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U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Field Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723

Attention: Ron Kirk, Site Manager
Former Sites Restoration Division

Subject: Bliss & Laughlin Site - Fact Sheet and Press Release for Approval

Dear Ron:

The attached Bliss & Laughlin fact sheet and press release are provided for your review and approval. Please sign the approval line at the bottom of this page and forward to Lori McCartney by January 20. Ms. McCartney can also be contacted by telephone at 576-3691 to discuss any revisions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Huber
Project Manager - FUSRAP

PRH:bjc:LR_1530
Enclosure: Draft Press Release and Fact Sheet

APPROVAL: Ronald E Kirk
Ron Kirk, Site Manager

1/12/95
Date



Bechtel National, Inc.

ACTION REQ'D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	DUE DATE	1/12/95
RESPONSE TO CHRON NO.				
<input type="checkbox"/> PPA <input type="checkbox"/> Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Milestone <input type="checkbox"/> O&R <input type="checkbox"/> CCN <input type="checkbox"/> CAR <input type="checkbox"/> MW-Yr <input type="checkbox"/> Yr-End <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Rpt				

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Draft 1/6/95

DOE Conducts Characterization Activities at Bliss & Laughlin

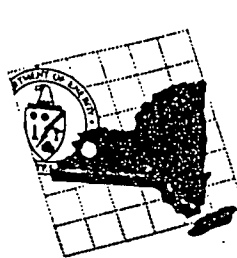
Oak Ridge, TN--The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is conducting sampling activities at the Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company in Buffalo during the month of January. The data being collected will be used to determine if residual radioactive materials at the site exceed current guidelines and to formulate a cleanup strategy, if necessary.

The site is being studied under DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), a national program for identifying and restoring sites contaminated with radioactive materials resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Under present conditions and use, contamination at the site does not present an exposure to workers or members of the public.

The residual radioactive material at the site is the result of work done in the fall of 1952, when the Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company machined and straightened uranium rods for the Army Corps of Engineers, Manhattan Engineer District (a predecessor of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Energy). The uranium work was performed under contract to National Lead of Ohio in support of the nation's early atomic energy program. Rods were shipped from the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works to Bliss & Laughlin Steel for machining, and finished rods were then shipped to the Feed Material Production Center in Fernald, Ohio. Previously owned by Ramco Steel, the current owner, Niagara Cold Drawn, purchased the site in 1992.

- DOE -

News Media Contact: Steven L. Wyatt (615) 576-0885



FUSRAP Fact Sheet

Activities at the Bliss & Laughlin Steel Site

U.S. Department of Energy • Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • January 1995

This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach requirements set by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.

Site Description and History

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

During September and October 1952, the Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company machined and straightened uranium rods for the Army Corps of Engineers, Manhattan Engineer District (a predecessor of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Energy). The uranium work was performed under contract to National Lead of Ohio, which operated a Feed

Material Production Center in Fernald, Ohio. The rods were shipped from the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) to Bliss & Laughlin Steel for machining, and the finished rods were then shipped to Fernald. Available records show that 53 drums of uranium turnings were returned to LOOW for ultimate disposal or recycling.

In 1972, the facility was sold to Ramco Steel Incorporated; the current owner, Niagara Cold Drawn Corporation, purchased the site in March 1992.



The building interior of the Bliss and Laughlin Steel Site.

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Site Characterization Studies

At the time of the uranium-machining operations, National Lead conducted a radiological survey of the Bliss & Laughlin Steel facility and found radioactivity on the machines and in the machining area. Contaminated equipment used in the machining has been replaced. No records indicating the radiological condition of the site following the uranium machining have been located.

In March 1992, at the request of the Department of Energy (DOE), the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education conducted a radiological survey of the facility. The survey included scans for alpha, beta, and gamma radiation, measurements of total and removable surface radioactivity, and collection of samples for laboratory analysis. Results of the survey indicate that residual radioactive material on the floor of the area used for uranium processing (currently known as the special finishing area) exceeds DOE guidelines. However, this material is fixed and

cannot be spread to other areas. Equipment and stored materials made some sections of the floor inaccessible during the survey, and it is possible that portions of the inaccessible areas are contaminated. Under present conditions and use, radioactive material at the site does not present an exposure hazard to workers or members of the public because the levels of radioactivity are very low, and no levels of transferable radioactivity above DOE guidelines have been found.

As a result of this survey, in September 1992 the site was designated for inclusion in DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), a national program initiated in 1974 for identifying and restoring sites with residual radioactive materials resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Under FUSRAP, additional data about site conditions will be collected and used as the basis for formulating a cleanup strategy for the site.

For More Information

Please call the FUSRAP 24-hour, toll-free, public access line, 1-800-253-9759, and your call will be returned promptly. You may also write to

U. S. Department of Energy
Former Sites Restoration Division
P. O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8723



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