



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Pittsburgh District
Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
22nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

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Contact: Jeff Hawk
Phone 412-395-7500/01/02
Mobile: 412-526-5435
Fax: 412-395-7503
CELRP-PA@usace.army.mil

Corps to hold public comment meeting for the Shallow Land Disposal Area project

PITTSBURGH – The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is announcing its plan to hold a public comment meeting at 6 pm, Tuesday, June 26, 2012, to collect comments regarding the Shallow Land Disposal Area project in Parks Township, Pa. The meeting will be held at the Parks Township Volunteer Fire Department Hall, 1119 Dalmatian Drive in Vandergrift, Armstrong County, Pa.

The district is holding this public comment meeting to involve citizens in a review of the SLDA project that is currently underway. The intent of the meeting is to collect comments and concerns regarding the clean-up project and to forward those comments to officials currently conducting the review. Since the district doesn't have new information to share, there will be no discussion portion of the meeting.

The Corps is committed to engaging those interested and impacted by the effort to clean-up radiological waste at the SLDA site.

“It’s essential that the citizens most impacted by this effort have a voice in this discussion,” said COL Butch Graham, commander, Pittsburgh District. “We don’t have any new information, but we want to collect these comments and involve the community while the review is underway.”

During excavation last year, the Corps encountered complex material earlier than expected and therefore must assume that we could find complex material more often. This could change the scope, cost and duration of the project.

Because there could be a change in the scope of work, a review of how the district is executing the project and the policy that informs the project's execution is warranted. Re-evaluating approaches and changes to project scope are not uncommon to the Corps of Engineers when site conditions change.

We are conducting the review concurrently with the district’s efforts to finish the work still under contract. The policy review includes questions involving the wisdom of continuing the project under the Corps’ Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) given the expected increased cost and duration of this project; and, whether there are other methods or different organizations better suited to address the contamination.

The policy review will determine the federal government's best way forward. We will inform the public once the reviews have been completed.

RESOURCES: Corps' SDLA website: <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/fusrap/slda.htm>

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 size, the Corps' Remedial Investigation Study is available on disc. Please contact Patty Schwirian at 412-395-7407 to request a copy.

BACKGROUND: 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.

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

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