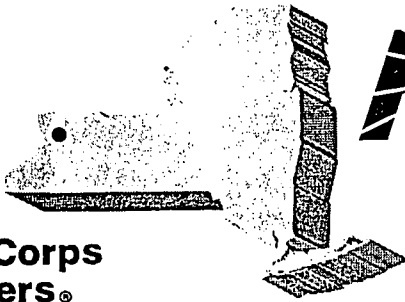


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**US Army Corps  
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# **FUSRAP** *Fact Sheet*

## **Bliss & Laughlin Steel**

### **Buffalo, New York**

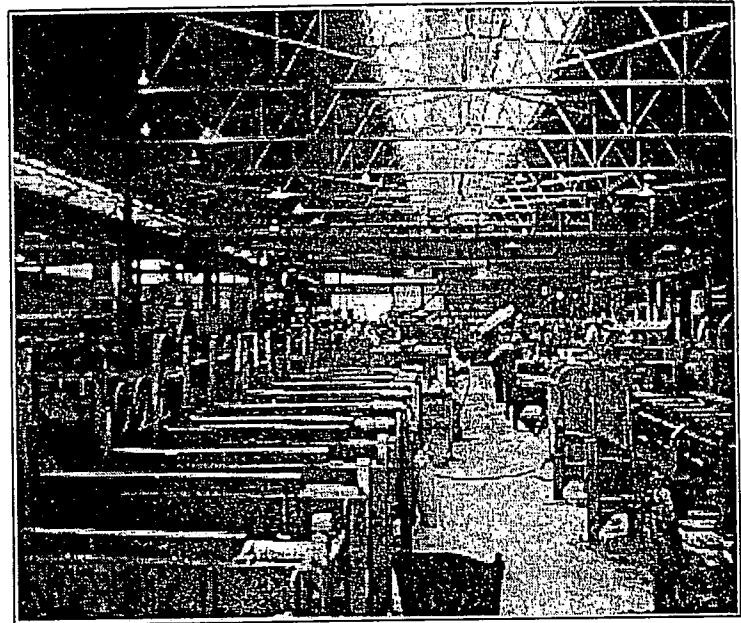


### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District • November 1997**

*The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 to identify and clean up contaminated sites used in the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Management of the program was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the U.S. Department of Energy in October 1997.*

### **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 to the building have been made during the last 40 years, and it is still used for production of steel products.



*Interior view of Bliss & Laughlin Steel in 1996.*

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

Available records show that 53 drums of uranium turnings from the work were shipped by the Atomic Energy Commission to the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in Lewiston, New York, for ultimate disposal or recycling. In 1972 Ramco Steel, Inc. bought the facility. The facility was sold again in March 1992 to its current owner, the Niagara Cold Drawn Company.

### **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, the Department of Energy (DOE) 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

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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 established guidelines. However, this material is fixed to the floor surface 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 also contain radioactive material above guidelines. 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 areas of transferable radioactivity above established guidelines have been found.

As a result of this survey, in September 1992 the site was designated for inclusion in the 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***

For more information, please call the FUSRAP 24-hour, toll-free public access line. Your call will be returned promptly. FUSRAP also has a home page on the Internet.

**Toll-free Telephone Number: 1-800-253-9759**

**Home Page Address: <http://www.fusrap.doe.gov/>**

Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Bliss & Laughlin Site. You may also contact the:

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
FUSRAP Public Information Center  
70 Pearce Avenue  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

(716) 871-9660

