

News from the Corps

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

We are pleased to announce that the "Report of Results for the Remedial Investigation of Underground Utility Lines formerly used by the Department of Defense, Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Niagara County, New York, September 2008" and accompanying Human Health and Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessments are available on our website at:

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow/index.htm#Documents>. Fact sheets regarding these documents and a summary report for the risk assessments are also available on the website. The purpose of the Underground Utility Remedial Investigation Report is to identify the nature and extent of contamination associated with the underground utility lines. The risk assessments estimate potential human health and ecological risks associated with the investigative areas evaluated to date.

The most significant findings of our Remedial Investigation include the following:

- a. Constituents of Potential Concern (COPCs) for the following analytical groups were identified during the Underground Utility Remedial Investigation: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds [SVOCs, including, but not limited to, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)], pesticides, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), explosives, and metals.
- b. Results indicated that underground utility lines in several areas have been impacted by COPCs. Impact to subsurface soil from COPCs in sludge and/or wastewater was observed in the Air Force Plant-68 (AFP-68) Process Areas 2, 8, 14, 20, and lines exiting the Fortifier Building at the existing Nitration House Area.
- c. Bedding material appears to be providing a pathway for COPC migration, primarily along the secondary wastewater lines associated with AFP-68.
- d. Possible impact to groundwater was evaluated indirectly by comparing subsurface soil concentrations to soil screening levels. Results indicated a potential for groundwater impact from VOCs in the vicinity of Process Area 14 and from pesticides in Process Areas 2, 8, and 20.

As present and possible future site use may bring people, animals, or plants into contact with the COPCs within the boundaries of the former LOOW, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) have been conducted to evaluate the possible risk from contact with them. Several exposure scenarios were evaluated to consider both current and potential future uses of the site. The risk assessments focused on potential risks associated with direct, long-term exposure to contamination evaluated to-date within the boundaries of the former LOOW. Some of these areas on site could pose potential risks to human health and/or the environment depending on type and length of exposure, so they will be evaluated in a feasibility study to address the contamination.

The Buffalo District anticipates holding a public workshop to discuss this report with the community in September. We welcome your comments and questions on the report. You may contact us through our toll-free telephone number, (800) 833-6390 Option 4, send a letter to the address below, or send us an email: derpfuds@usace.army.mil.