



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Buffalo District

Restoration Advisory Board

Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District • March 2008

This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach needs and is consistent with provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Buffalo District Commander is asking for input from community members to determine whether sufficient interest exists in establishing a Department of Defense (DoD) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) and Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS).

The DoD evaluated lessons learned from 310 active DoD RABs nationwide and in May 2006 enacted new regulations (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 202) prescribing the standards for all DoD RABs. Additional detailed information is available in the *Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook* published by the Office of the Secretary of Defense in March 2007.

By soliciting the community's interest in establishing a DoD RAB, the Corps Buffalo District is taking the first step necessary to bring its public outreach program into compliance with the new regulation.

What is a Restoration Advisory Board?

A DoD RAB is a stakeholder group that meets on a regular basis to discuss Corps environmental restoration activities for a site. A DoD RAB offers those that live or work in the area affected by the site a focused and interactive opportunity to participate in the environmental restoration process. A DoD RAB forum is intended to complement the Corp's public involvement program by providing a forum for discussion among the parties about the Corps activities on LOOW being conducted under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP FUDS) and the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

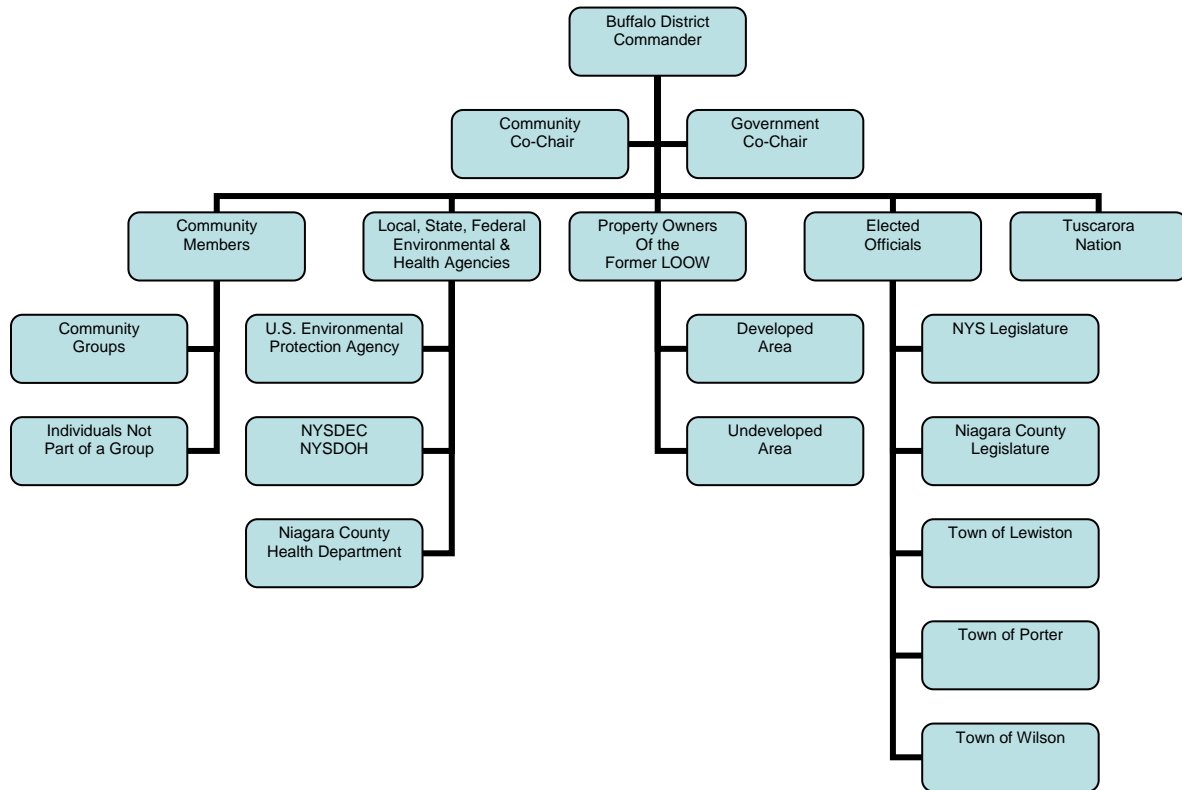
What does the Restoration Advisory Board do?

DoD RABs discuss and exchange information; review, evaluate, and comment on documents and materials; and provide advice on restoration studies and schedules to the Buffalo District Commander through the government and community co-chairs. A DoD RAB communicates with the public at large and is one way for the Corps to gather input from the community. DoD RABs provide valuable input to the Corps, but they are not a decision-making body. Consensus among DoD RAB members is not required.

How is a Restoration Advisory Board formed?

The Buffalo District Commander will establish a DoD RAB if there is sufficient interest within the community. This evaluation of the community's interest in having a DoD RAB will take place every two years, throughout the Corps' environmental restoration activities on the LOOW site. A potential membership makeup of the DoD LOOW RAB is outlined in the organization chart below:

Potential LOOW DoD RAB Structure



Applications will be accepted from individuals within the community for membership on the DoD RAB. The Buffalo District Commander will convene a diverse selection panel to propose the community membership of the DoD RAB. The selection panel will review the community applications and recommend a list of DoD RAB community members to the Corps for review and approval. The selection panel considers applicants based on their expressed interest in the project, and their relevant background or skills they may contribute to the process. The selection panel is asked to give priority to ensuring that a wide range of community interests are represented in the final roster of members.

Once the membership list is reviewed and approved by the Buffalo District Commander, letters will be sent to all applicants and a news release is distributed to announce the formation and membership on the DoD RAB. Anyone interested in restoration activities and willing to dedicate their time may participate in DoD RAB meetings, although they may not actually be a DoD RAB member.

Is the size of the board limited, can anyone apply for membership?

To maintain constructive dialogue, a DoD RAB must be small enough to be manageable and large enough to represent the diverse range of community interests. Typically, DoD RABs have a total of no more than 30 members. Anyone that lives or works in the area affected by the site may apply for membership. The primary consideration for the selection panel, is to ensure that all community interests are represented.

What does a DoD RAB member have to do?

DoD RAB members:

- Provide individual input in an open, honest, and constructive manner.
- Represent and communicate community concerns to the DoD RAB.
- Act as a conduit for exchange of information with the public.
- Review, evaluate and comment on documents and other materials related to restoration.
- Represent and communicate DoD RAB issues to the community.
- Serve without compensation on the DoD RAB.

Who leads the Restoration Advisory Board?

The DoD RAB is led by the Buffalo District Commander through a Corps and a community co-chair. The Corps representative is appointed by the Buffalo District Commander. The community co-chair is elected by the community members who serve on the DoD RAB. The co-chairs work together to develop meeting agendas and to ensure participation of all members.

How does a DoD RAB operate?

The co-chairs will work with the DoD RAB membership to develop the DoD RAB's mission statement and operating procedures. The DoD RAB does not direct the work of the Corps. DoD RAB members provide information or advice on planned remediation activities that enable the Corps to make the most informed decisions possible to meet DoD environmental restoration goals. The operating procedures establish guidelines for issues the DoD RAB may address and will be approved by the Buffalo District Commander.

DoD RAB operating procedures will cover:

- Membership roles and responsibilities
- Membership terms (typically two years).
- How often the DoD RAB meets (as often as necessary, but typically three to four times per year).
- How DoD RAB activities are recorded

How does the Corps support a DoD RAB?

The Corps will (subject to project funds) fund the administrative costs associated with the DoD RAB including:

- DoD RAB establishment
- Membership selection
- Site-specific and relevant orientation
- Meeting announcements and facilities
- Mailing list maintenance and distribution
- Meeting agenda materials
- Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

*Note the Corps does not provide compensation to RAB members

For More Information

For more information, please call the Buffalo District's toll-free public access line. **(800) 833-6390**. Your call will be returned promptly.

Our home page on the Internet is: **www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow-nfss**

Please let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list for a particular FUSRAP Site. You may also contact:

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