

NEWS RELEASE

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Corps Seeks Stakeholder Interest in Establishing a Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Board for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site

BUFFALO, NY—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, is seeking input from stakeholders for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Site regarding the establishment of a Department of Defense (DoD) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to enhance the public involvement program for the site.

The purpose of a DoD RAB is to create a forum for exchanging information between the community and the Corps regarding its environmental restoration projects for the site under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites and the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. "RABs are considered a best practice within the DoD," said Lieutenant Colonel John S. Hurley, Buffalo District Commander. "They are one of many ways for the public to engage the Corps." The DoD establishes RABs in accordance with the Federal RAB Rule (32 C.F.R. 202) enacted in May 2006 and the District Commander is required to evaluate interest within the community for having a DoD RAB every 24 months.

"If the stakeholders within the community express a desire to engage us through an official DoD RAB, we will establish one," Hurley continued. If there is insufficient interest, Lieutenant Colonel Hurley will publish a decision that its public involvement program for LOOW and NFSS will not include a DoD RAB. "Regardless of whether there is or is not a DoD RAB," Hurley said, "we will press on with ensuring we provide the community with many opportunities for public participation by improving the other elements of our public involvement program."

To provide input regarding developing a DoD RAB comments may be e-mailed to: derpfuds/@usace.army.mil or mailed to Ms. Arleen Kreusch, Outreach Program Specialist, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207, before May 7, 2008.

Additional information about DoD RABs and the Corps' environmental restoration projects at the former LOOW site is available on the Buffalo District public website at http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow-nfss