

# Parks Township

## Shallow Land Disposal Area



## STATUS REPORT

### November 2012



**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 BWX Technologies.

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

Currently, BWX Technologies is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to properly maintain the site to ensure the protection of workers and the public.

The SLDA site consists of ten 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 twelve 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. Americium and plutonium, whose presence is attributed to storage of equipment used in the adjoining Parks Facility, has been detected in surface soils adjacent to a single trench.

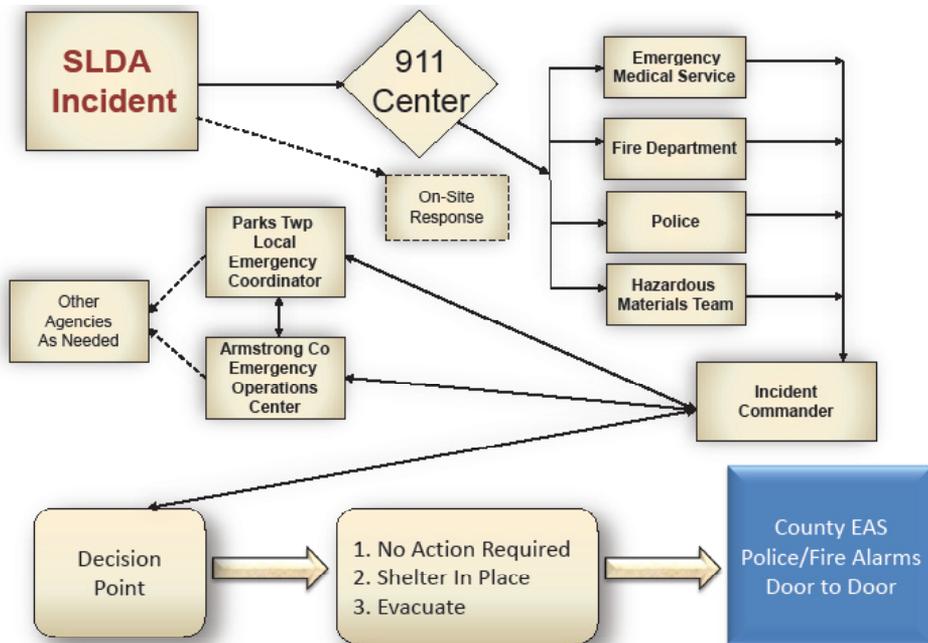
# Incident Response Coordination

Since September 2010, the USACE Emergency Management Office has conducted 11 meetings with Armstrong County Emergency managers, their “911” Center staffs as well as, Parks Township Police, Fire, and EMS representatives. The goal of these coordination efforts is to establish a clear, consistent, and coordinated response capability to situations arising at the SLDA site. These meetings included orientation briefings and site tours with Corps representatives as well as Cabrera Services, the Corps contractor. Orientation training for Fire and EMS responders was conducted by Cabrera Services.

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 a response matrix that shows the notification and decision 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.

## Incident Response Matrix



# Updates

## Site Status

At this time all the exhumed material has been packaged for transport. By the end of November all exhumed material will have been transported from the project site.

The waste water treatment plant (WWTP) has been disassembled and removed from the project site. The small amount of waste that accumulated in the WWTP has been packaged and will be removed from the site by the end of November. The purpose of the WWTP was to catch, filter and contain waste particulates from water used during remediation activities. Now that all the waste has been packaged there is no further need for the WWTP. Prior to remediation activities starting again, another WWTP will be installed.

Cabrera Services will demobilize its remediation equipment and personnel from the site by 13 DEC 12. After that point Cabrera will only be responsible for maintenance of the site, for actions such as road de-icing, grass cutting, etc.

## Future Contract

In order to obtain a new contract the Corps must develop an acquisition plan and have it approved, develop and have a draft request for proposal (RFP) approved, share the RFP with industry for comments, revise the RFP, issue it to industry for solicitation, receive and review bids, select and finally award the bid.

At this time we have a final draft acquisition plan developed and submitted for approval to our higher headquarters. The RFP is in final draft form and with counsel for review.

We project to have the contract awarded no later than August of 2013. The contractor then will start development of the work plans that must be completed and approved by the Corps prior to remediation beginning. Concurrently the new contractor must mobilize to the site and install the new WWTP. Current projection for the start of future remediation is no later than January of 2015.

# Staffing

COL Graham will be changing command in January of 2013 with COL Bernie Lindstrom. COL Lindstrom has a great amount of experience with the Corps. He was once the Nashville District Engineer and he is currently serving as the Executive Director for Civil Works for the Corps in Washington, D.C.

MAJ Robert Elliott is pursuing a discharge from the active duty military to the reserves and a position with a private project management firm. Mike Helbling is the new SLDA PM and is currently transitioning with MAJ Elliott. Mike comes to the SLDA project team from Navy Facility Command where he was a project manager.

The new leadership will strive to retain the Corps close relationship with the citizenry along with efficient and safe progress for the project site.

## Have More Questions?

**visit:**

**[www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm)  
and email your questions to us!**

**post to Facebook:**

**[www.facebook.com/PittsburghUSACE](http://www.facebook.com/PittsburghUSACE)**

**For more information, please contact the following:**

**Public Affairs Office (412) 395-7500**

**Email: [CELRP-PA@usace.army.mil](mailto:CELRP-PA@usace.army.mil)**

**Project Website: [www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm)**