

Information session scheduled

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Buffalo District will hold an Information Session in regard to upcoming sampling of the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats area from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 29, in the Community Room of the Philip Sheridan Building, 3200 Elmwood Ave.

The Corps is investigating this area

as a vicinity property of the Linde Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Site. FUSRAP is a federal program that identifies and restores sites contaminated with radioactive materials resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program.

Representatives of the Corps will be available to provide information and answer questions in regard to the upcoming sampling of this area, which is located at the northernmost end of East Park Drive. Sampling is scheduled to begin in the spring and will continue for four to five weeks. Results of the sampling will be included in a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Report, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall. When the report is completed, another information session will be held to inform the public.

Waste disposal at the landfill began during the 1930s and continued through 1989. Records indicate that the landfill was principally used for the disposal of household waste, construction and demolition materials, leaves, incinerator ash and municipal waste. A radiological survey performed in 1991 found small areas of material containing low levels of residual radioactivity. The Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area was designated as a Vicinity Property to the former Linde Site under FUSRAP in 1992. Additional sampling was performed in 1994, which indicated low levels of residual radioactivity were primarily confined to the top one and one-half feet of soil.

The Corps was assigned management of FUSRAP in 1997. In 1999, a Radiological Human Health Assessment was completed on the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area to evaluate potential risks associated with the contamination for different users over a thousand-year period under current and potential future land uses. Under current land use, the assessment determined that potential risks associated with the contamination are within acceptable risk limits.