



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1776 NIAGARA STREET  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207-3199

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

FEB 21 2013

Special Projects

SUBJECT: Response to NYSDEC Comments Regarding the Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Groundwater Monitoring Well Decommissioning Work Plan

Mr. Kent D. Johnson  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
Remedial Bureau E, Remedial Section B  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-7017

Mr. Johnson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District, provides the following responses to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) comments regarding the *Groundwater Monitoring Well Decommissioning Work Plan for the Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Niagara County, New York*. Your comments were received by our office on February 20, 2013.

Comment 1: The procedures for decommissioning monitoring wells follow Department guidance and are acceptable.

USACE Response 1: Acknowledged.

Comment 2: No justification is included in the work plan as to why each of the monitoring wells proposed for decommissioning was selected.

USACE Response 2: Any monitoring wells with damaged casings, cracked concrete seals, or located in areas vulnerable to traffic, were selected for decommissioning. Additionally, all monitoring wells on the Somerset property were selected. As result of the 2008 settlement agreement between the Somerset Group, Inc. and the United States, the U.S. Government has no further CERCLA liability at the property.

Comment 3: Based on review of Appendix A- Field Inspection Logs, the monitoring wells were not opened as part of the field inspection. It is not clear how the suitability for use was determined.

USACE Response 3: See above USACE Response 2.

Comment 4: The monitoring wells subject to this work plan were installed as part of remedial investigation to assess impacts of past Federal Government activities at the Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works. As a final remedial decision has not been made for areas which are subject of the wells, the need for further investigation and/or monitoring as part of the remedy cannot be determined. The removal of monitoring wells as part of this proposal should not be construed as a determination of no further action need for groundwater monitoring and/or remediation.

USACE Response 4: The decommissioning of unserviceable, damaged, or unneeded wells does not constitute a determination of no further action.

Comment 5: It is not clear from the work plan if other stakeholders, including property owners, have had the opportunity to review and comment on the document

USACE Response 5: The public has been provided an opportunity to review and comment on the subject document. This work plan was made available to the public as of January 31, 2013. This and all recently published LOOW documents can be found on the Buffalo District website at:

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/DERPFUDS/LakeOntarioOrdnanceWorks.aspx>

USACE's contractor ERT, Inc., will begin field activities as early as March 7, 2013, and continue planned activities for up to 10 working days. These activities will commence pending ground and weather conditions. A copy of this letter is being furnished to Ms. Denise Radtke and Mr. Dennis Weiss in Region 9, NYSDEC. Please contact me at (716) 879-4309 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

//s//

Michael Senus  
Formerly Used Defense Sites  
Project Manager