

Questions and Answers
Guterl Specialty Steel
Public Information Session
February 6, 2001
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Q: On that map you showed during the presentation, you didn't include the pump house, which was located across Ohio St. Are you going to investigate that as well?

A: We plan on including that in our reports. We used that map in the presentation because it was in an old Oak Ridge report, but we do acknowledge that the pump house is there; the Oak Ridge report mentions it. State reports mention it as well and it will be included in our evaluation.

Q: Ten to fifteen years ago, when Allegheny Ludlum took over the site and put up the fence around the property, I was told that core samples were taken under the 16 inch bar mill and that 30 feet below the surface, there was excessive radioactive damage. Is this true?

A: I don't recall reading that in the OR report, but I haven't gone through fully the DOE information. The DOE conducted a lot of sampling around 1980. We are currently evaluating all the information we have and that report will be available in the spring. I know specifically that down to eight feet, they did find some low levels of contamination.

Q: So you consider it to be low levels of contamination?

A: Yes, based on what we've seen so far, there's not a threat to human health or safety based on those levels. There are also some controls at the site, such as the fact that the contaminated area is closed off to the public and workers.

Q: Have you tested the groundwater at the site?

A: NYSDEC has tested the groundwater in the past, but USACE has not done it yet. Groundwater will be addressed in the evaluation of the site during the Preliminary Assessment.

Q: I have a news release here from the Lockport Homepage dated July 5, 2000 and I quote: "State officials have sent advisory notices to property owners who are neighbors to the Simonds Site, basically repeating information revealed about radioactive materials. Their 'investigation report' on the homepage indicate radioactive levels 100 times higher than normal background levels. The state says the radioactive material probably fell off the rail cars that were used unloading at Simonds. The state officials disclosed to the Buffalo News that they took samples off the property on June 14, 2000 for detailed testing." Who took these samples? What's normal background radiation? And where were the notices? I live in the area and I never got one.

A: I'm not in touch with who in particular took those samples. There are a lot of different articles that get published over time and with that particular one, I'm not familiar with that given article. We make a full effort to contact everyone as possible. When we issue a press release, we use multiple media outlets to reach the public, whether

it's radiobroadcasts, television broadcasts, or written media. Whose role it was to notify you of the sampling, I'm not familiar with that process and can't comment.

NYSDEC: I was involved in the survey in that area, and 100 times background was an area thrown out there to give people some perspective. The area that of concern is along the rail spur that is out behind the facility. There were some areas that we found that had some elevated levels found with our survey meters when we took the samples. It's not conclusive, and again, 100 times is not a number you can give any credence to. These are isolated little areas. As to why you didn't receive notice of these samplings, I know our office handed out fliers to neighboring residents, and I really don't know why you didn't get one.

Q: Was there any radioactive material milled prior to 1948?

A: All historical information indicates that contracts were initiated in 1948 and a second contract issues started in the early 1950's and took it all the way to 1956. That's the period of time the historical data indicates the contracts for the AEC were in effect.

Q: Is there contamination outside the site?

A: At this point, we don't have any evidence that says contamination has migrated off the site. We're not saying it isn't there, but we have no reason to believe that there's contamination outside the site at this time.

Q: Have you taken samples?

A: There are small areas outside the areas of concern that we've been talking about that have been identified by ORISE. There were small isolated surveys performed throughout the plant as well as some areas outside boundaries of the plant. This is data we are currently evaluating and you'll see our conclusions and recommendations in the report.

Q: I've tracked information through the Internet that clearly shows the AEC work went on at Guterl throughout the 1960's. These are reports that were released by Hanford.

A: I assure you we're going to be as comprehensive as possible when researching all the data and take all information under consideration.

Q: What about other chemical contamination?

A: We recognize that there's potential chemical contamination at the site. When we do our evaluations, or workers have to wear protective clothing, so we have to know what the conditions are before we go in there. NYS has collected information on the chemical components at the site. Our primary focus is the radiation, that's our main objective and the reason why, in fact, FUSRAP was created. But we don't go into sites blindly and start remediating. We'll know what's there before we do anything.

Q: Have presses and equipment been moved from the facility?

A: At this point, all we know that has been removed from the site is the raw material. We've scanned equipment in the old section and have determined that in their current condition they pose no threat to human health and the environment.

Q: What would you do if you found radiation in the Alleghany Ludlum plant?

A: We would assess what the level was and if it in fact posed an immediate threat to human health. If it did, we would take an immediate removal action. We've done that before at the Luckey Site and can do it again if necessary.

Q: Have you done that yet?

A: We took over the site in September and assessed records from ORISE and the DEC. We will take that information under consideration before we move forward. We will decide what else needs to be looked at, where are these problematic areas that haven't been discussed these records. That will all come out in the Preliminary Assessment when we release it in March.

Q: I just have a comment. I believe there are many more areas of contamination other than what was outlined in blue on the map. There are outside areas that need to be looked at. I used to work in the 16 inch bar mills and all of the bearings were kept on the floor and there was a constant flow of water throughout that area. Scale from the bearings would flake off into the water. Anyway, I just want it to go on record that I think you should explore more areas for contamination other than the areas outlined in blue.