

News from the Corps

Sent: Wed 06/01/2011 4:27 PM

Hello from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District is pleased to announce that we awarded a \$275,000 contract to Mr. Douglas Sarno, President, of Forum Facilitation Group located in Arlington, Virginia, to serve as a technical facilitator on the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) project. Mr. Sarno has extensive experience in communications, dispute resolution, stakeholder participation, and strategic planning and visioning. He has managed and facilitated thousands of public meetings, dozens of long-term stakeholder advisory boards and designed and facilitated many national and international stakeholder forums. Mr. Sarno regularly advises communities, government agencies, and non-profit groups, and served five years as the Executive Director of the International Association for Public Participation. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.B.A.

The hiring of a technical facilitator is in response to requests from elected officials and the community and the scope of work was developed based on your input. The selection process, from concept to contract award, was a thorough nationwide search for the best qualified facilitator to enhance communication between the community and the Corps on highly technical issues. The funds for these facilitation services came from NFSS project funds.

Under the terms of the Corps' contract, Mr. Sarno will provide technical facilitation services in support of the NFSS Interim Waste Containment Structure (IWCS) Feasibility Study (FS). Mr. Sarno will serve as a liaison between the Corps and community members on technical issues associated with the preparation and development of the IWCS FS. "We want to promote openness and transparency and ensure that we provide the community with many opportunities for public participation," said Lt. Col. Stephen H. Bales, Commander of the Buffalo District. "Awarding a contract to bring Mr. Sarno on board is one more step toward achieving this end."

Please attend our NFSS Remedial Investigation Report Addendum workshop on June 8, 2011, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Lewiston Senior Center located at 4361 River Road, Youngstown, NY 14174. We look forward to discussing this project with you then.