

Luckey Beryllium

Luckey, Ohio

The Luckey site, is located in Luckey, Ohio, approximately 22 miles southeast of Toledo. The 40 acre L-shaped site has several lagoons and spoils. Structures include manufacturing facilities, warehouses and utility buildings.

In 1942, the federal Defense Plant Corporation purchased the site for constructing a magnesium reduction facility. National Lead operated the facility for the government through World War II. In 1949, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) constructed a beryllium production facility at Luckey. The waste solutions and sludge from the beryllium operation were stored on the plant property in lagoons approximately 4 feet deep. In December 1951, the site operator is believed to have purchased 1,000 tons of radiologically contaminated scrap steel. Steel was used to control chlorine emissions during the magnesium production process.

Field efforts to characterize the nature and extent of contamination began in June 1998. Radiological surveys have found radiation above guidelines in several areas. Beryllium concentrations in the soil at the site and sediments in Toussaint Creek are well above background. Beryllium was detected above the drinking water standard in three on-site ground water monitoring wells and in an on-site production well which is not currently used. Beryllium was also detected in dust settled on building surfaces.

The Record of Decision detailing the remedy for soils at Luckey was signed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in July of 2006. Soils remediation for the site will involve excavating soils contaminated with beryllium, lead, Radium-226, Thorium-230, Uranium-234, and Uranium-238. An estimated 88,000 cubic yards of impacted material will be excavated and shipped off-site for disposal at a licensed/permitted facility.

The Record of Decision detailing the remedy for contaminated ground water was signed and released by the USACE in February 2008. The remedy selected by the Corps is monitored natural attenuation of the ground water. This means that ground water wells will be sampled for beryllium, lead, and uranium until sampling results show a progressive trend that indicates safe drinking water standards have been met. Land use controls during the monitoring period will ensure there are no changes in ground water use or new ground water development. Enhanced monitoring, to meet the requirements of the ground water decision, will begin during the initiation of the soils remediation.

Related Links: [US Army Corps of Engineers](#)

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