

Parks Township

Shallow Land Disposal Area



STATUS REPORT

April 2015



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Pittsburgh District

Background Information

The Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA), located in Armstrong County, encompasses 44 acres of private land presently owned by Babcock/Wilcox Technologies (BWXT).

The Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC), which was a predecessor of BWXT, conducted disposal of radioactive waste materials in the ground in accordance with the Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor to the present Nuclear Regulatory Commission) regulations.

The SLDA site consists of 10 trenches containing contaminated soil and other waste materials. The estimated quantity of contaminated waste material in the trenches is approximately 24,300 cubic yards. (This equates to the area of a football field 12-feet deep.) Additional radiological contaminated surface materials identified outside of the trenches will also be removed.

Uranium, Thorium, Americium, and Plutonium contaminated waste has been identified. Uranium and Thorium contaminated waste material consisting of process residue, equipment, scrap and trash from the nearby Apollo nuclear fuel fabrication facility were disposed of within the trenches at the SLDA site between 1961 and 1970.

The Uranium in the trenches is present at various levels of enrichment. The presence of Americium and Plutonium is attributed to storage of equipment used in the adjoining Parks Facility, and has been detected in surface soils adjacent to a single trench.

Site Status

The Corps is ensuring the safety of the community by maintaining around-the-clock security, and conducting regular air and groundwater monitoring. We will continue these actions for the duration of the Corps' presence on-site.

Due to the knowledge gained during the initial remediation, our approach to the site and our estimate of the remediation cost has changed. When a fundamental change occurs to a CERCLA remedy, a ROD Amendment is required.

The Corps expects to award a new remediation contract in 2016. Once the new contract is awarded, work plan development will begin, followed by infrastructure improvements including the installation of the water treatment plant. Excavation work is estimated to begin in 2017.

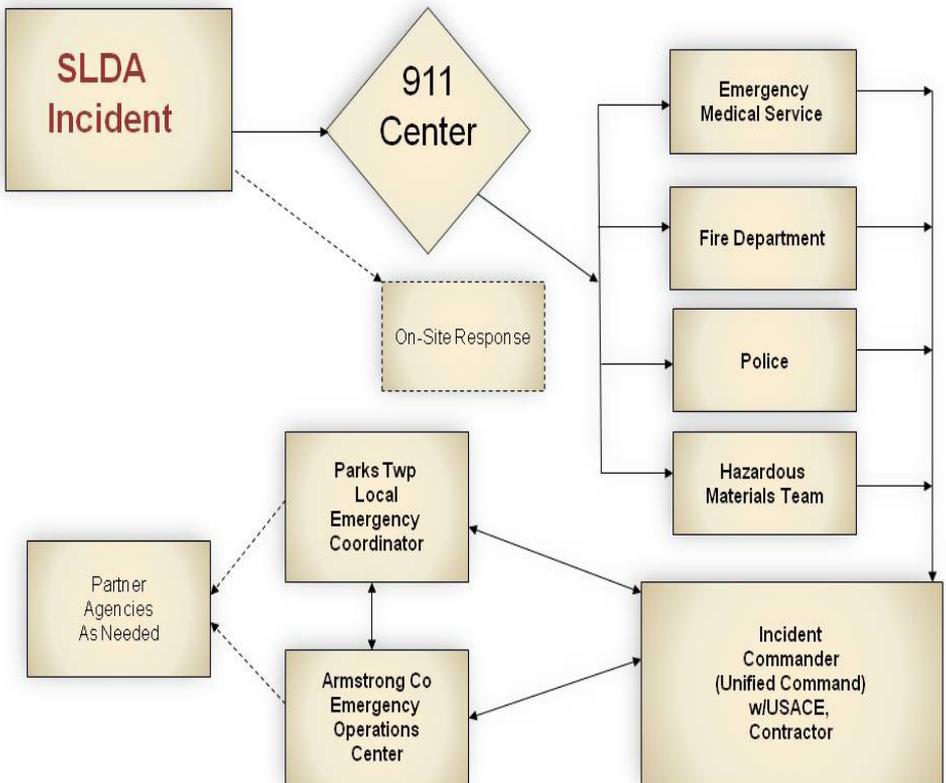
Incident Response Coordination

The Corps Emergency Management Office has conducted numerous meetings with Parks Township and Armstrong County Emergency response officials including “911” Center personnel. The goal of these coordination efforts is to ensure a clear, consistent and coordinated response capability to situations arising at the SLDA site. Once the new contractor is on site, coordination with police, fire and EMS representatives will continue.

The safety of the community, workers and the environment is paramount with all SLDA activities. Our primary focus is public safety throughout the remediation of the site.

Below is an illustration showing the general emergency response notification process in place for the SLDA project. Initial response is appropriately assigned to local first responders. This response structure is similar to all incident command systems and familiar to all engaged responders. Extensive coordination has been conducted to ensure all parties are familiar with each other, and the specific considerations and infrastructure associated with the site.

Emergency Response Matrix



Key dates

- Amended Record of Decision - Summer 2015
- Request for Proposal Ready to Advertise - Fall 2015
- Award New Contract - Spring 2016
- Start work plan development/infrastructure work - Spring 2016
- On-site Remediation Work begins in 2017

All dates are an approximation

Agenda

- 7:00-7:05 Welcome (Jeff Hawk)
- 7:05-7:15 Introduction (Colonel Lindstrom)
- 7:15-7:30 Project Update (Mike Helbling)
- 7:30-8:00 Groundwater Sampling (Bill Fredrick)
- 8:00-9:00 Question & Answer Session

Have More Questions?

visit: www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm
and email your questions to us!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PittsburghUSACE

For more information, please contact the following:

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Project Website: www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm