



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Pittsburgh District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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/slda.htm>.