

Harshaw News from the Corps

Sent: Fri 1/29/10 at 4:48 PM

Hello from the Buffalo District of the US Army Corps of Engineers,

Thank you to those that attended our meeting last week for the Harshaw Chemical Company Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site in Cleveland, Ohio.

The presentation and information from the meeting is available on our website at:

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/harshaw/#Documents>

Our #1 priority is protection of human health and the environment. We have determined through extensive sampling and analysis of the site that contamination levels at the site do not prevent its use for passive recreation. However, if other uses are chosen, radioactivity levels on portions of the site are high enough to require remediation to be protective of human health and the environment. For example, the most recent draft plans for use of the site include a visitor center and/or museum. This indicates that the site might need to be remediated to a level that would afford protection to anybody who may be working on the premises, either during construction activities and/or as an employee of a new visitor center/museum.

The Corps is required by law to follow the CERCLA process for the Harshaw Chemical Company Site. Now that our Remedial Investigation of the site is complete, we are beginning to prepare a Feasibility Study, which will be followed by a Proposed Plan and Record of Decision before remedial design/action can begin.

Additionally, it is important to note that the Corps is only addressing FUSRAP-related contaminants at the site. We cannot investigate the site for contamination that may have resulted from other processes or activities performed by the various owners of the Harshaw Chemical Company Site. The Corps does not own the site, and we cannot control activities that exceed the Corps' authority.

We recognize the importance and value of the Ohio and Erie Towpath Trail and have been working closely with the community to expedite the release of the undeveloped Eastside parcel along the Cuyahoga River that we call Investigative Area 06. Until recently, this area was the only area of the site identified for potential recreational re-use. Our Remedial Investigation of this area found very little radioactivity above levels that would be considered normal for the region and indicated no further evaluation or remedial action in regard to FUSRAP-related contaminants is required for Investigative Area 06. The Corps will be releasing a Proposed Plan specifically for this area for public comment later this year. After consideration of input received from the community on the Proposed Plan a Record of Decision will be signed.

As we continue to work through the CERCLA process, we will keep you informed and ask for your input. If you are in receipt of this email and do not wish to receive future emails, please respond and we will remove you from our electronic mailing list. If you know someone that would be interested in the Harshaw Chemical Company Site, please forward this email to them and ask them to contact us at fusrap@usace.army.mil if they would like to be added to our electronic or postal mailing lists for the site.