

# Corps discusses FUSRAP for DuPont

By JENNIFER BYRNE  
Staff Writer

**CARNEYS POINT TWP.** — The word "FUSRAP" sounds like the name of a sandwich bag or an alien.

But this strange-looking acronym is quickly becoming a familiar subject in Salem County.

Representatives from the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers attended this week's Carneys Point Township committee meeting to discuss the Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), which is being implemented at the DuPont Chambers Works site.

The Department of Energy created FUSRAP in 1974 to address radiological contamination at sites used by two of the DOE's predecessor agencies, the

Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Most of the sites contaminated during the early atomic energy program were cleaned up and released for use under the less stringent regulations in effect at that time.

Since then, more stringent standards have been developed. DOE studied more than 400

sites, finding 46 locations in 14 states that were contaminated in excess of current guidelines.

When FUSRAP was transferred from the DOE to the Army Corps of Engineers in 1997, DOE reported that remediation was completed at 24 sites and remedial action was planned, under way or pending final closeout at the remaining 22 sites.

Congress directed in the

Energy and Water Development and Appropriations Act that the Corps conduct FUSRAP activities in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidelines, commonly known as the Superfund.

"Basically, we wanted to make people aware of the program," Gary Rohn of the Army Corps said. "We've been making the

rounds of municipal meetings to let residents know what we're going to be doing over the next several years."

A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study is under way at DuPont Chambers Works to assure that levels of radioactive material at the site comply with current standards.

The DuPont Chambers Works  
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## FUSRAP

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chemical plant in Deepwater is a 700-acre site, located in Pennsville and Carneys Point townships.

It was in 1942 when operations at the site first involved the use of uranium as part of its work for the United States Manhattan Engineer District program. This work continued until late 1947.

In 1948 and 1949, the Atomic Energy Commission conducted radiological surveys and decontamination of building surfaces at the site and in 1949 the commission released the buildings back to DuPont. In 1980, the site was designated for FUSRAP by the Department of Energy.

"What they're doing is re-

examining the DuPont property, revisiting it to make sure it's in compliance," Mayor Albert Graham said. "We're looking at low levels of uranium — probably no more than from a TV or a microwave oven."

Graham said the Army Corps is taking a positive step by keeping the public informed.

"This is so that the residents know what is going on," he said. "People should know that this is not dangerous to them."

Rohn echoed this sentiment.

"There is no immediate threat to human health or the environment involved," he said.