

October 16, 2000

SUBJECT: Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation, Formerly Known as Simonds Saw and Steel Company

[REDACTED]
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3229

Dear [REDACTED]

I am responding to your October 4, 2000 inquiry into the safety of the subject site and the Corps' role. The Department of Energy (DOE) determined the Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation (Guterl) site was eligible for inclusion into the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) on May 19, 2000. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Corps and DOE, once this determination is made the responsibility for action is transferred to the Corps. On September 22, 2000, the Buffalo District received funds to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the site.

The Buffalo District office is currently reviewing documents prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). These documents review the site history and provide data as to the radiological condition of the site. The reports indicate both surface and subsurface contamination exist. However, the contamination poses no immediate threat to the health and safety of the workers or the general public because of the current controls on site access.

The buildings and grounds directly associated with the MED activities are fenced, restricting access by the workers at the Allegany Ludlum Corporation property, and the general public. Exterior land areas that contain scattered pockets of contamination have been fenced and signed to restrict access. Further, we are attempting to obtain access agreements to survey property immediately adjacent to the project site to see if we need to take action to protect the public and the environment from any potential hazards in that area.

An inspection of the site was conducted on October 12, 2000, and a follow-up inspection is scheduled for October 20, 2000. This inspection will assess the structural integrity of the remaining buildings, and evaluate the grounds on the adjacent parcel.

Once the existing historical data is reviewed and verified, and site evaluations are completed, the District will recommend the next course of action. The information collected thus far by DOE, ORISE, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will assist the District in their completion of the PA. Subsequently, the District expects to provide me with a recommendation in advance of the current March schedule. Depending upon the results of the PA the site may proceed to a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to evaluate the need for remedial action.

If I can be of any assistance please contact me at . . .

[REDACTED]
Major General, U.S. Army Commanding

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