



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Pittsburgh District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps to hold public meeting on Shallow Land Disposal Area project in Parks Township, Pa.

- WHO:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
- WHAT:** A meeting to inform the public of the Army Corps' progress regarding the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area clean-up project and to address questions and concerns voiced by interested parties.
- WHEN:** 7 pm, Thursday, May 12, 2011
- WHERE:** Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department Hall, 1119 Dalmation Drive Vandergrift, Armstrong County, Pa. 15690
- WHY:** The Army Corps and its contractor, Cabrera Services Inc., Conn., have been building out the Shallow Land Disposal Area site and removal of radiological contaminants is slated for late spring/early June this year. This meeting will update the public on the planned work schedule and activities, funding, test results and other issues of public interest. The current site work includes construction of a 60,000 sq ft material processing building, a water treatment plant, and other infrastructure such as roads and utilities, including relocation of a gas line.
- MEDIA:** **Corps officials will be available for interview from 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. at the fire hall.**
- RESOURCES:** Army Corps' s SDLA website: www.lrp.usace.army.mil; hardcopy documents related to the study, site testing, and removal plans are available online and at the Apollo Library, 219 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Apollo, Pa. 15613-1397. Due to its size, the Corps' Remedial Investigation study is available on disc. Please contact Patty Schwirian, Corps Office of Counsel, 412.395.7407, to obtain a copy.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District has been assigned to cleanup radioactive waste at the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) site under the [Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program](#) (FUSRAP). The SLDA, encompassing 44 acres of privately owned land, is located approximately 23 miles east-northeast of Pittsburgh in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. It is on the right bank of the Kiski River, a tributary of the Allegheny River, near the communities of Apollo and Vandergrift. Radioactive waste disposal operations were conducted between 1960 and 1970. As part of work done under Atomic Energy Commission contracts, low-level radioactive materials were produced, primarily for fuel for nuclear powered submarines and power plants. Low-level nuclear wastes from the nearby decommissioned Apollo operation site were disposed of in a series of ten trenches comprising a total area of approximately 1.2 acres at the SLDA, placed over an area of 44

acres. Buried radiological wastes consist of mostly uranium and some thorium associated with manufacturing by-products and from discarded protective clothing. Non-radiological waste included pieces of equipment, building materials and trash. Disposal operations were conducted by the firm NUMEC, Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation, in the early 1960's. In 1967, ARCO purchased stock in NUMEC. In 1971, ARCO sold the stock of NUMEC to Babcock & Wilcox which has changed to BWX Technologies. BWX Technologies is the current owner of the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area.

For media inquiries, contact the Public Affairs Office at 412-395-7500 or email: celrp-pa@usace.army.mil.

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