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**No Further  
Response Action Planned  
Decision Document  
IRP Site 9, Fire Training Pit No. 3  
Niagara Falls International Airport  
Air Reserve Station**

May 1998

Prepared for:

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
Air Force Reserve Command, 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



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International Specialists in the Environment

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# Declaration

## IRP

Installation Restoration  
Program

## IAP-ARS

International Airport-Air  
Reserve Station

## NFRAP

No Further Response  
Action Planned

## USAF

United States Air Force

## AFRC

Air Force Reserve  
Command

## NYSDEC

New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Site Name and Location

**Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 9, Fire Training Pit No. 3**, is located at the Niagara Falls **International Airport-Air Reserve Station (IAP-ARS)** in Niagara County, New York.

## Statement of Basis and Purpose

This **No Further Response Action Planned (NFRAP)** decision document presents the no further action alternative as the selected remedial action for Site 9. This alternative has been chosen in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act, and, to the extent practicable, the National Contingency Plan. This NFRAP is being issued by the **United States Department of the Air Force (USAF)**, 914th Airlift Wing of the **United States Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC)** at the Niagara Falls IAP-ARS, following consultation with, and concurrence of, the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)**. This decision is based on the administrative record file for this site.

## Description of the Selected Remedy

The selected remedy for soils and groundwater at Site 9 is no further action.

## Declaration Statement

AFRC has determined, with the concurrence of NYSDEC, that no further action is warranted for soils and groundwater at Site 9, Fire Training Pit No. 3, because the baseline risk assessment performed during the remedial investigation and the subsequent preliminary risk evaluation performed as part of the installation-wide groundwater monitoring project concluded that the site poses no current or potential threat to human health or the environment.



*Executive Summary*

**Signatures: Air Force Environmental Protection Committee Chairman and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

See Exhibit 1-1 for agency signatures and acceptance regarding the declaration statement.



**EXHIBIT 1-1  
DECLARATION STATEMENT**

On the basis of the remedial investigation and installation-wide groundwater monitoring at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 9, there is no evidence to conclude that the previous operations conducted at this site have resulted in environmental contamination that poses a current or potential threat to human health or the environment. This decision removes Site 9 from further consideration in the IRP pursuant to Corrective Action Module III under the installation's Part 373 Hazardous Waste Storage Permit and under CERCLA, as amended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald C. Von Berge, Col., USAFR  
Commander

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (NYSDEC)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# 1

**USAF**  
United States Air Force

**AFRC**  
Air Force Reserve  
Command

**NYSDEC**  
New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**IAP-ARS**  
Niagara Falls  
International Airport-Air  
Reserve Station

**MSL**  
mean sea level

## Decision Summary

### 1.1 Introduction

This decision document is issued by the **United States Department of the Air Force (USAF)**, 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the United States Reserve Command (AFRC), following consultation with the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)**.

### 1.2 Site Name, Location, and Description

#### Regional Site Description

The Niagara Falls **International Airport-Air Reserve Station (IAP-ARS)** is located in Niagara County, New York, approximately 15 miles north of the City of Buffalo and 6 miles east of the City of Niagara Falls (see Figure 1-1). The installation, located in an area of varied land use, covers approximately 547 acres in the towns of Wheatfield and Niagara. Areas of industrial use are primarily located 2 miles to the west and southwest, as well as adjacent to the southeast corner of the installation. Residential areas are adjacent to all sides of the installation. Areas zoned for agriculture/rural use are located to the southeast, adjacent to the northern and eastern boundaries. Commercial areas are located primarily to the west and south, along Military Road and Niagara Falls Boulevard.

Topography in the area of the installation is relatively flat. The majority of land is classified as grassland-type vegetative cover with scattered shrubs and trees. Most of the land is actively mowed and landscaped. Natural habitat is limited. Ground surface ranges from an elevation of approximately 600 feet above **mean sea level (MSL)** along the northern site boundary to 585 feet above MSL along the southern site boundary. Surface water drainage from the installation flows into Cayuga Creek, and then into the Little River, which in turn flows into the upper Niagara River and eventually Lake Ontario. Regional groundwater flow in the vicinity of Niagara Falls IAP-ARS is to the south-southwest toward the Niagara River.

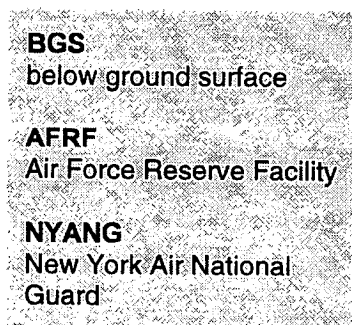


## 1. Decision Summary

The installation is located within the Huron Plain of the Central Lowland physiographic province. Bedrock strata in this area are comprised of Lockport dolostone from the Middle Silurian age and are approximately 140 feet thick in the vicinity of the installation. Bedrock groundwater flows through horizontal bedding planes, vertical fractures, and joints within the Lockport dolostone. Groundwater in the bedrock aquifer flows to the south-southwest. Naturally occurring soils in the area are classified as Wisconsin-age glacial till, lacustrine, and holocene fluvial deposits.

### Site 9, Fire Training Pit No. 3

Site 9, Fire Training Pit No. 3, is located just north of the stabilized overrun at the west end of the instrument runway near the western boundary of Niagara Falls IAP-ARS (see Figure 1-2). The site consists of a broad, oval area surrounded by a low earthen berm that was used by base personnel for fire training activities from the early 1960s to an unknown date. Training exercises were also held one to three times per month. Fires were ignited with combustible liquids such as oils, solvents, and JP-4 fuel and extinguished with aqueous foam or assorted dry chemicals. The site is not currently being used.



Site 9 is located in a very flat portion of the installation at an elevation of approximately 585 feet above MSL. Surface water runoff from the site is to an intermittent stream (an unnamed tributary of Cayuga Creek) that runs west past the site, eventually joining Cayuga Creek just north of the U.S. Army Depot. The site is not located within the 100-year or 500-year floodplain of Cayuga Creek. Depth to groundwater is approximately 4 to 5 feet **below ground surface** (BGS), and the groundwater generally flows southwest. A 72-acre Class II freshwater wetland exists west-southwest of Site 9; 14 acres of this wetland are located on base property.

## 1.3 Operation History and Environmental Background

### Niagara Falls Operation History

Niagara Falls IAP-ARS was established as Niagara Falls **Air Force Reserve Facility** (AFRF) in November 1942. The federal government leased 468 acres of municipal airport land for use by the Army Air Corps. In 1946, 132.2 acres of the leased land were returned to the City of Niagara Falls. The 136th Fighter Squadron of the **New York Air National Guard** (NYANG) was established on 8 December 1948 and occupied Old Camp Bell near the Bell Aircraft plant on the installation. The 76th Air Base Squadron was activated on 1 February 1952 as the installation host unit.

## 1. Decision Summary

On 16 February 1953, the 518th Air Defense Group replaced the 76th Air Base Squadron as the host unit, and the NYANG 47th Fighter Interceptor Squadron replaced the 136th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. In August 1955, the USAF reactivated the 15th Fighter Group to replace the 518th Air Defense Group. In July 1960, the 15th Fighter Group was deactivated, and the 4621st Support Group began operations as the installation host unit. The 4621st Support Group was redesignated as the 4621st Air Base Group in July 1964.

**BOMARC**  
Boeing Michigan  
Aeronautical Research  
Center

**AG**  
Airlift Group

**AW**  
Airlift Wing

The North American Defense Command Defense System CIM-10B **Boeing Michigan Aeronautical Research Center** (BOMARC) missile was deployed in the western portion of the installation in 1959. The 35th Air Defense Missile Squadron was activated to maintain the BOMARC missiles at the installation. The 35th Air Defense Missile Squadron and the missiles were deactivated in the late 1960s, and the NYANG 107th Tactical Fighter Group became the tenant organization occupying the western portion of the installation.

The 49th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Detachment, assumed responsibility for the installation from the 4621st Air Base Group in March 1970. On 1 January 1971, the installation was transferred from the Aerospace Defense Command to AFRC, and the 914th Tactical Airlift Group became the host unit. The main tenant organization, NYANG 107th Tactical Fighter Group, was redesignated as the 107th Fighter Interceptor Group. In early 1992, the Niagara Falls AFRF was renamed the Niagara Falls IAP-ARS, the 914th Tactical Airlift Group became the 914th **Airlift Group** (AG), and the 107th Fighter Interceptor Group became the 107th Fighter Group. In 1994, the NYANG 107th Fighter Group was redesignated as the 107th Air Refueling Group, and the 914th AG was redesignated as the 914th **Airlift Wing** (AW). In 1995, the NYANG 107th Air Refueling Group was redesignated at the 107th Air Refueling Wing. When activated, the units are commanded by Air Mobility Command.

The 914th AW has the primary installation mission and trains approximately 1,860 reserve officers and airmen to combat-ready status for any national emergency. Current activities include airlifting troops and supplies, providing front line troops with personnel and logistical support, and conducting medical evacuations. In 1994, the NYANG converted from 18 F-16 A/B fighters to 10 KC-135R tankers, and the 914 AW converted to the C-130H cargo airplane.



## 1. Decision Summary

### Environmental Background

Since 1942, various national defense missions have been carried out at the installation including storage, maintenance, and shipping of war material; research and development; and aircraft operations and maintenance. As a result, hazardous substances and wastes were used, stored, or disposed of at various sites.

Numerous studies and investigations under the U.S. **Department of Defense (DoD) Installation Restoration Program (IRP)** have been carried out to detect, locate, and quantify contamination resulting from these substances and wastes. To date, 14 sites have been identified at the Niagara Falls IAP-ARS as potential sources of environmental contamination. The studies and investigations included a 1983 Phase I record search involving interviews with base personnel; a field inspection; compilation of an inventory of wastes; evaluation of disposal practices; an assessment of the potential for site contamination; a Phase II Stage 1 confirmation/quantification investigation conducted between 1984 and 1986; a comprehensive **remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS)** conducted between 1987 and 1991; the preparation of site-specific decision documents identifying four sites that were closed with recommendations for no further action; and the preparation of site-specific decision documents outlining future actions at five IRP sites. Since 1991, additional sampling has been performed, including a focused RI/FS, remedial design, and long-term groundwater monitoring. A 1994 decision document recommended continued groundwater monitoring at Site 9.

Pursuant to the corrective action requirements under the installation's NYSDEC Part 373 Hazardous Waste Storage Permit, AFRC has continued long-term groundwater monitoring at 10 IRP sites (including Site 9); prepared a **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility investigation/corrective measures study (RFI/CMS)** for three of the 10 sites; and developed remedial designs involving groundwater extraction and discharge systems at the same three sites. These efforts were initiated in 1994. The extraction systems are currently under construction.

Based on the following investigation criteria, AFRC has proposed no further action at Site 9. The standards and guidance values were determined by using the federal and state environmental and public laws that were identified as potentially **applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs)** at the site. Currently, there are no chemical-specific ARARs for soil. Therefore, other nonpromulgated federal and state advisories and guidance values, referred to as **to be considered (TBCs)**, and background levels of the contaminants in the absence of TBCs, were considered. Second, a site-specific baseline risk assessment, using appro-

#### DoD

Department of Defense

#### IRP

Installation Restoration Program

#### RI/FS

remedial investigation/feasibility study

#### RCRA

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

#### RFI/CMS

RCRA facility investigation/corrective measures study

#### ARAR

applicable or relevant and appropriate requirement

#### TBC

to be considered



## 1. Decision Summary

appropriate toxicological and exposure assumptions, was conducted to evaluate the risks posed by detected site contaminants. In addition, as part of the installation-wide groundwater monitoring project, a preliminary risk evaluation was conducted to further assess the potential risks posed to human and environmental receptors.

### 1.4 Highlights of Community Participation

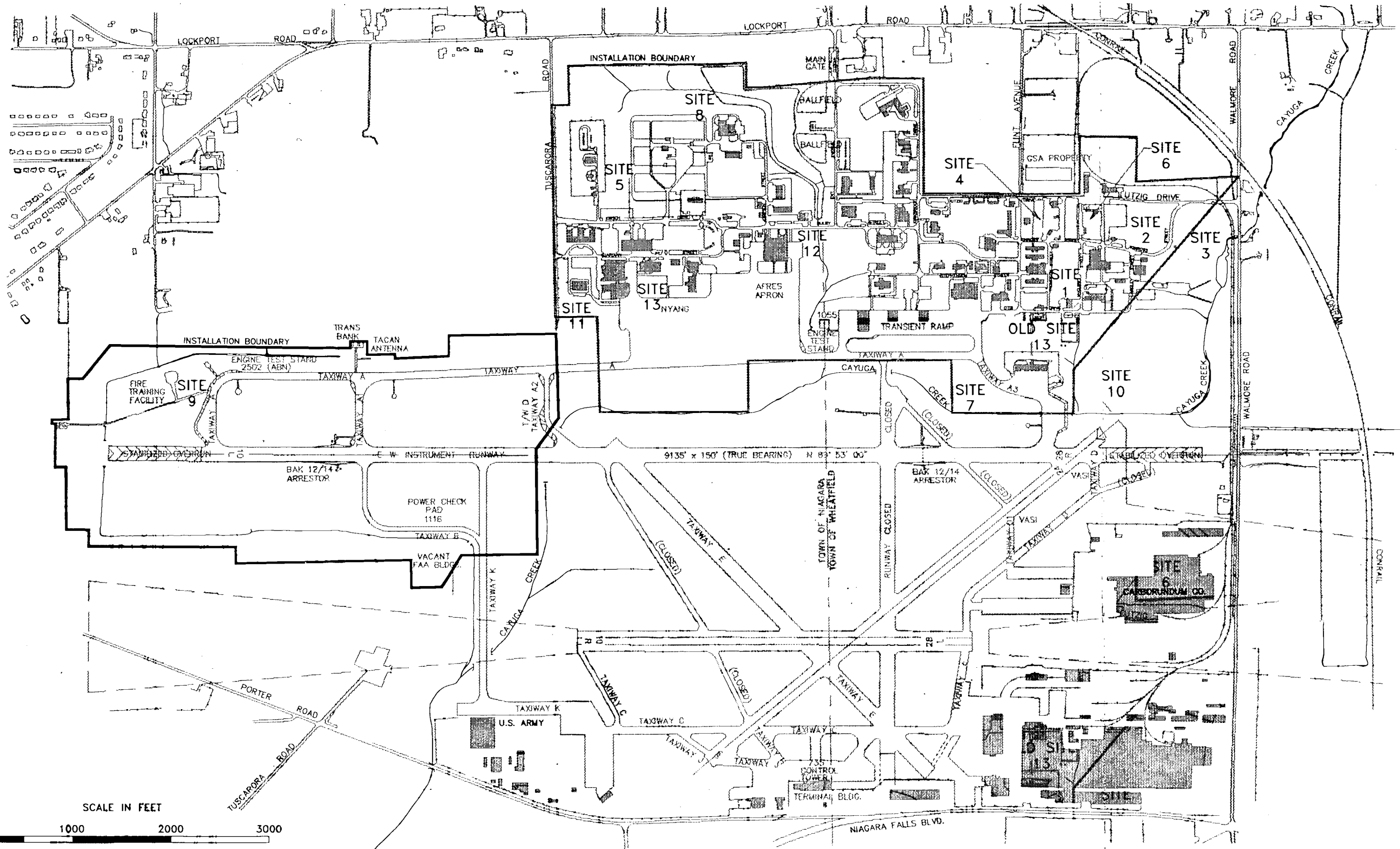
This document is available to the public in an information repository maintained at the Niagara Falls Public Library at 1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York, 14305. This decision document presents the selected remedial action for IRP Site 9 at Niagara Falls IAP-ARS, chosen in accordance with the **Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act (CERCLA)**, as amended by the **Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA)** and, to the extent practicable, the National Contingency Plan. The decision for this site is based on the administrative record. No public meeting was required.

### 1.5 Scope of Response Action

It was determined that surface water/sediments associated with the intermittent stream have not been impacted by previous site activities. Therefore, the scope of the NFRAP for IRP Site 9 specifically addresses soils and groundwater. Based on the concentration of chemicals in the soil and groundwater, the baseline risk assessment, and the preliminary risk evaluation, there is no evidence that previous operations conducted at this site have resulted in environmental contamination posing a current or potential threat to human health or the environment.

**CERCLA**  
Comprehensive  
Environmental Response  
and Liability Act

**SARA**  
Superfund Amendment  
and Reauthorization Act



SCALE IN FEET



Figure 1-1 NIAGARA FALLS IAP-ARS LOCATION MAP

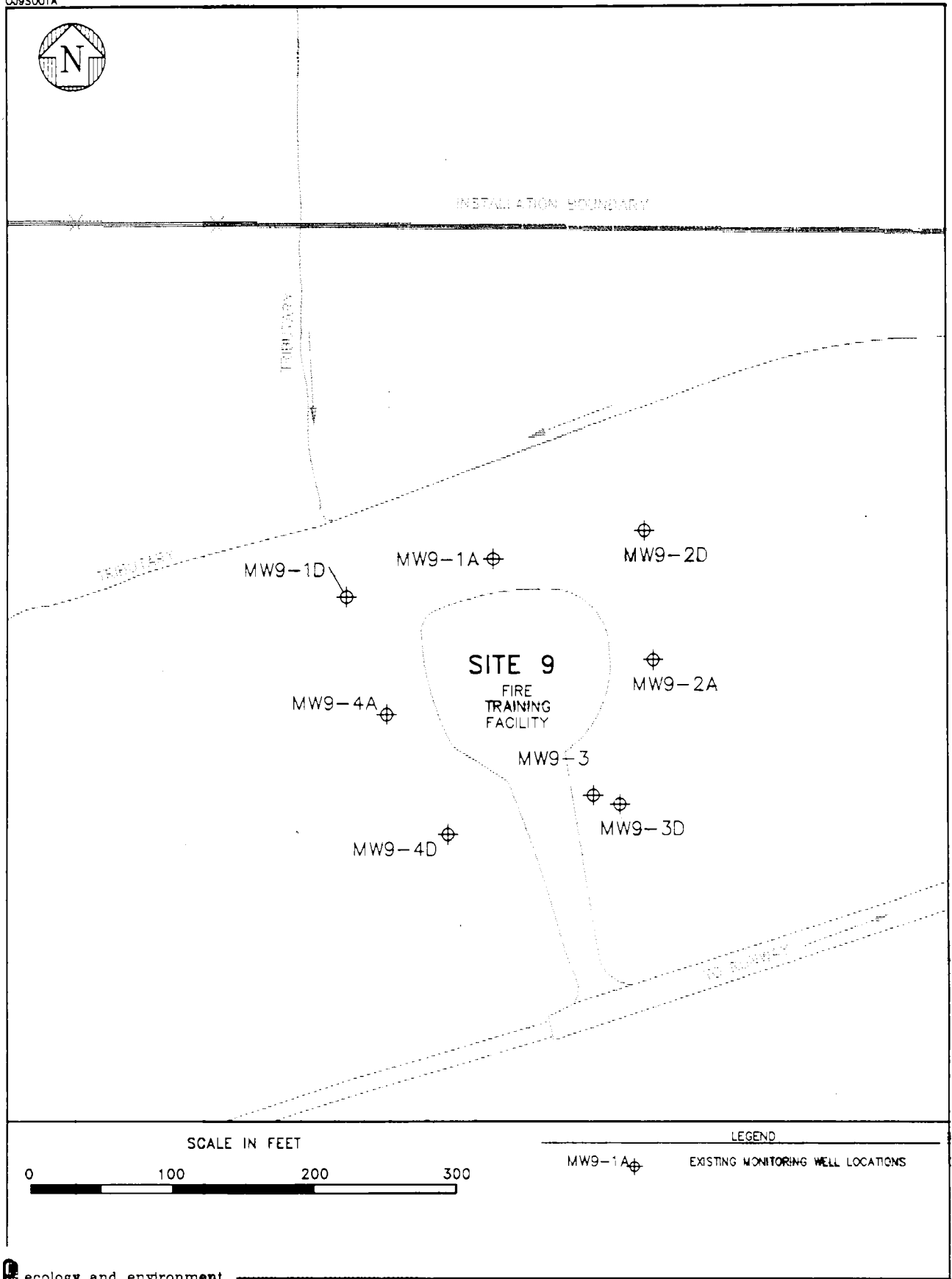


Figure 1-2  
SITE 9, FIRE TRAINING PIT NO. 3  
SITE LOCATION MAP

# 2

## Summary of Site Activities

**TOC**  
total organic carbon

**VOC**  
volatile organic  
compound

**TOX**  
total organic halides

**TPH**  
total petroleum  
hydrocarbon

During the Phase II Investigation conducted in 1986, four overburden groundwater monitoring wells were installed, and samples were collected for general analytical parameters. Results of the groundwater samples indicated the presence of **total organic carbon (TOC)**, **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**, and **total organic halides (TOXs)**. Based on these results, additional overburden wells were installed during the RI/FS in 1989 and 1990. In September 1989, samples were collected from four wells and analyzed for VOCs, metals, and general analytical parameters. Contaminants were detected at low concentrations; however, benzene, total xylene, and ethyl benzene were detected slightly above NYSDEC groundwater standards in one well. Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) was detected in two wells. Metals, including iron, magnesium, manganese, sodium, and zinc, were detected in unfiltered samples at concentrations exceeding standards or guidance values. In April 1990, six of the existing wells were sampled for VOCs. Benzene, ethyl benzene, and total xylene were detected above standards in the same well in which they were previously detected. These six wells were resampled in October 1992 as part of the additional RI/FS study. Benzene was again detected above standards in one well. Additionally, TPH was detected in one well, and the metals previously detected, as well as lead, were detected above standards or guidance values.

As part of the comprehensive RI/FS completed in 1991, soil samples were collected from one soil boring and three monitoring well borings. Organic contaminants were detected in one soil boring at concentrations above background levels. These contaminants included TPH, 2-butanone, benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and total xylene. This same boring also contained elevated levels of some metals including copper, lead, manganese, nickel, and vanadium. Most metals found in the soils at Site 9 generally occurred within installation background ranges or within the average concentration published for typical soils. No additional soil samples were collected at Site 9 during the subsequent investigations.

Based upon the overall results of the RI, no further action was recommended for soils and groundwater at Site 9. However, an

## **2. Summary of Site Activities**

additional round of groundwater sampling was conducted in late 1992 as part of a focused RI/FS. Based on the results from this study, a recommendation of no further action was made. However, Site 9 was included in the installation-wide groundwater monitoring that began in September 1994.

Under the installation-wide groundwater monitoring project, six rounds of semi-annual groundwater sampling have been performed. In addition, four new shallow bedrock monitoring wells were installed at Site 9 to characterize the shallow bedrock aquifer at this site. During the March 1995 sampling, the concentrations of VOCs detected in one of the overburden wells during previous sampling rounds were not detected. The only metals found to exceed Class GA standards were silver, zinc, and lead. During the September 1995 sampling, methylene chloride was detected in one of the new bedrock wells; however, it was suspected to be a possible laboratory contaminant. No metal concentrations exceeded standards in the bedrock wells. The overburden wells were not sampled for metals. During the two rounds of sampling in 1996, only low levels of benzene were detected in the well containing methylene chloride contamination during the previous sampling round. No VOCs were detected during the 1997 sampling rounds. Groundwater monitoring results collected during this project further support the no further action recommendation at Site 9.



# 3

## Summary of Site Risks

Site risks were analyzed based on the extent of contamination at IRP Site 9. As part of the RI, a baseline human health risk assessment was conducted to evaluate current and future potential risks to human health associated with contaminants found in groundwater and soils at the site. Review of all historical surface water and sediment sample analytical data for Site 9 indicates that low concentrations of organic contaminants have been detected in surface water and sediment samples collected from the intermittent stream near the site. However, these contaminants were often detected at higher levels in samples collected upstream of the site, indicating a possible upstream source of contamination. Mercury contamination detected in the sediment samples was also attributed to an unidentified upstream source. High concentrations of metals, other than mercury, were attributed to the natural soil conditions of the area. Based on these conclusions, no risk-based evaluation was conducted for exposure to surface water or sediments in the vicinity of Site 9 during the RI/FS.

As part of the installation-wide groundwater monitoring project, a preliminary risk evaluation was conducted at Site 9 to further assess the potential risks posed to receptors from exposure to contaminants detected in groundwater and surface water at the Niagara Falls IAP-ARS. The evaluation was conducted annually from 1995 through 1997, and the results from 1996 and 1997 were considered when formulating the no further action proposal.

### 3.1 Human Health Risk Assessment

As part of the baseline risk assessment, the following four-step process was to assess site-related human health risks for a reasonable maximum exposure scenario: 1) hazard identification, 2) exposure assessment, 3) toxicity assessment, and 4) risk assessment. The baseline risk assessment evaluated current and potential site risks from chemicals of concern using likely exposure scenarios. Chemicals of concern were selected for use in the risk assessment based on the analytical results. All contaminants detected in the soil and groundwater at the site were considered chemicals of concern. Petroleum hydrocarbons were not included as a chemical

### 3. Summary of Site Risks

of concern; only the detected constituents (e.g., benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene) were evaluated.

Routes of exposure and occupational receptors were selected for soils and groundwater based on current and future land use at the site. The current and future land use designation for Site 9 is industrial/commercial. There are no current plans to close the installation. Site 9 is located in a remote area of the installation, at the end of the instrument runway. Access to the base is controlled by a perimeter fence and armed security police. Since the site is no longer used for fire training exercises, activities at the site are limited to landscaping maintenance and use of the instrument runway.

Quantitative estimates of carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic risks were calculated for the site as part of the risk characterization, which evaluates potential health risks based on estimated exposure intakes and toxicity values. For carcinogens, risks are estimated as the incremental probability of an individual developing cancer over a lifetime as a result of exposure to the potential carcinogen. The risks of the individual chemicals are summed for each pathway to develop a total risk estimate. The range of acceptable risk is 1 in 10,000 ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$ ) to 1 in 1,000,000 ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ) of an individual developing cancer over a 70-year lifetime from exposure to the contaminant(s) under specific exposure assumptions.

**EPA**  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

**HQ**  
Hazard Quotient

**HI**  
Hazard Index

To assess the overall noncarcinogenic effects posed by more than one contaminant, the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** has developed the **Hazard Quotient (HQ)** and **Hazard Index (HI)**. The HQ is the ratio of the chronic daily intake of a chemical to the reference dose for the chemical. The reference dose is an estimate (with uncertainty spanning an order of magnitude or greater) of a daily exposure level for the human population, including sensitive subpopulations, that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a portion of a lifetime. The HQs are summed for all contaminants within an exposure pathway (e.g., ingestion of soils) to determine the HI. If the HI exceeds 1, there may be concern for potential noncarcinogenic health effects if the contaminants in question are believed to cause a similar toxic effect.

Cleanup actions may be taken when the agencies determine that the risk at a site exceeds the cancer level of 1 in 10,000 or if the noncarcinogenic HI exceeds 1. Once either of these thresholds has been exceeded, remedial action alternatives are evaluated to reduce the risk levels to within the acceptable ranges.



### 3. Summary of Site Risks

#### Soils

Contaminant sources at Site 9 are attributed to spills of fuels and other flammable substances used for training exercises. Potentially exposed populations were identified as landscape workers, who may be exposed during lawn maintenance activities. Potential routes of exposure to soils included ingestion and dermal contact. The cumulative carcinogenic risk to landscape workers exposed to surface soil was calculated as 4 in 100,000,000 ( $4 \times 10^{-8}$ ). The contaminant-specific risk calculations are well within EPA's acceptable risk levels, indicating that potential adverse carcinogenic health effects are not expected to occur from exposure to chemical concentrations in the soil.

The HI for the combined exposure across detected compounds was determined to be  $4.89 \times 10^{-3}$ , indicating that no adverse noncarcinogenic effects would be anticipated for the observed levels of contaminants in the soils.

#### Groundwater

Although the installation and surrounding communities are currently provided with a municipal water supply, the risk assessment assumed that landscape workers hypothetically ingested groundwater having contaminant concentrations equal to those detected in the shallow aquifer directly below the site. The excess lifetime cancer risk was estimated to be  $8 \times 10^{-7}$  and was attributable to the presence of benzene. This estimate falls well within the acceptable range established by the agencies.

The HI for combined exposure across detected compounds was approximately  $4.5 \times 10^{-1}$ . No adverse noncarcinogenic effects would be anticipated for chronic exposure to groundwater.

### 3.2 Preliminary Risk Evaluation

The preliminary risk evaluation assessed the potential risks posed to human and environmental receptors from exposure to contamination detected in groundwater and surface water. Both human health and ecological risks were considered as part of this evaluation. Contaminant concentrations detected in surface water and groundwater were compared to applicable New York State regulatory standards and to conservative risk-based screening criteria. The criteria were calculated to correspond to two target risk levels that were largely consistent with the levels in the baseline risk assessment (i.e., lifetime cancer risk of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  or a noncancer HI of 1.0).



### 3. Summary of Site Risks

#### 3.2.1 Human Health Risk Evaluation

##### Groundwater

The preliminary risk evaluation conducted as part of the installation-wide groundwater monitoring project compared organic chemical concentrations detected in the groundwater to New York State Class GA Groundwater Standards and to EPA Region III RBCs for tap water, which are based on potential residential exposures through consumption of drinking water and inhalation of volatile chemicals. Groundwater contaminants could migrate to downgradient surface water bodies, where human exposure is possible but not likely. Therefore, the chemical concentrations in groundwater were also compared to the **risk-based screening concentrations (RBSCs)** that were derived for surface water screening by assuming daily incidental ingestion by site workers. The findings of this evaluation based on contaminant concentrations detected in the groundwater at Site 9 in 1996 concluded that the concentration of benzene detected exceeded the RBSC for tap water by a factor of approximately 8. The estimated cancer risk associated with residential use of such groundwater was determined to be approximately  $8 \times 10^{-6}$ , which is within the acceptable range. Contaminant concentrations exceeded the Class GA standard but not the RBSC. No VOCs were detected at Site 9 during the two rounds of groundwater sampling conducted in 1997.

**RBSCs**  
risk-based screening  
concentrations

##### Surface Water

Contaminant concentrations detected in the six surface water samples collected during this study were compared to an RBSC that was calculated based on potential worker exposure via incidental ingestion of water. All chemical concentrations detected in the surface water samples were well below the RBSCs, indicating that they pose negligible risk to human health or the environment.

Based on the lack of exposure pathways, it is unlikely that contamination in groundwater or surface water at or adjacent to Site 9 poses any significant risk to human health.

#### 3.2.2 Ecological Risk Evaluation

A screening approach that involved comparing site contaminant levels with ecological criteria was used to assess the risks at Site 9. Site 9 is located in two of the three ecological habitats identified at the installation (runway/taxiway area and Cayuga Creek and tributaries). The areas between and around the runways and taxiways are vegetated with various grasses and are routinely mowed to eliminate wildlife habitat. The tributary of Cayuga Creek located near Site 9 is essentially an engineered ditch that does not provide suitable habitat for aquatic or semiaquatic wildlife and is not likely to support a well-developed benthic invertebrate community.



### **3. Summary of Site Risks**

Because of the periodic mowing and dredging, the risk evaluation did not consider either of these habitats as ecosystems of concern.

Although previous reports indicated no known federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species in the vicinity of the installation, NYSDEC was contacted in February 1998 about the results of recent bird surveys conducted on and near the installation. NYSDEC reported that two state special concern species, the upland sandpiper and grasshopper sparrow, were observed during the surveys. Both species require grassland habitat and could nest near or at Site 9. NYSDEC informally requested that they be notified of any planned construction or excavation so they could check the area for nests.

With the exception of the two bird species, this site poses no current or potential threat to the environment.

# 4

## Description of the NFRAP Alternative

No further action is proposed for Site 9, Fire Training Pit No. 3. The majority of the chemicals detected do not exceed standards and guidance values, and there is currently no known source of these contaminants at the site. In addition, the results of the baseline risk assessment and the preliminary risk evaluation indicate that the levels of contaminants present in the soils and groundwater fall within or below EPA's acceptable carcinogenic risk range and pose no carcinogenic risk to the potential receptors. Therefore, the concentrations of chemicals in the soil and groundwater, the baseline risk assessment, and the preliminary risk evaluation demonstrate that site contaminants pose no current or potential threat to human health or the environment.