four-year term. The legislature is composed of 17 members.



## 5.0 Community Relations Program

### 5.1 Community Relations Tools

Use of community relations tools on the following table will ensure that the public is well informed about the decision-making process for the Bliss and Laughlin FUSRAP Site and has the opportunity to participate, address issues of concern, and exchange information:

Tool	Description
Toll-free access phone line	1-800-833-6390 Ext. 4438
USACE FUSRAP internet website	<a href="http://www.fusrap.usace.army.mil">www.fusrap.usace.army.mil</a>
USACE Buffalo District website	<a href="http://www.ncb.usace.army.mil">www.ncb.usace.army.mil</a>
Information Contact and phone number	Ms. Arleen Kreuzsch (716) 879-4438
Administrative Record	The Administrative Record File enables the community to review documents that USACE has used to evaluate the alternatives for the removal action for the Bliss and Laughlin Site and to select the preferred alternative.
Locations for the Administrative Record File	USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY  Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Dudley Branch, 2010 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14220.
Fact Sheets	Fact Sheets will be updated to convey information regarding the Bliss and Laughlin FUSRAP Site as significant developments occur.
Legal Notices and News Releases	Legal notices will be placed in The Buffalo News, and The Metro Community News. News releases will be sent to local newspapers to announce upcoming events regarding the site.

## Appendix A. Contact List of Key Community Leaders and Interested Parties

### Government Representatives

#### Federal

Honorable John J. LaFalce  
Representative in Congress  
617 Federal Building  
111 West Huron Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 846-4056

#### State

Assemblyman Richard J. Keane  
New York State Assembly  
1100 Abbott Road  
Buffalo, NY 14220  
(716) 825-6080

Assemblyman Richard Smith  
New York State Assembly  
3812 South Park Avenue  
Blasdell, NY 14219  
(716) 826-1878

#### County

Dennis Gorski  
Erie County Executive  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 858-8500

Michael A. Fitzpatrick  
Erie County Legislator  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 858-8853

Richard Tobe  
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Commissioner  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 858-6716

Dr. Arnold Lubin  
Erie County Health Department Commissioner  
Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 858-7660

John Kociela  
Erie County Environmental Health 95  
Services Director  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 858-7677



City

Anthony M. Masiello  
City of Buffalo Mayor  
City Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 851-4841

Dennis Manley  
City Council Member  
City Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 851-5169

**Regulatory Agency**

Paul Merges, Director  
Bureau of Radiation  
Hazardous Substances Regulation Division  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12233

**Interested Community Group**

League of Women Voters  
Attn: Leonore Lambert  
451 South Street  
East Aurora, NY 14052-2946

**Newspaper Distribution**

Buffalo News  
1 News Plaza  
P. O. Box 100  
Buffalo, NY 14240  
Phone: (716) 849-5531  
Fax: (716) 856-5150

Metro Community News  
P. O. Box 211  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
Phone: (716) 668-5223  
Fax: (716) 821-0550