



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA)

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Project Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District is addressing the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Under this program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identifies, investigates and, if necessary, cleans up sites throughout the United States that were used as part of the nation's early atomic weapons and energy program.

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 Kiskiminetas River, a tributary of the Allegheny River, near the communities of Apollo and Vandergrift.



Radioactive waste disposal operations were conducted there 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 over the 44 acres. Buried radiological wastes consist of elements associated with manufacturing by-products and from discarded protective clothing. Non-radiological waste included pieces of equipment, building materials and trash.

Project Status

The cleanup will follow the remediation process outlined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Due to the nature of the wastes in the trenches, additional nuclear criticality safety measures are necessary and will be implemented when physical remediation begins. Currently the project is working on design activities which will determine the right equipment, site layout, site utilities, and detailed processes for the safe removal and off-site disposal of the radioactive waste. Improvements to site infrastructure are planned for 2023. Physical Remediation is expected to begin in 2024.

For Additional Information

Please see the SLDA Project Website at: <https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Programs-Project-Management/Key-Projects/Shallow-Land-Disposal-Area/>

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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