DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1776 NIAGARA STREET
BUFFALO NY 14207-3199

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

May 30, 2008

Executive Office

SUBJECT: Additional Sampling of the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property

[redacted] Council President
City of Tonawanda Common Council
200 Niagara Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150

[redacted]

I am writing in response to your letter dated 22 April 2008, regarding the additional sampling that the Corps of Engineers plans to conduct in the Tonawanda Landfill Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Vicinity Property.

In response to your first question regarding how we will conduct the sampling, the Corps of Engineers is still in the early planning stages for the additional sampling, so I do not have the details regarding the methodology we will employ for the upcoming sampling. We will send the City of Tonawanda a copy of the sampling plans upon their completion, prior to conducting the sampling. However, I would like to clear up a misconception that is stated in your letter. During the sampling the Corps of Engineers conducted previously in 2001, the Corps did not collect composite samples from the soil borings we performed. Instead, we collected discrete 6-inch samples from the surface of each boring, and also at depths where our field screening protocol indicated that elevated radioactivity could be present in the soil core.

With regard to your second question on plans for sampling on the residential properties adjacent to the Landfill, I understand the concerns adjacent residents have over potential contamination on their properties, and as such, one of the prime objectives of our additional investigation is to re-examine the nature and extent of FUSRAP material at the site. However, as mentioned above, the Corps of Engineers is in the early planning stages of this effort, and has not yet determined whether offsite sampling will be conducted.

Thank you for your continued interest in this matter. I would be happy to have the Tonawanda Landfill FUSRAP Project Team meet with you to update you on the sampling plan development and discuss any concerns you may have. If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager for the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, [redacted] at 716-879-4287.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

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