



**FORMER LAKE ONTARIO ORDNANCE WORKS (LOOW)  
TOWNS OF LEWISTON AND PORTER, NY**

Defense Environmental Restoration Program – Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS)

**Location**

- Towns of Lewiston and Porter, New York

**Project Description**

- The purpose of this project is to investigate the former LOOW site and determine the nature and extent of environmental contamination and associated human health and ecological risks resulting from Department of Defense (DoD) activities at the site
- The Corps is investigating chemical and explosives hazards at the site resulting from DoD operations including explosives manufacturing, munitions storage, rocket fuel production, electronics research, and a NIKE missile launch site
- The original site was nearly 7,500 acres. Throughout the 1940s to present day, the DoD reduced its operations, excessed properties, and sold them to the public. To date, nearly 6,500 acres are in non-Federal ownership

**Project Capabilities**

- The investigation and any potential remedies for risks exceeding the

applicable, relevant, and appropriate federal standards are conducted in accordance with the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)

**Importance**

- It is important to ensure these properties do not pose unacceptable human health, safety or ecological risks for current and future land use, as promulgated by Federal environmental laws, resulting from past DoD operations

**Consequences**

- Without a thorough investigation of past DoD operations and potential environmental impacts, the public may be at risk from DoD contamination at these properties
- The USACE environmental investigations, decisions, and response actions at the former LOOW may have long-lasting, potential human health and/or environmental impacts on the Towns of Lewiston and Porter and Niagara County

Project Phase	Estimated Cost of Phase	FY20 Budget	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Budget	FY22 Requirement
Investigation*	\$17.8M **	\$249k	\$249k	\$249k	\$250k

\* Investigation Phase includes Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, Decision Document, and Remedial Design.

\*\* All funding figures include labor (LRB, NAB, and NAE) and contracts.

### Project Sponsor/Customer

- Project Sponsor/Customer: The project sponsor is the US Congress. Customers include property owners, affected communities and elected leaders, and local, state, and Federal environmental and health agencies

### Congressional Interests

- Representative Chris Jacobs R-NY-27
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY

### Current Status

- **Completed Work:**
  - 1998: LOOW History Search Report
  - 1999: Removal of 6,300 cubic yards of asbestos contamination
  - 1999: Removal of 1,300 tons of chemically contaminated pipeline sludge and water
  - 1999: Removal of 300 pounds of TNT explosives from pipelines and soils
  - 2000: Cleaning and closure of 95% of TNT waste pipelines
  - 2000-2008: Three phases of field sampling to determine the nature of chemical and explosives contamination. Removal of six underground storage tanks
  - 2008 (Sep): Publication of underground utility investigation report (UURI) and HHRA for contaminated soils and water
  - 2009: Publication of Management Action Plan (M.A.P.) summarizing key facts, findings, and proposed future work at each current property in the former LOOW site
  - 2010 Completion of historical archive search report (ASR) regarding munitions and chemical warfare material operations
  - 2011 : Completion Report for Lew-Port School Site Investigation (SI) report
  - 2012 : Completion Report for OEA Safety Project work at WWTP
  - 2012 : INPR Addendum No. 2 signed by NAD Commander
  - 2013 : Completion of the Occidental Property Remedial Investigation (RI) report
  - 2013 : Completion of the Monitoring Well Decommissioning and Closeout Report
  - 2014 : Completion of the Feasibility Study for the Waste Water Treatment Plant
  - 2014 : Site Inspection for Ground Disturbances at LOOW
  - 2015 : M.A.P. Update 3

- 2015 : Completion of the Feasibility Study for Occidental Chemical Corporate Property
- 2015 : Site Inspection for Ground Disturbances at LOOW
- 2016 : Completion of Proposed Plan for the Occidental Property
- 2017: Complete Decision Document for the Occidental Property
- 2019: -Execute the contract to remediate the Occidental Property
- 2020: -Closeout of the Occidental Property Project

- **Planned Work (FY21-22):**

- Pursue administrative closure of parcel groups which require no further action
- Continued public outreach and coordination with public health and environmental agencies

### Issues

- USACE is not authorized by DERP-FUDS to address contaminants from non-federal releases to the environment. Environmental contamination from non-federal sources may exist and may remain after USACE is finished
- USACE is not authorized to address related site issues such as public debate over the adequacy of previous radiological cleanup by the USDOE, current landfill operations on the former LOOW, and demands for health studies
- USACE is also conducting a related environmental investigation of a former LOOW property, still under Federal ownership, known as the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS). The NFSS site is being investigated under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)



**Project Manager:** Brent LaSpada, (716) 879-4446, [brent.r.laspada@usace.army.mil](mailto:brent.r.laspada@usace.army.mil)