

## News from the Corps

Sent: Thu 7/01/2010 11:59 AM

Hello from the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District:

Our Commander, [REDACTED], thanks those from the community that provided input regarding the establishment of an official Department of Defense (DoD) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Site. After a thorough review of the input received in accordance with the applicable regulations and after careful consideration [REDACTED] has decided not to establish an official DoD RAB at this time.

The Corps is committed to effectively engaging the community throughout our environmental restoration of both the former LOOW Site which is being addressed under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) and the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) which is being addressed under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). An official DoD RAB would only address the former LOOW Site; and therefore, would not meet the needs of the community regarding the NFSS. This decision means that for the next 24 months, the Buffalo District will continue to sponsor periodic discussion workshops with the local community on both the LOOW and NFSS sites.

In addition, we recognize the highly interested members within the larger audience of stakeholders who seek to contribute their expertise and engage the Corps on technical issues in greater detail. We are aware there is interest in a technical facilitator to improve the dialogue on the complex scientific issues at these sites. Accordingly, we approached the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to discuss lessons learned with technical facilitators at other cleanup sites. We've concluded that it could be beneficial for all parties to employ a technical facilitator in the Corps outreach program to assist with the review and consideration of technical input. We will advance this option of hiring a technical facilitator by dedicating our next workshop to discussing the details of community expectations and options available for the Corps to establish facilitated technical discussions with the community.

The Corps will reassess community interest on this subject in 24 months. The input received is available on our website at <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow/index.htm>.

If you need additional information please send an e-mail to [derpfuds@usace.army.mil](mailto:derpfuds@usace.army.mil).