QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

FORMER LAKE ONTARIO ORDNANCE WORKS SITE
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
JUNE 29, 1999 MEETING

1. **Q**. Where are you taking the material that is being cleaned up?
A. We have temporary storage on site and are distinguishing hazardous from non-hazardous material. Instead of shipping the material multiple times, we want to ship the material out all at one time.

2. **Q**. What type of hazardous material are you looking for? Are you looking for government-specified materials or such things as PCB or other contaminants as well?
A. We are using existing studies that have already been performed on the pipeline system that have identified the types of contaminants that we are going to be running into. We will be targeting volatiles, semi-volatile organics, nitroaromatics that could be associated with TNT, PCBs. There is a full range of chemical analysis that we have to perform.

3. **Q**. Are you (Radian) looking for radioactive materials on the LOOW site also?
A. There have been studies done before and there has been no radioactive material identified on the property where Radian is working.

4. **Q**. Are you using the State definition for hazardous waste?
A. No. We are using the Federal definition.

5. **Q**. Can you explain the process of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and how it was used in conjunction with the TNT production?
A. A Corps contractor, who had worked on the project, explained that when the plant was built other facilities were built to support the production of TNT. One facility was a freshwater treatment plant to store the fresh water and a wastewater treatment plant. When they built the TNT plant, a TNT wasteline was built to accept the waste from the TNT processing area and then piped to the wastewater treatment plant.

6. **Q**. Could you continue to explain the building of the Air Force Plant 68?
A. Yes. In addition to the underground lines associated with the TNT plant, when that plant closed other DoD facilities were built. One was the Air Force plant which had a chemical waste lift station built to receive waste from the different process areas within the plant. This Air Force plant was built to produce chlorine fuel.

7. **Q**. How expansive is the pipeline?
A. The TNT pipeline is 10,000 feet long and the chem-waste line is between 1,500-2,000 feet long. The diameter is from 12-16 inches.

8. **Q.** Are there any concerns north of Balmer Road?
A. That part is owned by the U.S. Government for active military use and therefore falls under a different restoration program called the Installation Restoration Program.

9. **Q.** Is that program (Installation Restoration Program) in place?
A. Yes. They have done investigations there. There is some information about it in the History Report that can be accessed on the Corps' web page.

10. **Q.** Is that property under the Army Guard or the Air Force?
A. It was first under the Air Force and is now under the Army Guard.

11. **Q.** Do you know if the installation restoration program has any form of public involvement?
A. Don't know. Action Item: Find contact person for more info.

12. **Q.** Air Force Representative –can you tell us about your restoration activities?
A. We just completed restoration activities last Friday at the former Nike missile site. We have removed transformers and volatiles. We think we are done on that.

13. **Q.** What were the Nike missiles fueled with?
A. The Nike missiles were fueled with hydrazine(?) and nitric acid. The storage tanks contained diesel fuel and gasoline.

14. **Q.** Could you explain the program funding. How is it handled, where is it administered?
A. The DERP-FUDS program funding for New York State is handled by the New York District. We are one of several sites that compete for funds. The funding at this time is not available because of a project that the Baltimore District has been involved in and the funds had to be transferred to them.

15. **Q.** How much funding do you anticipate annually?
A. The annual DERP-FUDS budget has been between $200 to $220 million which is appropriated nationally. The North Atlantic Division (NAD) appropriation is about $20 million. These funds are distributed to all the projects located in several states within the Division boundary and are allocated based on a priority basis. We cannot predict funding because priorities change but we can say that the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works project has been fortunate to receive several million dollars for investigations, design work and removal actions over the past several years. We are competing for funds with many other projects and we will continue to pursue funding to continue our work on schedule. The estimate for completing work required at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works is currently about $55 million.

16. **Q**. There is concern here about the Niagara Falls Storage Site. Can you give us some background information on this site and how it will be addressed?
A. The Corps is doing a remedial investigation (sampling) within the 191 acres for chemical and radioactive contamination. We are required to conduct monitoring on a quarterly basis of radon on the pile which is about 10 acres in size. We have found no detectable releases of radon on the pile and groundwater -there have been no detects on that. These monitoring reports are submitted to the State. If there were any release, we'd have to notify the public and take immediate action. The remedial investigation should be done by the end of next year and will address the contaminants on the site and any chemical contamination. From there it will go into a feasibility study, some treatment technology issues will be looked into, we are reviewing sites where the waste material can go. We are maintaining a structure for containing the high activity material. We are also maintaining the CAP on the site and have improved the fencing around the site for security. We have reviewed the National Academy of Science study. Unfortunately, there wasn't much of a risk assessment associated with their report. The Niagara Falls Storage site is being addressed under a separate program called the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

17. **Q**. Is the Niagara Falls Storage project also included in the $55 million estimate of the Lake Ontario project?
A. No. That project is estimated to be at the $300 million-dollar range.

18. **Q**. Will there be a separate public participation group formed for the Niagara Falls Storage Site?
A. No, this RAB will be the public involvement forum for both.

19. **Q**. Will we be focusing on any of the other sites in Niagara County? It appears for example at Tonawanda that they found contamination in Rattlesnake Creek – a new finding. Could we run into findings like that here?
A. To the best of our knowledge, radioactive material has been contained within the Niagara Falls Storage Site. Based on our quarterly sampling of surface soil and groundwater, the material is not migrating. A risk assessment has been done on the Rattlesnake Creek Uranium. That material doesn't pose any immediate dangers. We are going to be doing some more sampling.

20. **Q**. I understand you could survey a parcel of property for radioactivity and not find any elevated levels but if material was buried and shielded somehow, shouldn't an ongoing project be monitored for radioactivity?
A. When soil sampling was being performed last year, a hand held monitor scanned everything and there were no traces found so we have no reason to suspect that there is anything.

21. **Q.** Is there a liner at the 10-acre site?
A. K-65 is an old foundation that is clay and reinforced concrete. That is better than a liner.

22. **Q.** There have been so many people dying of cancer it is hard to convince anyone that nothing could surface from that foundation. Are you sure it is safe?
A. The cancers that would be surfacing now would have been initiated years ago before this material was ever put in the pile. The material has been in the pile since 1986. There could be some concerns about the history of the site but likely anything that you'd be seeing now has nothing to do with what is under that clay cap.