

Public Participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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For more information, visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/ny/niagara-county-radiation-removal-sites>

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently completed its work to remove radioactive waste material from properties located at 9512, 9524, 9540, and 9626 Niagara Falls Boulevard, as well as portions of an adjacent wooded area in Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York. These properties together make up the Niagara Falls Boulevard site. The work was conducted over the past four years.

ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES

EPA conducted radiological scans and sampled both soil and air in 2015 after New York State referred the site to EPA. EPA's assessment identified areas of elevated radiological activity, including a 1.4-acre woodland area, a 3.3-acre portion of the parking lot at the site, and approximately 7,526 square feet of internal building space consisting of an office, two

warehouses, and two storage areas. Though the site did not qualify for listing on EPA's National Priorities List, EPA determined that the radioactivity did present a significant health risk making the site eligible for a response action under EPA's Superfund removal program.

PHASED CLEANUP APPROACH

In 2016, EPA began to excavate and safely dispose of the radiological waste material and a licensed facility. EPA's work included:

- Minimizing the impact of the cleanup work on two on-site businesses – a bowling alley and a building supply center - which allowed the businesses to remain open during removal operations;
- Implementing a Community Air Monitoring Program to ensure the health and safety of the workers at the properties, the businesses' patrons, and the surrounding community;
- Establishing an on-site laboratory to process radiological samples, allowing for rapid results for decision-making purposes;
- Excavating internal building areas including an office space, two warehouses, and two storage rooms, which included demolishing concrete floors, removing waste material, importing clean backfill, and restoring areas to pre-removal condition by adding new concrete floors;
- Clearing and excavating a small wooded area in the northwest corner of the site;
- Excavating and backfilling the asphalt parking lot in stages to allow continued access to the two active businesses;
- Excavating, backfilling, and grading non-asphalt areas to ensure proper drainage from overland flow;
- Installing a new base and topcoat of asphalt throughout the parking lot area; and,
- Safely shipping and disposing approximately 28,362 tons of low-level radioactive material to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-approved disposal facility in Belleville, Michigan.

BACKGROUND

In the 1960s, industrial ore processing facilities in the Niagara Falls region produced a gravel-like, waste by-product commonly referred to as "slag." As a waste product, the "slag" that came to be located at the site contained elevated radiological elements and was used as fill and sub-base material prior to the installation of an asphalt parking lot at the site. The radioactive contamination at the site was originally identified in an aerial survey performed by the U.S. Department of Energy. Follow-up surveys were conducted by both Federal and State agencies.