



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Buffalo District**

Building Strong®

November 2011

Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites

The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) was established in 1986 to address contamination caused by Department of Defense (DoD) activities. Sites no longer owned by the DoD as of October 17, 1986, are addressed under the DERP for Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). The U.S. Army is the executive agent responsible for the DERP-FUDS. This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach needs and is consistent with provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Site Description

The former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Site is a 7,500-acre site located in the towns of Lewiston and Porter, New York, and was formerly used for a World War II trinitrotoluene (TNT) manufacturing facility (see Figure 1). Approximately 7,000 acres of the site meet the criteria of a Department of Defense (DoD) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). The TNT production, production support, and storage areas were constructed on approximately 2,500 acres. The remaining 5,000 acres, located to the west of the production area, were not heavily utilized and became known as the “buffer zone.” Current owners of the former LOOW Site include local and Federal government, individual private residents, and private corporations.

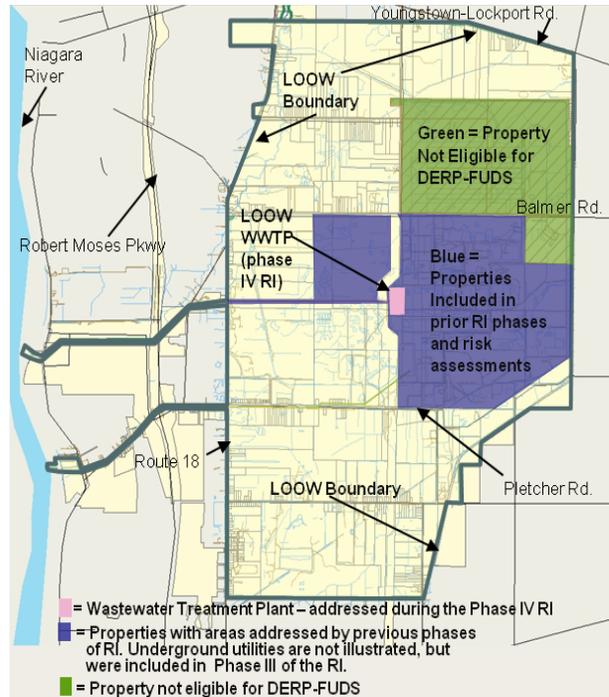


Figure 1: Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site

Current Status of Active Projects

Remedial Investigation (RI)

The Corps conducts its environmental investigations, decision-making and cleanup work using the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The RI for LOOW is being conducted in multiple phases to work within funding constraints. The Phase I and Phase II RIs occurred in 1998 and 2000. The Phase II RI was designed to further evaluate areas of potential environmental concern based upon a historical document search of the former LOOW, previous investigations, results of the Phase I RI, and areas that had little or no impact from non-DoD entities. The Phase III RI (Underground Utilities RI or UURI) was conducted to investigate the underground utilities within the former LOOW. The Phase III RI Report was released in June 2009.

The Phase IV RI was performed during 2009-2010 and released in October 2011. Activities included an evaluation of the nature and extent of potential DoD contamination at the former LOOW Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). The former LOOW WWTP is located on property currently owned by the Town of Lewiston. It was built during World War II and provided primary treatment of storm, sanitary, and process wastewaters from the original TNT production plant and later DoD operations. Fact sheets regarding the Phase IV RI (WWTP) can be found on the web at: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow/#Documents.

Risk Assessments (RA)

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) was performed for all Exposure Units (EUs) within the former LOOW Site which were evaluated during the Phase I, II, III, and IV RIs. The objective of the HHRA was to estimate the nature and probability of adverse health effects in humans who may be exposed to chemicals within the EUs and to answer the overall question of "What is the risk and how bad is it?" Additionally, a Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) was performed to estimate the risk and hazard to ecological receptors at the former LOOW Site.

The HHRA, SLERA, a RA Summary Report and fact sheet are available at: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow/#Documents.

Feasibility Studies (FS)

The recommended path forward for each EU is based on the results of the SLERA and HHRA. The following three outcomes are considered for each EU:

- No further action recommendation;
- Inclusion into a FS for potential remedial action; or
- Completion of an interim removal action with eventual inclusion into a FS.

The final path forward for each EU will be based on risk management decisions made by the Corps' Remedial Project Manager in consultation with members of the technical team and Corps' DERP-FUDS policy decision makers. Feasibility Studies will begin in 2012 for the LOOW properties that include EUs selected for potential remedial action.

Management Action Plan (MAP)

Published in October 2009, the primary project objective of the LOOW MAP is to establish a comprehensive planning document in which the Corps formally communicates issues, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to achieve the objectives of the CERCLA responsibilities at the former LOOW Site. The intent is for the Corps to publish regular updates to this plan based upon actual work accomplishments, progress made on remedial issues, and possible receipt of additional data not formerly gathered.

Administrative Record File

The Administrative Record File for the former LOOW site contains documents that support the decision-making process for the site. It is available for your review at the following locations:

Electronic

Town of Lewiston Public Library
305 8th Street
Lewiston, NY 14092.

Youngstown Free Library
240 Lockport Street
Youngstown, NY 14174

Electronic and Paper

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207 (by appointment)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT DERPFUDS TEAM

1776 NIAGARA STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14207

Phone: 800-833-6390 (Option 4)

Email: derpfuds@usace.army.mil

Website: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow