Schools near sites being Investigated and Cleaned Up by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Remain Safe

US Army Corps of Engineers®

In any of the work conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, from navigation and dredging projects, flood control projects or hazardous waste cleanup projects, the Corps' top priority is protection of human health and safety and the environment.

Mission: Hazardous Waste Site Investigation & Cleanup

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has missions under two programs that address sites contaminated by past federal government activities – the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS).

Buffalo District is currently addressing environmental contamination resulting from past government activities at sites within parts of New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Of those, there are three sites in New York and one site in Ohio within one half mile of a school. In our service to the Army and the Nation, and as parents and neighbors ourselves, we work hard to protect students and the surrounding community from potential health hazards associated with these sites by taking measures to prevent migration of contamination from the sites. Regular monitoring ensures the effectiveness of these measures. Our specific actions at at sites in New York state are described below.

The **former Linde FUSRAP site** in the Town of Tonawanda is located adjacent to the Holmes Elementary School. To date, we have dismantled and removed five buildings, decontaminated two buildings, and removed approximately 165,000 tons of contaminated material from the former Linde site. Engineering controls, such as dust suppression, runoff water treatment and management and decontamination of equipment prior to leaving the site have effectively eliminated exposure of contaminants to on-site workers and the

surrounding neighborhood, including Holmes Elementary School. Prior to beginning work at the Linde site, ten perimeter air monitoring stations were established around the site in October 1999, including a continuous air monitoring station placed on the roof of the school. Results of this monitoring have confirmed the effectiveness of these controls. Further information about the Linde site is available at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/linde. Air monitoring reports are available at http://web.ead.anl.gov/corps/linde/mondata.

The **Tonawanda Landfill FUSRAP Vicinity Property** is located near the Riverview Elementary School. We are currently in the process of completing the Remedial Investigation at this site and no remedial action has taken place to date. Available data indicates that contamination has not migrated from the site. Further information about the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property is available at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/landfill.

The Lewiston Porter Central School complex is located within the boundary of the former **Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) DERP-FUDS** site, though it is located on land that was not actively used by the Department of Defense. The **FUSRAP Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS)** is also located within the former LOOW site. We have completed Phase II of a Remedial Investigation at the LOOW site and are currently maintaining a clay-capped containment structure at NFSS. Also at NFSS, one building will be demolished and work is in progress to remove some stored waste from another building. A Remedial Investigation is currently under way. We have conducted limited chemical and radioactive sampling on the school and neighboring properties, and results are within standards developed to ensure protection of human health and the environment. We are currently conducting an assessment to determine the potential health risk to individuals near the site, including at the school, from contamination at the actively used portion of the site. Further information about the LOOW site is available at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow. Further information about the NFSS site is available at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/nfss.