



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 07-345
December 11, 2007

Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106
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Record of Decision for Shallow Land Disposal Area in Parks Township

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a Record of Decision for the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) in Parks Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania on September 7, 2007. The Record of Decision documents the Selected Remedy for cleanup of the site, the remedy was selected from the remediation alternatives put forth in the Proposed Plan issued in November 2006. In accordance with the Selected Remedy, listed as Alternative 5 in the Proposed Plan, the Corps will excavate and remove radioactive contaminated soil from the site and dispose of it in an appropriate permitted/licensed disposal facility outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This alternative is considered to be the most protective in the long term because all the radioactive contaminated soils above the set cleanup goals for the site will be permanently removed from the site.

The Corps held a meeting on January 12, 2007 at the Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall to discuss with the public the options for cleanup of the site. Public participation included both the public meeting and a formal comment period. The Corps received two comments during the public meeting and four additional comments during the comment period. These comments were reviewed, considered and responded to in the Responsiveness Summary section of the Record of Decision.

The Selected Remedy is the most protective of human health and the environment, complies with federal and state requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action, and is cost effective.

The Record of Decision is available on-line at <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/sldarod.pdf> or in printed format at the Apollo Memorial Library at 219 North Pennsylvania Avenue in Apollo, Pennsylvania and at the Corps' Pittsburgh District Office at 1000 Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Administrative Record file for this project, which includes the Record of Decision plus all the documents that formed the basis for the selection of the cleanup remedy, is also available for review at the Apollo Library and the Corps' Pittsburgh District Office.

The Corps is conducting this work under the authority of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The FUSRAP program was created to identify, investigate and take appropriate cleanup action at sites with low-level radioactive contamination from the nation's early atomic energy program. Cleanup of formerly utilized sites primarily involves contaminated soil and building debris. The Corps of Engineers uses the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process to investigate and remediate FUSRAP sites.



**US Army Corps
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News Release

Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 07-019
January 19, 2007

Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106
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Public Meeting Scheduled for Shallow Land Disposal Area in Parks Township

PITTSBURGH, PA. – The Pittsburgh District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2007 in Parks Township, Pennsylvania to hear public comments on its Proposed Plan for the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA). The recently completed Proposed Plan details the Corps' recommendation on how to proceed with the project.

6:30 p.m. – Registration and Open House
7:00 p.m. – Formal Public Meeting

Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department
No. 1 Social Hall
Parks Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania

In August, 2003 and April, 2004 the Corps of Engineers held public information sessions to present and discuss the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Parks Township SLDA. These activities and subsequent work at the site are steps in the site investigation and cleanup process outlined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). A Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan for the SLDA site have now been completed. The Feasibility Study identifies and evaluates potential alternatives to address the contamination at the site. The Proposed Plan presents the alternative that is preferred, based on the results of that evaluation.

The purpose of this public meeting is to present the results of the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan for the SLDA and solicit input from the public. The Project Manager and other team members will be available to answer questions about the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan and to discuss the next steps which include the preparation of a Record of Decision and initiation of the recommended plan.

Copies of the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan are available at the Apollo Memorial Library at 219 North Pennsylvania Avenue in Apollo, Pennsylvania and at the Corps' Pittsburgh District office at 1000 Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Comments on the Proposed Plan may also be submitted in writing either at the public meeting or by mail or e-mail. Comments should be mailed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District; ATTN: Bill Lenart; 2200 William S. Moorhead Federal Building; 1000 Liberty Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186 or e-mailed to william.j.lenart@usace.army.mil. Comments must be received by February 23, 2007.

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**US Army Corps
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Pittsburgh District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 06-237
August 25, 2006

Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106
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Corps to Conduct Geophysical Survey

PITTSBURGH – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District will conduct a geophysical survey of the Shallow Land Disposal Area site located in Parks Township. This field survey will be conducted over a period of three weeks beginning September 5.

The Corps, through a contract with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), is conducting this geophysical exploration in order to select the most effective techniques to aid in future cleanup work at the site. Two separate geophysical techniques will be used over the entire site to pinpoint the location of underground waste. These techniques were chosen based on a field trial of five techniques conducted over a small area of the site in September of 2005. The Corps is using these techniques to detect objects and differences in soil characteristics underground, without disturbing the surface soil.

The Shallow Land Disposal Area encompasses 44 acres of land and is located 23 miles northeast of Pittsburgh in Armstrong County. It is on the right bank of the Kiskiminetas River, a tributary of the Allegheny River, near the communities of Apollo, Vandergrift and Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

The Corps is conducting this work under the authority of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP is a federal program that identifies and restores sites where low-level radioactive contamination may remain from former Manhattan Engineer District activities during World War II, or later peacetime activities by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Corps uses the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, which provides the framework for a systematic investigation, remedial design and cleanup of contaminated sites, to investigate and remediate FUSRAP sites.

The Corps' team welcomes questions and comments concerning its work at the Parks Township Shall Land Disposal Area.



**US Army Corps
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Pittsburgh District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 05-262
September 19, 2005

Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106
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Corps to Conduct Geophysical Survey

PITTSBURGH – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District will conduct a geophysical survey of selected areas within the Shallow Land Disposal Area located in Parks Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

During the week of September 19, the Corps of Engineers, with technical support from the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, will test five geophysical techniques over two small areas within the 44 acre site to detect objects and differences in soil characteristics underground without disturbing the surface soil. This testing will aid the Corps in selecting the most effective techniques to pinpoint underground waste for future clean-up work at the Shallow Land Disposal Area.

The Corps is conducting this work under the authority of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The FUSRAP program was created to identify, investigate and take appropriate clean-up action at sites with low-level radioactive contamination from the nation's early atomic energy program. Clean-up at formerly utilized sites primarily involves contaminated soil and building debris. The Corps of Engineers uses the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act process, which provides the framework for a systematic investigation, remedial design and clean-up of contaminated sites, to investigate and remediate FUSRAP sites.

Additional information on the Shallow Land Disposal Area in Park Township is available on the project page (www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm) on Pittsburgh District's web site. The Corps' team welcomes questions and comments about our work at the Shallow Land Disposal Area.

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News Release

Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release No. 04-078 (April 19, 2004)

Contact: Richard Dowling, 412-395-7501
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PITTSBURGH -- The Pittsburgh District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will update members of the public on the proposed cleanup of the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area at a public meeting Tuesday evening in Parks Township.

The session will begin at 6 p.m. with an open house at the Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department's Social Hall No. 1, on School Street, which was also the site of previous meetings. As before there will be educational displays and representatives of the Corps of Engineers will be on hand to answer individual questions, prior to the opening of a public presentation at 7 p.m. The evening will conclude with a question and answer session.

One key part of the evening will be the discussion of the progress of the remedial investigation phase of the project, where samples have been taken of the air, soil and water in the area. The preliminary results of this sampling will be discussed. At the last public meeting in August, the Corps promised to continue a dialogue with local residents and government officials about the proposed clean-up of the site, where radioactive wastes had been placed in trenches.

The uranium wastes were the result of processing enriched uranium into naval reactor fuel, and were disposed of by the landfill's owner, the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Co (NUMEC) between 1961 and 1970. Responsibility for the site's clean-up was given to the Corps of Engineers by Congress in 1998.



**US Army Corps
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Pittsburgh District

You are invited to a
PUBLIC
INFORMATION SESSION

on the
Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area

AUGUST 28, 2003

PARKS TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
NO. 1 SOCIAL HALL
School Street

- 6:00 p.m. – open house (displays available for viewing)
- 7:00 p.m. – welcome and introductions by Pittsburgh District Engineer,
Colonel Raymond K. Scrocco
- 7:05 p.m. – presentation by Project Delivery Team
- 7:30 p.m. – questions and answers and opportunity to provide input
- 8:30 p.m. – open house (displays available for viewing)

The Remedial Investigation stage of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process for the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) is under way. In January, 2003, one-on-one interviews with former NUMEC and BWXT employees and knowledgeable citizens were held. They provided valuable information. Historical reports documenting previous work at the SLDA were reviewed and a data gap analysis was completed. In the spring, historical photographic analysis and a gamma walkover to determine locations for intrusive sampling and testing were completed.

The next actions will involve field work including surface and subsurface soil sampling, investigation of the disposal trenches, on-site and off-site sediment and surface water sampling, groundwater investigations, and ambient air monitoring.

One purpose of the information session announced above is to present the plans for the upcoming field work. Also, your questions about the field work and other aspects of the cleanup of radioactive contamination at the Parks Township SLDA will be addressed. All questions and comments on the cleanup process will be welcome.

Directions to the Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 Social Hall (the Social Hall is located beside the Fire Station):

From Leechburg: Take PA Route 66 south. After passing Lee's Lanes (bowling alley) go about ¼ mile to Penn Avenue on the left. Turn left onto Penn Avenue. At the second stop sign, turn to the left and go up the hill. After about 1/3 mile, look for the Parks Township Fire Department sign on the right.

From Vandergrift: From the Alternate PA Route 66 bridge over the Kiskiminetas River, turn left in North Vandergrift to PA Route 66. After about a block make the first right at the church. This road will wind up the hill. Go straight at the stop sign at the top of the hill. Stay on this road (now called Pleasant View Road) through a hard left turn. After going down a hill, look for the Parks Township Fire Department sign on the left.

**Please bring this session to the attention of anyone you know
who may not have received an invitation.**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Richard Dowling
412-395-7501
Richard.Dowling@usace.army.mil

PITTSBURGH – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District will begin the first phase of field investigation at the Shallow Land Disposal Area located in Parks Township, Armstrong County, Pa. on June 2, 2003.

During the week of June 2, the Corps and its contractors will prepare for what is known as a "gamma walkover," or site survey and future sampling activities. Preparation activities will include mowing and clearing, turning on utilities, setting up a site trailer, etc. The gamma walkover is expected to start during the week of June 9.

This phase of the field investigation will involve scanning the surface of the soil with field instrumentation. The purpose of the gamma walkover survey is to generate maps showing variations of gamma radiation levels at the SLDA site. The gamma walkover survey will be accomplished by slowly walking straight-line sections of the site carrying a detector and recorder on a carriage similar to a baby stroller. A global positioning system (GPS) unit will simultaneously record geographical positions and match them to the gamma count rate at each location. The gamma radiation data will be used in the development of planned intrusive Remedial Investigation work plans to select locations for soil samples.

Background readings will be determined at Gilpin/Leechburg Community Park located on Pennsylvania State Route 66 approximately 3 miles from the SLDA site. Additionally, the background count rate will be determined daily at a site known to be free of radioactive contamination. A land survey will also be conducted to establish the limits of work and to provide horizontal and vertical control of field activities.

The gamma walkover and land survey will be initiated with site workers wearing standard cotton coveralls, safety glasses, work gloves, hard hats, and steel-toed boots. No heavy equipment or machinery will be required to perform the gamma walkover survey.

The second phase of the investigation will involve surface and subsurface soil sampling, groundwater sampling and investigation of the waste disposal trenches. These activities are anticipated to start in next fall.

The Corps of Engineers welcomes the interest of citizens who would like to be kept apprised of project progress. To be added to the mailing list for the Parks Township SLDA project, contact Ron Wazenegger at by e-mail at Ronald.W.Wazenegger@lrp02.usace.army.mil or by telephone at (412) 395-7221. His regular mail address is U.S. Army Engineer District, Pittsburgh, 2038 William S. Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186. Additional information regarding the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program or the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area can be found on the Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District web site at <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slida.htm>.



Corps of Engineers Hosts Parks Township Informational Meeting

PARKS TOWNSHIP-- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District will host an informational meeting May 8 at the Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department's social hall to address questions about the clean-up of radioactive contamination at a local landfill.

The meeting will begin with an informal open house from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a brief formal presentation addressing the timetable for the Corps' clean-up of the landfill once used to dispose of waste from uranium reprocessing. Afterwards, the public will be welcome to offer comments or ask questions about the process that the Corps will follow under legislation approved in Congress last summer.

The disposal site, known as the Shallow Land Disposal Area, is now owned by BWX Technologies (BWXT). The uranium processing was originally done in the 1950s and 1960s by a company called Nuclear Materials and Equipment Company, later purchased by Atlantic Richfield Company.

Information

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Pittsburgh, PA

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