

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

Mike Basile  
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator  
(646) 369-0055  
[basile.michael@epa.gov](mailto:basile.michael@epa.gov)

Peter Lisichenko, P.G.  
EPA On-Scene Coordinator  
(347) 276-6251  
[lisichenko.peter@epa.gov](mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov)

For more information on this site please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/ny/niagara-county-radiation-removal-sites>

For more information on EPA's response to COVID, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is set to undertake a removal action to address radiological contamination at an access road bordering a residential driveway near the Upper Mountain Road site in Lewiston Niagara County, New York in November 2020. The site consists of a culvert crossing and portions of a gravel driveway that serve as an access road to a wooded lot and a residential property.

EPA will excavate contaminated material and transport it to a licensed disposal facility. Post-excavation samples will be collected to confirm that cleanup goals have been achieved, and the area will be backfilled and compacted with material that meets New York State Department of Environmental Conservation criteria. It is anticipated that the excavation and backfill operations will be completed within two to three days, with one additional day potentially needed for any additional restoration work.

EPA has both a work plan and a health and safety plan for this removal action as is done at all work sites and will be employing COVID-19 precautions as part of its standard operating procedures. The health and safety plan requires best practices for site safety, including appropriate personal protective equipment for employees and residents, health checks of employees, and

other measures, in addition to promoting safe construction practices... Air monitoring activities will be in place during the removal effort to protect the workers and the general public.

## BACKGROUND

In the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, nearby industrial ore processing facilities produced a gravel-like waste by-product, commonly referred to as "slag", that contained radiological elements including uranium and thorium. In some instances, this material was considered cheap "fill" material and was used during construction activities throughout the area. In the case of the site, slag was used to fill and stabilize the culvert crossing and portions of the driveway. The original source of the material is unknown and is the subject of ongoing investigation.

The site was originally identified by the U.S. Department of Energy and subsequently, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation referred it to EPA to conduct a removal action to mitigate the public health threats posed by exposure to radiological contamination.