

GOVERNOR



COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

JUL 06 2010

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207

Dear [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED] has asked me to respond to your letter requesting input with respect to establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) site.

As you are aware, we also received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' April 1, 2010 letter. Our previous response indicated that DEC strongly believes that there is continued and sufficient interest in the community to justify the need for a RAB for the LOOW site. Our position is based on past and present involvement/attendance by the public at sponsored forums, interest by local elected officials, and coverage by the local news media of events involving the Corps remedial activities for these facilities.

We are concerned with the growing sentiment expressed at recent public forums that the Corps is not being responsive to the public's concerns. Comments expressed at the meetings illustrate the discontent and frustration felt by the public with respect to input on the remedial process being undertaken for these facilities. DEC is aware of other instances where federal facilities have successfully used facilitators on projects where public concerns have resulted in contentious meetings. In the interest of improving future public involvement, we very much support the Corps utilizing a facilitator in this instance to improve the effectiveness of gaining public input at its public forums, and to help overcome the historic frustration that has developed regarding this matter.

Thank you for providing New York State with the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

c: [REDACTED]