



US Army Corps  
of Engineer%  
New York District

## *Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, NY DERP-FUDS Project*

FACT SHEET

August 1998

### DESCRIPTION

The Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works is located within the Towns of Lewiston and Porter in Niagara County, New York, about 10 miles north of the City of Niagara Falls. The original site encompassed 7,500 acres, but Department of Defense (DOD) activities only occurred on 2,500 acres. For 9 months during World War II, the Army manufactured TNT at a facility on the site, which included a power plant, hospital, fire department, water supply system, and a waste treatment system.

The majority of the property was sold to private interests in 1943 after the TNT plant was decommissioned, but the Government retained the former active 2,500-acre portion of the site. Between 1953 and 1955, a portion of the site was used to produce high-energy rocket fuel. As DOD operations ceased in 1955, the property was sold. A large portion of the remainder of the site has not been developed since the government transferred the property.

Current owners of the site include the Lewiston-Porter Schools, general residential areas, and private corporations such as the:

- Chemical Waste Management (CWM) Chemical Services Inc. which operates a Treatment, Storage, Disposal, and Recovery facility permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA),
- Modern Disposal Facilities Inc. which currently operates a New York State Part 360 Permitted solid waste landfill,
- the Somerset Group,
- J.T. Salvage Yard,
- Acome Landfill, and,
- Federal, State, and Local governments tenants which includes the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Department of Energy, New York State National Guard, and Lewiston Township

Environmental investigations have confirmed defense related environmental contamination at several areas located within the former defense site.

In addition, there are reportedly approximately 50 underground storage tanks, which will need to be the subject of future investigations.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STATUS

**INTERIM REMOVAL ACTIONS:** Several interim removal actions are underway or planned in the near future. They are briefly described below:

1. **Somerset Property (and vicinity)** - Asbestos containing materials and several containers of miscellaneous chemicals and oils were found in buildings used for the production of the high-energy fuels at the Somerset property. An asbestos removal contract totaling \$841,381 was awarded in July 1998 to Environmental Quality Management Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio through a Buffalo District IDT contract.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STATUS (cont'd):**

2. **CWM Property (and vicinity)** - Trinitrotoluene (TNT) residues were found in one waste system (pipeline) and high levels of organic compounds were found in the sludge in an adjacent waste system at the CWM property. A contract worth approximately \$1.5 million to complete required remediation is scheduled to be awarded by the Baltimore District in September 1998. These funds have been provided to the District.
3. **CWM Property (Areas A & B)** - Drums containing acetone and other organic compounds were buried in Area A; and soils and surface water are contaminated in an adjacent burn pit used for the incineration of lithium, kerosene, and other substances in Area B (see enclosed map). Remedial Design (60%) is scheduled to be completed in late September 1998 to address Areas A&B. Interim removal action at areas A & B could be initiated in FY 1999 if funds become available.
4. **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS** - There are reports that approximately 50 underground storage tanks (UST) exist at various location of the site. Future investigations will be required to properly address these UST's.

### **INTERIM REMOVAL ACTION PROJECT COSTS:**

(Based on August 1998 price levels)

Estimated Federal Cost:

† Somerset Property (Asbestos & Misc.) .....	<b>\$850,000.</b>
† CWM Property (TNT & chemical pipelines).....	\$1,500,000.
† CWM Property - Area A .....	\$2,000,000.
† CWM Property- Area B.. .....	\$4,500,000.
† UST Removals – various locations .....	\$1,500,000.
 Total Estimated Interim Removal Actions .....	 \$10,350,000.

**REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION:**

A comprehensive site-wide Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study was initiated by contract in June 1997 and is scheduled to be completed in 2001. Phase 1 sampling was completed in July 1998 with the report scheduled for December 1998. Phase 2 sampling and analysis is scheduled in 1999.

**REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION / FEASIBILITY STUDY PROJECT COSTS:**

(Based on August 1998 price levels)

Estimated Federal Cost:.....\$2,500,000.

**REMEDIAL DESIGN:**

Remedial design activities began in June 1996. These activities includes engineering and design work by the Baltimore District (\$150k); the Waterways Experiment Station (\$100K), and an A/E contract (\$750k).

**REMEDIAL DESIGN PROJECT COSTS:**

(Based on August 1998 price levels)

Estimated Federal Cost: .....\$1,000,000.

**INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES:**

Innovative technologies are being utilized at the site via the Waterways Experiment Station. This effort is a HQUSACE initiative and includes research and development to a bioremediation strategy of TNT and PCB's.

**INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT COSTS:**

(Based on August 1998 price levels)

Estimated Federal Cost: .....\$1,000,000.

**CONTACTS:**

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