



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1776 NIAGARA STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207-3199

CELRB-IM
MAILROOM

20 OCT 04 10 50

OCT 20 2004

Programs, Planning and Project Management Division

[REDACTED]
Co-Chair, Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW); Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Steering Committee
CWM Chemical Services, LLC
1550 Balmer Road
Model City, NY 14107

Dear [REDACTED]:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you, as the acting RAB Chairperson, of resource issues that the Buffalo District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) will experience over the next six months and discuss the operations of the RAB. First, as you know, we are temporarily losing our program community outreach specialists. Second, I would like to better integrate the RAB requests with the Corps mission and ensure that we are fulfilling our commitment to the local communities by reaching the full range of concerned citizens in the area.

Concerning the first issue, I ask you to bear with us as we work to fill the position vacated by [REDACTED], and, temporarily, by [REDACTED]. We expect [REDACTED] back in November, and hope to have a new outreach specialist on board by the end of the year. As you know, we rely heavily on these two positions to support RAB associated tasks, as the RAB serves as our primary means of collecting citizen input for our work at the LOOW site as well as the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS).

Regarding the second issue, upon review of recent RAB requests, we are concerned that the requests may not be fully representative of community interests, or even if these requests represent consensual RAB requests and/or advice. Furthermore, we struggle with prioritizing the requests, as many of them are provided informally, by one or two individuals, rather than as a result of formal consensus requests from the steering committee, or committee chairs.

In order to maximize our available resources and ensure the Corps is meeting our commitment to the local community, we request that the Steering Committee prioritize existing requests for information and schedule a meeting to review the RAB mission statement and communication guidelines. Accomplishing this will assist our staff with responding in a timely manner and more importantly, ensure our efforts are reaching all interested members of the community.

I am a strong supporter of the RAB and believe this structure can be an excellent mechanism for obtaining diverse community perspectives on our ongoing work at these two sites and maintaining the two-way communication channels we have established. If you have questions or would like to discuss this further in person, please feel free to call me at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

SIGNED

[REDACTED]
Chief, Programs, Planning and Project
Management Division

Copies Furnished:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]