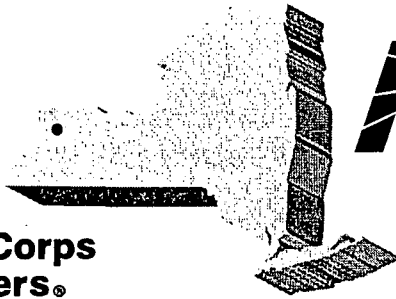




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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**



# **FUSRAP** *Fact Sheet*

## *Former Bliss & Laughlin Site Proposed Plan Summary*

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District • September 1998**

*This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach needs and is consistent with provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.*

### **What is the Former Bliss & Laughlin Site?**

The former Bliss & Laughlin 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. Minor modifications have been made to the building over the last 40 years, and it is still used for production of steel products. Currently, Niagara LaSalle Corporation owns and operates the facility.

In 1952, Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company performed machining and straightening operations on uranium rods for National Lead of Ohio. Bliss & Laughlin Steel Company shipped the machined rods directly to Fernald, Ohio and the turnings from the operations were sent to Lake Ontario Ordnance Works for packaging and shipment to Fernald.

Machining operations were performed in a section of the building called the "Special Finishing Area" which occupies approximately 3,230 square feet of floor space. This floor is concrete and contains several shallow utility trenches.

The low-level radioactive contamination at the former Bliss & Laughlin Site is confined primarily to the floor space and three overhead rafters. The primary radiological constituent of concern is uranium including its radioactive decay products.

### **What are the risks associated with the site?**

As long as the building remains in use under its current conditions as an industrial facility with provisions for periodic monitoring and reviews, the potential health risk posed by residual radioactive materials at the site is very low. Current industrial use conditions do not favor contact or exposure to residual radiation. However, in order to meet the standards for unrestricted future use of the facility, limited decontamination of building surfaces would be required.

### **What survey and sampling activities have taken place at the site?**

This site was designated to FUSRAP in 1992 based upon a survey performed by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Using the data provided by ORISE, a survey of the floor area and the overheads in the vicinity of the Special Finishing Area was conducted, and a less intensive survey was performed throughout the rest of the building, with emphasis on areas adjacent to the special finishing area, high traffic areas, and likely areas of material transfer such as locker rooms. Several areas on the floor and three overhead rafters were identified as having radioactivity above regulatory guidelines. No subsurface soil samples showed evidence of contamination. The remainder of the building was surveyed and found no evidence of additional contaminated areas. The results of the radiological and chemical characterization of the site are described in a 1995 Technical Memorandum (BNI, 1995) that is attached as an appendix to the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Proposed Plan.

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## ***What are the Evaluation Criteria?***

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the law governing cleanup of the former Bliss & Laughlin Site, cleanup remedies must be evaluated against nine criteria: overall protection of human health and the environment; compliance with federal and state environmental regulations; long-term effectiveness and permanence; short-term effectiveness and environmental impacts; reduction in toxicity, mobility or volume through treatment; implementability; cost; state acceptance; and community acceptance. The final two criteria will be evaluated following public and agency comments on the Proposed Plan and will be addressed in the Record of Decision once a final cleanup decision is made.

## ***What is the preferred cleanup recommendation?***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes decontamination of the building, identified as Alternative 3. This alternative is protective of human health and the environment. When compared to Alternative 1, no action, and Alternative 2, institutional controls, Alternative 3 is believed to provide the best balance with respect to the evaluation criteria. The radioactive materials generated during remedial activities will be disposed of at an appropriate licensed or permitted disposal facility. Post decontamination surveys will be conducted to verify that the release criteria has been met. This will complete the remediation at the former Bliss & Laughlin Site.

## ***How do I become involved?***

The Corps of Engineers welcomes your comments or concerns at any time. To learn more about the former Bliss & Laughlin Site you may review the Administrative Record or call the USACE FUSRAP Public Information Center at 1-800-833-6390. The Administrative Record File is available at the following locations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Library  
FUSRAP Public Information Center  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207-3199

and

The Buffalo and Erie County Public  
Dudley Branch  
2010 South Park Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14220

The public is encouraged to review the Proposed Plan during the public comment period which begins on September 28 and ends on October 28. Written comments may be submitted any time during this comment period and will be accepted if postmarked by October 28 at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
FUSRAP Public Information Center  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207-3199



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