



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Buffalo District

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Corps of Engineers revises Remedial Investigation Report for Former Harshaw Chemical Company Site, Information Session to be held

BUFFALO, NY -- January 6, 2010 --The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, is releasing a Revised Remedial Investigation Report for the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site located at 1000 Harvard Avenue, south of downtown Cleveland. The Revised Remedial Investigation Report replaces the 2006 Remedial Investigation Report, incorporates additional data from Phase III and Phase IV investigations, and updates the Baseline Risk Assessment. An Information Session will be held to discuss the findings of the report on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the State Boat Landing Room of the Cleveland Metroparks' Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center, Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation located off of 4524 East 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125.

"The Phase III and Phase IV investigations were performed because additional historical information indicated other Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission processes may have taken place on the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site and there was a potential for the presence of additional radioactive elements," said Project Manager, Duane Lenhardt. "The Revised Remedial Investigation Report provides information and data concerning the Corps' ongoing work to better determine the nature and extent of possible radioactive contamination at the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site. Based on the site's current use (restricted access industrial use), there is no imminent threat to human health or the environment at the site."

The Corps is also responsible for making sure that the site is safe for future land use. "We are working closely with Ohio stakeholders," continued Lenhardt, "to ensure that we arrive at a plan that fully meets current environmental regulations and standards."

The Remedial Investigation entailed an extensive review of historical records (including a historical photographic analysis), field sampling activities, and data evaluation.

Specifically, the Corps' investigative team looked for radioactive and chemical residuals related to actions conducted by the Harshaw Chemical Company under contract with the Manhattan Engineer District and Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC), and determined the potential for exposure from soil, air, ground water, sediment, and surface water pathways. Testing also included a gamma walkover, a geophysical survey, and assessment of wells located on the site.

The Corps' team found evidence of varying amounts of residual radioactive and chemical contamination at the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site. The Corps' team sampled sediment and surface water in both the Cuyahoga River and Big Creek, the groundwater under the site, the soils and subsurface soils on site, as well as the structures on site.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT
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Based on the site's current use (restricted access industrial use), there is no imminent threat to human health or the environment at the site. Site access is restricted. Areas of physical hazards and radiological hazards are marked and controlled appropriately. However, over a person's lifetime, with 25 to 30 years of daily exposure on the site, there are potential long-term human health risks related to exposure to radiological contamination on some areas of the site. This means that the Corps' team will evaluate the radioactive/chemical residues that might remain from past activities, and if necessary, clean up to levels protective of human health and the environment according to future land-use requirements.

The Corps' Revised Remedial Investigation Report is now available to the public in the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Brooklyn Branch, which is located at 4480 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio. It is also available online at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/harshaw.

The Corps encourages public participation in the decision-making process for its sites. Members of the public that have comments or questions can contact the Corps' Team by telephone at 800-833-6390 (option 4), by postal mail at 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207, or by emailing fusrap@usace.army.mil.

The Corps has been investigating the former Harshaw Chemical Company Site as part of its Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate, and clean up or control sites throughout the United States that were part of the Nation's early atomic energy program.

The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, signed into law by Congress in 1997, transferred the management of FUSRAP from the Department of Energy to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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