



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Pittsburgh District

# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PITTSBURGH – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District will host an informational meeting on Aug. 28 at the Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department's social hall to update the public on the project to clean up radioactive contamination at a former Armstrong County industrial site.

The meeting will begin with an informal open house from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a brief formal presentation addressing the status of the Corps' efforts. There will be the opportunity for local residents to get questions answered by Corps project managers, and the evening will conclude with an additional period for residents to review displays and exhibits.

The disposal site is known as the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) and is now owned by BWX technologies (BWXT). The SLDA site was formerly owned by Nuclear Materials and Equipment Company (NUMEC), a manufacturer of nuclear fuels and specialty metals, which also operated the nearby Apollo facility. From the early 1960's through 1970, NUMEC disposed of radioactive and non-radioactive waste generated from the Apollo facility at the SLDA site in accordance with the regulations at that time. The Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) purchased all of the NUMNEC stock in 1967, then in 1971 sold the stock to Babcock and Wilcox who later became BWXT. Legislation passed by Congress in 2001 directed the Corps to oversee a cleanup of radioactive waste at the site.

Earlier this summer, crews from the Corps and its contractors performed what's known as a "gamma walkover," or site survey, to help plan future sampling activities. Workers used radiation detectors and global positioning system to detect variations of gamma radiation levels at the SLDA site. Both the disposal area and nearby "clean" sites were tested to establish background readings.

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A review of historical documents, along with one-on-one interviews with former NUMEC and BWXT employees and local residents has also helped to set the stage for an effective cleanup.

The next phase of the investigation will involve surface and subsurface soil sampling, on-site and off-site sediment and surface water sampling, groundwater sampling, ambient air monitoring and investigation of the waste disposal trenches, which is expected to start later this month. One purpose of this month's information session is to present the plans for this upcoming field work. Also, questions about any aspect of the project will be addressed by Corps officials from the Pittsburgh and Buffalo offices.

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 by e-mail at [Ronald.W.Wazenegger@lrp02.usace.army.mil](mailto: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>.