

**MEETING MINUTES – July 12, 2000  
FORMER LAKE ONTARIO ORDNANCE WORKS SITE (L0OW)  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**To: Restoration Advisory Board Members and Interested Parties**  
**From: Ray Pilon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Project Manager**  
**SUBJECT: Minutes of July 12, 2000 RAB Meeting**

<b>RAB Members Present:</b>	<b>Affiliation:</b>
Stephen Yaksich, Government Co-Chair	US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Dr. Nils Olsen, Jr.	Community Member
Mary Ann Rolland for Charles Lamb	Town of Porter
Thomas Freck	Community Member
Nona McQuay	Community Member
Paul Dicky	Niagara County Health Department
Bruce Mero	U.S. Air Force
Daniel Serrianni, Jr.	Community Member
Rebecca Zayatz	Chemical Waste Management, Inc.
Mike Basile	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Walter Polka	Community Member
John Syms	Somerset Group
William Roger Angus	Community Member
Darwin James Langlois	Town of Lewiston
Edward Lilly	Community Member
<b>RAB Members Absent:</b>	
Tim Henderson	Community Member
Clyde Johnston, Jr.	Community Member
Lawrence Brennen	Community Member
Martin Hodgins	Community Member
Kent Johnson	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Neil Patterson	Community Member
Gary Smith	Community Member

Introduction and Welcome - Call Meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M. by Ms. Arleen Kreuzsch

- The meeting was called to order and began by having the RAB members and guests introduce themselves.
- The minutes from the last meeting were approved.
- Action Items from the last meeting were reviewed.
- There is no new information available yet regarding the Health Studies. This will remain an open Action Item.
- Documentation regarding the restraining orders on the Somerset property is available. The Corps is still addressing this issue and it will remain an open Action Item.

Slide Presentation – Corps of Engineers provided an overview of activities associated with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) Program at the Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site and Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) at the Niagara Falls Storage Site.

The Corps will be interviewing employees who worked at the Niagara Falls Storage Site prior to 1986. A list of possible interview questions was presented.

A brief five (5) minute question and answer period followed the presentation to address specific questions of any Board Member. A summary of questions and responses are presented in the tables below.

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site**

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Nils Olsen: What is the public review process for the Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Area C? How does the information get to the public?	<p>Arleen Kreusch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will send a notice to everyone that is on the mailing list to let them know that the EE/CA is available.</li> <li>• We will put it up on our website, and people can write to us and ask for a copy.</li> <li>• We plan on sending it to everyone that is on the Restoration Advisory Board.</li> <li>• We put ads in the Niagara Gazette on Sunday so they hit the Lockport paper as well, and the Niagara Wheatfield Tribune, Lew-Port Sentinel and the Buffalo News.</li> </ul>
Nils Olsen: Could you put copies in the libraries?	Arleen Kreusch: When the EE/CA goes out for comment we will be putting the Administrative Record in the Lewiston library.
Nils Olsen: Can you put it in the Youngstown Library also?	<p>Arleen Kreusch: I'm not sure they would have room for it. The Administrative Record is quite large. We could check with them.</p> <p><i>The Administrative Record File for the LOOW Site will be placed in the Lewiston and Youngstown Libraries, as well as the Corps of Engineers District Office</i></p>
Nils Olsen: How much is budgeted for this fiscal year exactly?	Ray Pilon: About \$5 million.

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site (cont'd)**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p>Darwin James Langlios: I have a comment on this TNT pipeline removal. I think I mentioned this before, you surely don't have a TNT pipeline that is going under there because obviously TNT is an explosive. What you really have is a TNT Plant sewer line removal, is that correct?</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: Yes, I have briefed that in detail in previous board meetings. This is a waste water line, which collected waste water from the final washing process. It was not used to transport TNT product anywhere on the site. It was simply the last step in the disposal process. In the Phase I part of this investigation we found virtually no TNT that met explosive criteria. We are not assuming that for this portion. We are going in and for safety reasons assuming that there could be TNT and we will test for it.</p>
<p>William Roger Angus: The building on the Town of Lewiston Property, it is my recollection that there were people going in there and having beer. And that they were relatively unsafe. Jim (Langlios) I thought you made a motion at council to have them taken down.</p>	<p>Darwin James Langlios: We essentially knocked down the building and made it inaccessible so it wouldn't be a place for young people to congregate. It has to be remediated and we have asked to see if there could be a grant given to finish the remediation, and we are working on that, and we need to supply a deed. It needs to be remediated but it is not the kind of hazard that it was before.</p>

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p>Nona McQuay: In regard to the building on the Town of Lewiston Site, which buildings are part of this project?</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: There are two structures left standing. We took one down during the first phase. They are concrete structures that are in pretty bad shape. They don't really have a name or number associated with them. I could provide you with a diagram showing the locations of the buildings.</p>
<p>Is one the acid neutralization building?</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: That is one of them. I believe the other one is a pump house</p>
<p>These are not currently scheduled for demolition?</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: That's correct, we are going to try to possibly modify the contract for the TNT/Chemical Waste Sewer line removal to include these structures.</p>
<p>Will those go through an EIS? That might be a good idea since they are historic buildings. I didn't mean to save them, I mean for historic interest.</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: I'm not aware of that. I do not believe we would. We have a lot of documentation on the buildings, their construction and their use.</p>
<p>Nils Olsen: Your report on your survey of the investigation of this property will list everything that you found, not just the materials that you determine are exclusively the responsibility of the DoD?</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: We test for other analytes. The complete report will go out, nothing will be edited out.</p>

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Niagara Falls Storage Site**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
Paul Dicky: When you conduct the interviews you might want to ask them if they know of any other workers you could interview.	Judy Leithner: That's a good point, Thanks.
Bruce Mero: When you characterized the palletized waste, what did you find?	Judy Leithner: The palletized waste was material that was generated when they cleaned up Building 401. They took out some old lockers and maybe a beam or two that they thought should come out because it was contaminated. There were things like tyvek suits and gloves. What we found is 99% of that was less than the 2,000 pCi/g that is the cut off limit for considering it so low that it could go to WCS in Texas. The other material that higher than 2,000 pCi/g is going to Envirocare, Utah. We are having a meeting with the contractors on Friday to go over what they found, what the process is to get it to Envirocare and what the cost is. It is considered very low level material, it is just construction debris with very little rad.
Paul Dicky: The building demolition debris, is that being disposed of off-site or on-site?	Judy Leithner: Clean debris will go to Modern Landfill. Debris that has any rad at all will be set aside and it will go to Envirocare, Utah.

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Niagara Falls Storage Site**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p>Nona McQuay: The people who come forward with historical information, I'm guessing that they will be concerned about their own health. Will there be any follow up or contact so if they are concerned about working with contaminated material.</p> <p>Nona McQuay: The state Health Department would be doing necessary follow up for these people?</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: We will give them Dr. Rimawi's name of the New York State Department of Health because the Corps doesn't do Health Studies. But I can see that they would be concerned, and that's a place to start. If people are concerned about MS, he may not be able to help. But if they are concerned about cancer studies maybe he could help. That's where we will point them because that is the only source that we know of.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: Yes.</p>
<p>Mary Ann Rolland: Do you know of any repercussions that might incur for those people who testify or give information that may have been classified, or they were told not to divulge.</p> <p>I've had some people say well if they didn't use my name I would be glad to share the information. They didn't want to be implicated.</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: We wouldn't expect that because the Manhattan Project is long over. These aren't secure things anymore. The only reason that we don't get at the records that have been declassified is that it's a huge job and the records people at National Archives are not staffed for that. It's no longer classified and we would certainly not put pressure on the interviewees to answer any question that they didn't want to answer. We have told them that it's volunteer. Maybe someone will say, oh yeah I remember there was a drum burial area there and they planted trees over it. There are people who spent an awful lot of time there.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: They don't have to give a name, unless they want to. If they wanted to give their name, that would be nice, because we could send them the results of the study.</p>

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Niagara Falls Storage Site (Continued)**

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>William Roger Angus: The geophysical study of the cap, will that help determine the remaining life time of it?</p> <p>What's your prediction right now for the remaining life time?</p> <p>When they did the original cap they said up to fifty years, but they also said that if they added four more feet of clay and gravel on top of that they could extend it actually to 200 to 1,000 years. Did they not do that?</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: It will help, yes.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: The only thing I know, because I don't know what's underneath, is that originally it was estimated to be a 25 to 50 year life. Twenty-five years will be up in 2011. Since there is not much known about what's underneath, like the condition of the cellars in which they put this, I'm not comfortable with that, so I want to find out now as much as I can find out without digging in there. Really I do refuse to dig in.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: The answer is no. What they did, they still have the four feet of clay, and then they had a little more material that they wanted to dispose in 1991. What they did was they leveled the top of that four feet, and put the material on top of that, and then they put more clay on top of that. So it's really not four feet of clay on top of four feet of clay, although the dangerous stuff is protected by that much. But what they were really talking about was adding more and then putting stone coverage. That would be the permanent cap, and they agreed not to do that because they want us to clean it up and put it somewhere else. The thing that poses the least risk to the public for the long term and the short term might be leave it in place with a long-term cap, it might be dig it up and treat it. We have to look at all options and that's what the feasibility study can do for us. So we need this data from the remedial investigation first to have a good feasibility study.</p>

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Niagara Falls Storage Site**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p>Walter Polka: Are you limiting your study of personnel who worked on the site to full time employees.</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: We are not really limiting it at all, were just saying any one who worked on what we call the Niagara Falls Storage Site. We didn't say the whole LOOW site, but any one who worked on it at all and would like to volunteer for an interview is the way we worded it.</p>
<p>Would you consider asking people who may have frequented the site? Maybe people who did some deliveries, maybe they would be able to shed some light on the activities at the site.</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: I was hoping they would come forward, but you raise an interesting question. What I would be kind of interested in (and perhaps they couldn't tell us much about the site), I would be interested in kids who used to play on the site.</p>
<p>Walter Polka: Maybe it's worth putting another ad in.</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: It might be, especially since we haven't had a lot of people respond so far. So that is a potential. I will certainly fund another ad.</p>

**Questions and Answers from Restoration Advisory Board Members  
Regarding the Niagara Falls Storage Site**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p>Tom Freck: Do you have reports from Bechtel Engineering of what was put into that?</p> <p>Could that be put on a website so that it could be made available to us?</p> <p>Are the documents available to us if we want to look at them.</p> <p>You know what was put in there from Bechtel, they pretty much mapped out what and where the stuff went in the cell?</p> <p>Tom Freck: Do you feel that's accurate?</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: Yes we do.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: I am going to have look into that because they are really kind of old and they would have to be scanned in. I will have to take a look at who has the time available.</p> <p>Arleen Kreuzsch: There are a lot of documents in the Administrative Record.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: Yes they did.</p> <p>Judy Leithner: Well put it this way, it's as accurate as we know, it's probably largely accurate. There is some debris that went in there, they didn't categorize that. But the thing is, to get more accurate there is too great a risk. So I wouldn't ask a contractor or Corps employee or anyone to dig in there. As Arleen says, there is a lot of that in the Administrative Record that's easily accessible, but for me to put it on a website would take a while.</p>

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:**

8:00 p.m. Arleen Kreusch:

- Explained that the Operating Rules had been amended to include the U.S. Air Force as a government representative and will not be considered a community voting member.
- Explained that Therese Mudd's name was removed from the signature page since she resigned.
- Asked if there was any discussion on the operating rules. Mr. Syms was concerned that the responsibility of the Board members was changed from the Department of Army Headquarters instruction which states that Restoration Advisory Boards provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide individual advice to the decision makers regarding restoration activities. Arleen explained that the Department of Army Headquarters instruction was just an example, not something that had to be followed. (*Arleen to check with Counsel and provide additional information at the next meeting*).
- Filling of open Board member position. Board members had asked to see how many people that had applied to be on the board were still interested. Eight people who had applied before indicated that they would still be interested in having their applications considered to fill the open position. The Board agreed that it would be easiest, simplest and fairest for the selection panel to reconvene and choose one community member, and an alternate.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Bill Kowalewski to prepare maps to make it easier for members to understand where the different areas are for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site.
- The Corps will run the ad asking for employees of the Niagara Falls Storage Site prior to 1986 to participate in voluntary interviews again to get a broader scope of people. Corps will also ask interviewees if they know of anyone who could be contacted for an interview.
- Posters will be prepared and placed in the Ransomville, Lewiston and Youngstown Public Libraries, and respective Town Halls to announce upcoming Restoration Advisory Board Meetings.
- Corps to check with Youngstown Public Library regarding the possibility of placing the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site Administrative Record File in their library.
- Corps to provide briefing regarding that status of the buildings the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site.
- Corps will contact the town of Lewiston to find out who replaced Nona McQuay as the chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, so that environmental reports will be addressed to the correct person.
- The Corps will provide a briefing on the testing that has been done and will be done on the property that is owned by the Towns of Lewiston and Porter under both the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites.

### **ACTION ITEMS (cont'd):**

- Nils Olsen to contact Dr. John Vena, Head of the Environment and Society Institute at the University at Buffalo, to see if he would be able to do a presentation and answers questions regarding Health Studies at the next Board meeting.
- Letter responding to concerns regarding environmental reports will be provided to Board Members.
- Niagara County Health Department to identify availability of someone from the New York State Health Department to present information on future health studies.
- Corps to send letter to New York State Health Department regarding restraining order.
- **Arleen to check with Micelle Barczak, Legal Counsel, on the operating rules.**

### **Agenda Items for the Next meeting:**

- Will follow the same agenda format, except questions from the public will be allowed after each site presentation, instead of at the end of the meeting. This will allow more time to finalize the operating rules and the public may leave if they do not wish to stay for the administrative matters.
- Dr. John Vena will present on health studies.
- Announce results of selection committee's choice for a new Board member and alternates.
- Approve Operating Rules.

Next meeting scheduled for September 20, 2000.

8:25 – 8:35 p.m. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** Questions from the audience are presented in the table below.

**Questions and Answers from Public Audience**

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p>Dr. Zavon: Could you clarify for me who did the gamma scan at the Niagara Falls Storage Site?</p>	<p>Judy Leithner: It was the contractor’s subcontractor., a specialist who does this all the time. Our specific contractor, Maxim Technologies, has a subcontractor, SAIC, for all the radiological work. They are the people who have the health physicists and proper instrumentation.</p>
<p>Elisa Newman: I would like to know the roads that the sites are located on.</p>	<p>Bill Kowalewski: We have posters here in the back and I can show when the meeting is finished</p>
<p>John Bis: When you are searching for former workers at the plant, I didn’t see the ad you ran, but were there a series of different names the site was called? It wasn’t always called the storage site was it? And how did you characterize the ads because people may have known it by different names at that time.</p>	<p>Arleen Kreusch: We did say Niagara Falls Storage Site in the ad and that is actually the only name that I know that site by.</p> <p>Mr. Syms indicated that the site had many different names.</p> <p><i>Arleen contacted Mr. Syms after the meeting and he gave her the following names: Hooker, TAM Industries, National Lead, NUMEC, Chemical Warfare Department, and Army Corps of Engineers Manhattan District. Mr Syms separately advised Ray Pilon that the name was the Lake Ontario Storage Area.</i></p>

**Questions and Answers from Public Audience (cont'd)**

<p>Dr. Zavon: As someone who has been involved as a professional for the last 50 years, I'd like to comment on your discussion of health studies. Based on all of the experience, world wide, and certainly in this country, there is no credible scientific evidence that anybody living in the vicinity of a waste site has ever had any adverse health effects. And where Leukemia for example, has had higher incidences in children, it is pretty well accepted now that this is due to the fact that families were brought in from all over, England, Wales, and elsewhere. It's apparently an infectious agent that is in some way responsible for the Leukemia in these children. I don't think that you ought too get excited about health studies, not that you shouldn't do them necessarily, but the center for disease control has stated and reiterated numerous times that all of these studies have been a waste of time and money, and it's your money.</p>	<p>Nils Olsen: Well this is in response to a lot of the community question, and it seemed like it would be better to have someone from the University of Buffalo (UB) who has some background come in.</p>
<p>Karen Keil: In regard to the Health Studies, is it appropriate to contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)</p>	<p>Dr. Zavon: The State Health Department would be involved first, and their epidemiological person.</p>
<p>Karen Keil: When you found contamination in the ground water, were you in the upper and lower bedrock as well?</p>	<p>Just Leithner: We sampled both the upper and lower water bearing zones and the alpha was pretty well distributed.</p>

<b>Guests Present:</b>	<b>Affiliation:</b>
Pam Kowalik	Buffalo News
Sam Jowdy	Self
Peter Calabrese	Barnabite Fathers
Mary Battaglia	USACE, CT
Katy Koszuta	USACE
Clare Balter	Self
Elisa Newman	Self
Mitchell Zavon	Self
Ruth Lagace	Self
Nelson Fasciano	Self
Phyllis Fasciano	Self
John Bis	Self
J. Weynerowski	Self
Mr. Steve Mikolaichik	Self
Mrs. Mikolaickik	Self
Tim Webster	Self
Lynda Summers	Haseley Construction
Ann Burke	IT Corporation
Jim Darnell	IT Corporation
Alan Kauf	Somerset Group
Karen Stuart Keil	Self
Judy Leithner	USACE
Tom Leithner	Self
Alan Warminski	USACE, Baltimore District
Chuck Basham	USACE, Baltimore District
Gordy Porter	EA Engineering
Sandy Staigerwald	EA Engineering
Andrew Rak	USACE, Baltimore District
Craig Georg	USACE, Baltimore District
Joan Broderick	Self
Lisa Danish	Niagara Gazette
Arleen Kreuzsch	USACE, CT
Ray Pilon	USACE
Bill Kowalewski	USACE