

Project Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District is addressing the Luckey Site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Under this program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identifies, investigates and, if necessary, cleans up sites throughout the United States that were used as part of the nation's early atomic weapons and energy program.



Questions? Contact Us:
(800)833-6390 (Option 4)
fusrap@usace.army.mil



Site History



1942 - 1945

Magnesium Production

A magnesium processing facility was built and operated for the U.S. government during World War II.



1949 - 1960

Beryllium Production & Contamination

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) converted the site to produce beryllium. The beryl ore used in this process naturally contained radioactive elements (radium-226, thorium-230, uranium). The chemical process to extract beryllium incidentally concentrated these materials into waste streams, leading to the contamination.



1959 - 1961

Facility Closure & Sale

The AEC moved waste sludge from on-site lagoons into a two-acre disposal area, which was then capped and seeded. The property was sold by the General Services Administration in 1961.

Our Cleanup Progress and Path Forward

Our cleanup strategy follows the disciplined and phased process required by CERCLA to ensure our work is safe, thorough, and effective.



Key Milestones Completed:

2006 & 2008

Records of Decision

Finalized the cleanup plans for contaminated soils and groundwater.

2018 - 2021

Remediation

Excavation and off-site disposal of soils contaminated with beryllium, radium-226, thorium-230, uranium-234, uranium-238, and lead began, removing contaminated soils from Lagoons A, B, and C (Phase 1) and Trenches 6 and 7 (Phase 2). Seven buildings were demolished for access to underlying contamination.

2024 - 2025

Building Removal

Removed concrete building slabs and foundations to access and remove contaminated soil underneath. Soil remedial activities in the central drainage ditch area was completed and the final building on site, the Bulk Storage building, was removed.

Current and Future Activities:

2026 Focus

Remediation

Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil will continue.

Ongoing Monitoring

Groundwater Focus

We conduct groundwater monitoring twice a year to track environmental conditions.

Five-Year Review

Site Evaluation

In 2028, the Corps of Engineers will complete its second Five-Year Review of the site. This is a standard CERCLA process to evaluate our cleanup remedy and ensure it remains protective of human health and the environment for the long term.