



FUSRAP Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

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.

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) is one of several U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs created to address radiological contamination in excess of guidelines at a number of sites throughout the United States. DOE and its predecessor agencies, the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), used many of these sites for processing and storing uranium and thorium ores during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Some of these sites were owned by the federal government; others were owned by universities or other institutions; and still others were privately owned.

Generally, sites that became contaminated through the uranium and thorium operations during the early period of the nation's nuclear program were decontaminated and released for use under the regulations in effect at the time. Since radiological guidelines were not as strict then as today, trace amounts of radioactive materials remained at some of the sites. Erosion and building demolition and construction resulted in some of the radioactive residues mixing with large volumes of soil and rubble, thereby spreading the contamination.

To further assess these sites and take appropriate remedial action, the federal government initiated FUSRAP in 1974. Initial site activities focus on reviewing old records and surveying sites to determine if contamination exists and if remedial action is required. If this survey determines that the site requires remedial action, it is authorized under FUSRAP. Limited remedial action began at some sites in 1979, and major remedial action has been under way since 1981. Currently, FUSRAP includes 33 sites in 13 states (see map). Remedial action has been completed at nine of the sites, and partial remedial action has been completed at nine others.

Objectives

The objectives of FUSRAP are to:

- Identify and evaluate all sites formerly used to support early MED/AEC nuclear work and determine whether the sites need decontamination and/or control.
- Decontaminate and/or apply controls to these sites so that they conform to current applicable guidelines.
- Dispose of and/or stabilize all generated residues in a radiologically and environmentally acceptable manner.

- Accomplish all work according to appropriate federal laws and regulations, local and state environmental and land-use requirements to the extent permitted by federal law, and applicable DOE orders, regulations, standards, policies, and procedures.
- Certify the sites for appropriate future use.

Organization

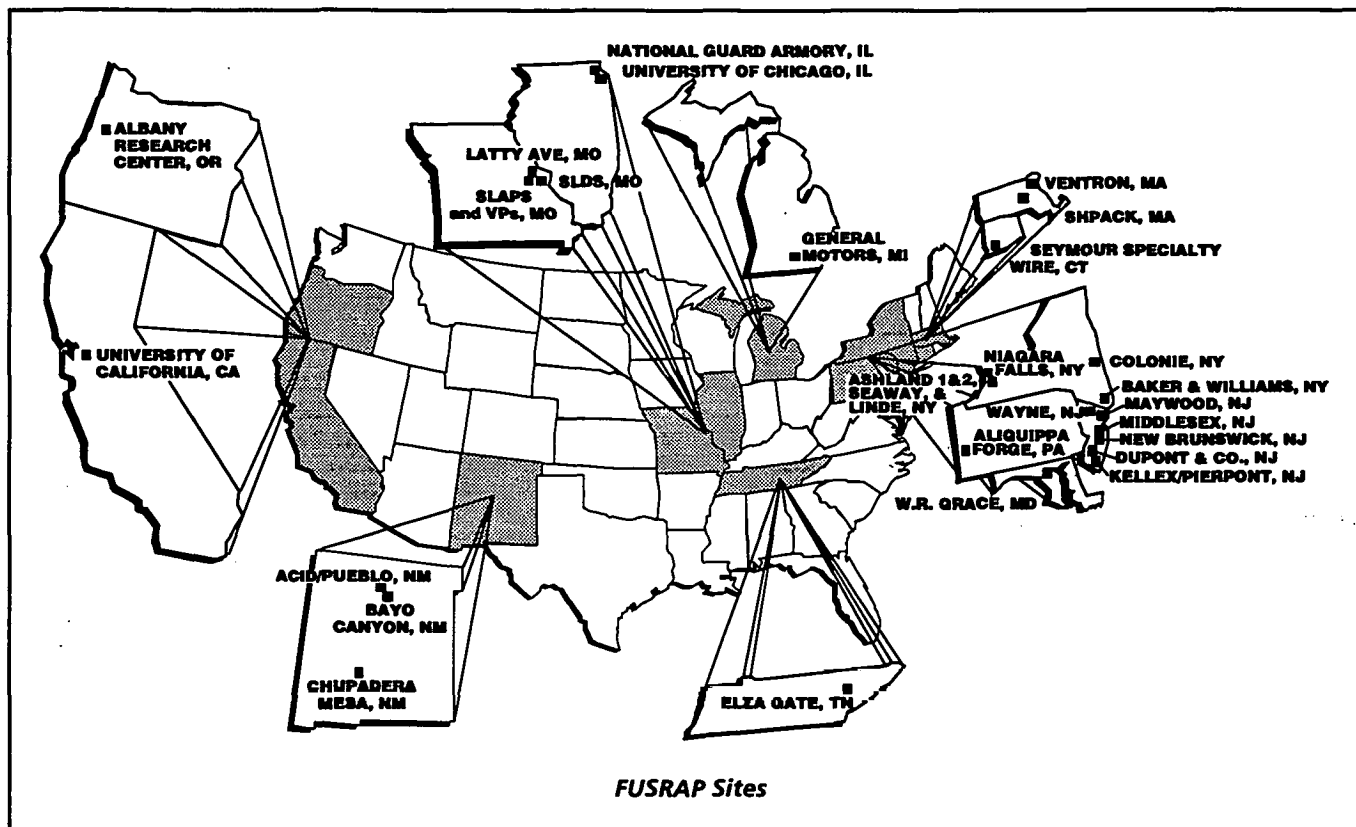
At DOE Headquarters, FUSRAP falls under the responsibility of the Director, Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management.

Technical, administrative, and financial management of FUSRAP field activities are the responsibility of the Former Sites Restoration Division (FSRD) of the DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office (ORO). Bechtel National, Inc., (BNI) the FUSRAP project management contractor, is responsible to FSRD for planning and implementing FUSRAP activities. BNI analyzes site conditions and evaluates and implements appropriate remedial actions; it also conducts environmental monitoring before, during, and after remedial action. BNI also administers subcontracts, coordinates the sequence of operations, controls the relationships among subcontractors, and ensures execution and documentation of project work in accordance with DOE guidance.

Argonne National Laboratory participates in preparing environmental compliance documentation required by NEPA and CERCLA to ensure that all feasible remedial action alternatives for a site have been evaluated and that the approach chosen is environmentally acceptable.

The radioactivity at FUSRAP sites does not present an immediate health hazard under current land use because the materials have very low concentrations and people are not exposed to them for prolonged periods of time. Although these materials are not a hazard, they will remain radioactive for thousands of years, and could cause a potential for increased health risks if the use of the land were to change.

Under the guidelines established for FUSRAP, the sites will be remediated to a very conservative standard that takes into consideration possible future land uses, such as residential development, crop production, and the installation of drinking water wells.



Acronyms Used

AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
BNI	Bechtel National, Inc.
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DOE	Department of Energy
FSRD	Former Sites Restoration Division
FUSRAP	Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
MED	Manhattan Engineer District
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ORO	Oak Ridge Operations Office