

Parks Township SLDA Site  
20 April 2004 Public Meeting  
Comments, Concerns, and Concepts Expressed by the Community

1. It was stated that waste was disposed of at several areas outside the SLDA site, including a triangular area near the northeast fenceline, and corps should investigate and sample these areas.

The Corps encourages anyone who has any knowledge and documentation about alleged disposal activities to provide it to us. Once we receive it, we will evaluate on a case-by-case basis whether the information is relevant to the site and materials we are authorized to address. If the information is relevant we will incorporate it in our investigation. If the information concerns matters beyond our authority and funding authorization, we will forward the information to the appropriate state or Federal agency that has the responsibility and authority to address it.

2. It was requested that a committee comprised of Kiskiminetas valley residents be established because they are the real Stakeholders.

In the FUSRAP program, the Corps of Engineers has neither specific authority nor funding for establishing citizen's oversight/advisory panels or committees. However, the Corps will consider any group formed by the private citizens in the area. We will keep such groups fully informed through our normal and pro-active public participation process. The Corps will be holding public information sessions on a fairly regular basis. We can also offer to meet with stakeholder representatives individually if they wish to discuss pertinent issues in greater depth.

3. There was concern expressed about the fact. that the neighboring residents have only one access road to get in and get out. Corps should consider constructing another access road.

This issue will be addressed at the time of Remedial Design as a part of the Safety and Health Plan for the site. The development of an emergency

evacuation plan is the responsibility and under the direction of the local authorities. The Corps of Engineers will provide any available information about the Shallow Land Disposal Area that may be required.

4. It was requested that surveillance equipment and 24 hour guards be provided to secure the Parks Township SLDA from terrorists.

The licensee is currently responsible for providing site security.

5. It was alleged that waste had been disposed of in the Kiskiminetas River. River water and sediments should be tested downstream of the site up to Freeport because the river water is the source of water supply.

Please see response to question 1 above.

6. Does the risk assessment take into account the radiological exposure and risks to people who worked in and lived around the SLDA site?

In order to determine the radiological exposure of people who worked in and lived around the SLDA site a complicated study, called a "dose reconstruction," would have to be performed. The study would have to investigate the factors leading to exposure such as exposure rates, work activities performed, duration of exposure, environmental concentrations, and such. Two epidemiological studies have already been performed to determine if significant differences from normal sickness rates have occurred to persons living in the Apollo-Parks area. These are, "Cancer Incidence in the Apollo-Parks Area of Armstrong and Westmoreland Counties During 1984-85," and "Pregnancy Outcome in the Apollo-Parks Areas of Armstrong and Westmoreland Counties," by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in September 1988 and March 1988, respectively. Further studies are a complex task and outside the scope of the Corps' risk assessment. The Corps' risk assessment is based on guidance from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and involves an assessment of the risk to hypothetical on-site persons during present and future site activities.

7. It was mentioned during the presentation that more than 3,000 feet of drilling was done during the field investigation. What happened to all the drill cuttings?

All the investigation derived waste including drill cuttings, decontamination water, and well development water was collected, stored on site in drums, tested for radiological and chemical constituents, and disposed of at a licensed facility.

8. How does background radiation in the area compared to other areas in the country?

Background radiation varies from location to location based on a number of factors such as soil or rock type, elevation, cosmic radiation, etc... The average dose to a person in the US, due to naturally occurring, background radiation is about 300 millirem per year.

9. Are radiation levels in Pennsylvania higher because of mining in the area?

Because of their physical and chemical characteristics, coal deposits have naturally elevated radiation levels.

10. Cleanup Standards should be 25 millirems/year for the site as opposed to 100 millirem/year EPA standard.

A thorough analysis of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Regulations (ARAR's) and development of site-specific cleanup levels will be performed as part of the Feasibility Study. Public Law 107-117 authorizes the Corps of Engineers to clean up radioactive waste at the SLDA site. The Corps is required to clean up the site to the NRC's unrestricted release criterion of 25 millirems per year.

11. Did you observe any sinkholes at the site

No. We have not observed any sinkholes at the site during the remedial investigation fieldwork.