



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# SHALLOW LAND DISPOSAL AREA

## Parks Township, Pa.

### AUTHORIZATION

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 to identify and clean up contaminated sites used in the early years of the Nation's atomic energy program. Management of the program was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) from the U.S. Department of Energy in 1997. Public Law 107-117, Section 8143, passed in 2002, directs the Corps of Engineers to clean up radioactive waste at the Parks Township, Pennsylvania, Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) site. The clean up must adhere to a July 5, 2001 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Army Corps of Engineers for the coordination of the clean up and decommissioning of NRC-licensed FUSRAP sites and in accordance with Public Law 106-60, Section 611.

### SLDA SITE

The Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area site, located in Armstrong County, encompasses 44 acres of private land presently owned by BWX Technologies. The Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC), which was a predecessor of BWX Technologies, conducted disposal of radioactive waste materials in accordance with the Atomic Energy Commission regulations (predecessor to the present Nuclear Regulatory Commission). BWX Technologies presently is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to properly maintain the site to ensure the protection of workers and the public. The SLDA site consists of ten trenches containing contaminated soil and other waste materials. The estimated quantity of contaminated waste material from the trenches is approximately 24,300 cubic yards. This equates to the area of a football field twelve feet deep. Additional waste material encountered outside of the trenches will also be removed. Uranium, thorium, americium and plutonium contaminated waste has been identified. Uranium and thorium contaminated waste material consisting of process residue, equipment, scrap and trash from the nearby Apollo nuclear fuel fabrication facility were disposed of within the trenches at the SLDA site between 1961 and 1970. The uranium in the trenches is present at various levels of enrichment from highly depleted to highly enriched. Americium and plutonium, whose presence is attributed to storage of equipment used in the adjoining Parks Facility has been detected in surface soils adjacent to a single trench.

### CURRENT STATUS

Within the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, and Record of Decision (ROD) have all been completed. The ROD, approved in September 2007, formally provides the clean up alternative to be used at the site. In August 2003, April 2004 and January 2007, the Army Corps of Engineers held public information sessions to present and discuss the Remedial Investigation, the Feasibility Study, and the Proposed Plan. The Feasibility Study identified and provided an evaluation of potential alternatives to address the contamination at the site; the Proposed Plan provided the alternative that is preferred based on the results of that evaluation for the Parks Township SLDA site. As a result of input received from the public at these information sessions, the recommendations were reviewed, further evaluated, and included in the ROD. The recommendation from the ROD is to excavate radiologically contaminated material and transport the material out of state to an approved disposal facility. The ROD is available for viewing at the Apollo Public Library and the Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District Office. The District is now preparing a detailed design for the approved methodology. These activities and subsequent work at the site are steps in the site investigation and cleanup process outlined in the CERCLA. The completion of the project Remedial Design is scheduled for May 2010. Remedial Action, the onsite removal effort, is to begin with the preparation of the infrastructure necessary to process the waste material. This work is scheduled to begin in May 2010. Excavation of the trenches is not expected to occur until spring 2011. Completion is scheduled for 2015. Following Remedial Action, the Project Closeout phase will conclude all efforts.

### Other Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District has been assigned Project Management responsibility for the Parks Township FUSRAP team and is taking the lead on the investigation and remediation work for this site. The Army Corps' Buffalo District is the Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste Design Center assigned to perform the technical evaluations. The Corps team is working closely with the Pennsylvania regulatory agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Parks Township, and the property owner.

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