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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Plans to Release Tonawanda Landfill Report Next Week; Extends Comment Period to 90 Days

BUFFALO -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District is pleased to announce that it has agreed to extend the public comment period for its upcoming Tonawanda Landfill report from 30 days to 90 days.

“We are very open to receiving public comment,” stated LTC John Hurley, commander USACE, Buffalo District. “We have been working with local officials and we understand that the local community needs more time to review this document. We want to emphasize that the Proposed Plan document is not the final decision concerning the site. We will carefully consider all comments and will only finalize a plan after evaluating all comments.”

The comment period for the Corps’ Proposed Plan document will be from March 26, 2007 to June 26, 2007. A public comment meeting is currently scheduled for April 25, 2007. The Corps will be placing announcements in local newspapers next week.

**The Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property is located on East Park Drive in the
Town of Tonawanda, New York.**

In 2006, the Corps completed its investigative work at the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, which includes both the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and the Mudflats Area.

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90-Day Extension 2/2/2/2

The Corps' final Remedial Investigation Report (released to the public in March 2006) documented the investigation and sampling efforts of the past 5 years. In this report, the Corps confirmed that its extensive sampling and investigation effort has shown that current, or future, risks from the uranium, thorium and radium detected at the site are within USEPA limits.

To officially close out its investigation at the Tonawanda Landfill Vicinity Property, the Corps has to prepare two additional reports; the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision. The Corps has now completed the Proposed Plan report, which details the Corps' recommendation for the radionuclide residues (radium, thorium and uranium) found at the site. The Record of Decision report, which follows the public comment period, will respond to all comments received and will document the final decision for the FUSRAP portion of the site.

The Corps has been investigating the Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area since 1999 as part of the Federal Program - the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The purpose of FUSRAP is to investigate, and cleanup if necessary, those sites where work was performed by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the Cold War-era (1940s and 1950s), as part of the Nation's early atomic weapons and energy programs. Congress transferred the management of FUSRAP to the Corps in 1997.

Recently, local city of Tonawanda officials and residents have expressed concern over many issues surrounding the Landfill. "The Proposed Plan report is an important piece of the issues concerning local residents," explained LTC Hurley.

"There are many issues and several agencies involved." continued Hurley, "Even though our recommendations concern only the presence of thorium, radium and uranium in the

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90-Day Extension 3/3/3/3

Landfill, we are working with the state environmental and health agencies and local officials to ensure that questions and concerns outside the Corps' authority are directed to the appropriate agencies.”

The TL Proposed Plan report will be placed in the Administrative Record File on March 26th, the beginning of the public comment period for the report. The administrative record file for the Tonawanda FUSRAP sites is located at 333 Main Street in Tonawanda, New York at the Tonawanda Public Library. The report and summary information will also be available on the USACE, Buffalo District, website at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap. The public may also obtain copies of the report by calling the USACE toll free number at 1-800-833-6390.

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