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## Former Niagara Falls – Buffalo Defense Nike Battery BU 34/35, East Aurora and Orchard Park, New York

### August 25, 2016 Public Meeting Summary

*Location:* Orchard Park Municipal Center (Basement Meeting Room), 4295 S. Buffalo St. Orchard Park NY

*Date/Time:* August 25, 2016 / 7:00PM to 9:00PM Eastern

#### *Attendees:*

- Gregory J. Goepfert – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New York District – Project Manager
- Penny Reddy – USACE, New England District – Engineering Technical Lead
- Jaspal Walia – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) – Remedial Project Manager
- Jacquelyn Nealon – New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) – Project Manager
- Keith Fields – T12E (Tidewater) – USACE Contractor / Project Leader
- Twenty-one (21) members of the community

#### *Summary (Presentation slides and handouts provided as Attachment):*

- Two television stations arrived prior to the start of the public meeting. Mr. Goepfert conducted brief interviews with both. An additional television station arrived just after the meeting started. All three stations taped the public meeting presentation. WGRZ-TV NBC had this story: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/local/neighbors-concerned-about-possible-contaminants-at-former-nike-site/308668457>
- The following handouts were made available at the meeting: (1) NYSDOH handout on exposure, (2) presentation slides, (3) Community Interest Form associated with participation on a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Nike BU-34/35 site, and (4) a fact sheet on the Nike BU-34/35 site (see Attachment).
- Mr. Goepfert presented the slides for the Nike BU-34/35 Control Area and Launch Area, as well as details on participation in a RAB. Questions were taken throughout the presentation.
- Several questions were clarifying questions, which Mr. Goepfert answered during the meeting:
  1. A question was asked if there were multiple launch sites or just one. Answer: just one.
  2. A question was asked about the presence/use of USTs at the Control Area. Answer: property transfer documents indicated that no USTs were transferred and no USTs were identified during site investigation activities.
  3. A question was asked about the presence/use of electrical transformers containing PCBs at the Control Area. Mr. Goepfert responded that 9 of the 10 Army transformers had been removed from the site and one had been emptied, flushed, and retrofitted with transformer oil that did not contain PCBs. In addition, soil samples collected at the base of the utility pole with a suspected-leaking transformer did not contain any PCBs.
  4. Another community member requested clarification on the “stained soil” that was removed at the Control Area. Mr. Goepfert mentioned that the stained soil may have been associated with a petroleum-based product (diesel fuel or oil) used at the site. The stained soil was excavated and disposed at a licensed facility.
  5. One attendee asked about the quantity of soil that had been removed from the Control Area site, referencing a very large quantity. Mr. Goepfert responded that reports



indicated that approximately 175 tons of stained soil was removed from the Control Area.

6. A question was asked about the extent of sampling (just the properties or local waterways). Mr. Goepfert answered that the focus of the Army's work is the properties. Additional sampling outside the properties would be done only if data collected on the properties indicated a need.
  7. Someone asked if there was a current resident living in the former barracks at the Launch Area. Mr. Goepfert answered that he was not aware that someone was living in the former barracks.
  8. A question was asked about who owns the Control Area and Launch Area sites. Answer: the Launch Area is privately owned and Health Research Inc. (HRI) owns the Control Area. HRI is a non-profit corporation in the State of New York.
  9. A question was asked about the time commitment for participation on the RAB. Mr. Goepfert estimated 10-15 hours every three months, assuming quarterly meetings.
  10. A question was asked about Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) involvement at the site. Answer: NYSDEC and NYSDOH are providing regulatory oversight, and that Federal EPA is not involved with this site.
  11. A question was asked if USACE could conduct remedial action at the site if the contamination was not associated with Army operations. Answer: no.
  12. A question was asked if the focus of the RAB would be on Army use of the site and not subsequent property owners. Mr. Goepfert confirmed that the RAB would focus only on Army use.
  13. A question was asked if the State would be involved in the RAB. Mr. Goepfert answered yes and mentioned that the State agencies are funded through the FUDS program to provide regulatory support and oversight.
  14. A question was asked if the Army had funding available to address environmental concerns. Mr. Goepfert answered that investigation and silo closure has been funded and that remedial action (if needed) would be subject to funding availability.
  15. Some attendees questioned the scope of USACE's study and the process moving forward. Mr. Goepfert stated that the FUDS program can only address contamination associated with the Army's use of the site in the late-1950s and early-1960s. Mr. Goepfert also mentioned that a report documenting the investigation performed at the Launch Area would be made available by November 2016, and that additional document searches related to the Control Area would be performed at the National Archives.
- Ms. Laura Piccillo expressed concern about a manhole on her property overflowing during heavy rain events. This manhole is allegedly associated with the pipeline that historically conveyed treated sewage from the Control Area property to an outfall near Cazanovia Creek. Ms. Piccillo requested sampling of the sewer overflow water and work to prevent the sewer manhole on her property from overflowing. Ms. Piccillo is very concerned about potential contamination in the water overflowing the manhole.
  - Ms. Rebecca McCauley mentioned an Army report associated with the Launch Area site identifying metals and PCB contamination. She also expressed concern that it has taken so long for the Army to initiate investigation of the site, and concern about what are the current environmental conditions at the Control Area. Mr. Goepfert requested additional details on the report to which Ms. McCauley was referring.



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- Mr. Goepfert concluded that the next meeting will include a presentation of investigation results, and formation of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the site, including the election of a Community Co-Chair.
  - The meeting ended at about 9:00 P.M.

Attendees (who signed in)

August 25, 2016 Public Meeting - Nike BU 34/35

Barbara Bernard

John Bernard

Ron Guido

Terri Bowen

Barb Olson

Rick Olson

Mary Butler

Collen Collins

John Collins

Robert Collins

Lauren Kaczor

David Kaczor

Gerald Skrzeczkowski

J Wilder

Thomas A. Ostrander

Rebecca McCauley

Hal Fabinsky


Laura Piccillo

## ATTACHMENT / HANDOUTS



# Public Meeting for the Nike BU-34/35 – Formerly Used Defense Site

Gregory J. Goepfert, P.E., PMP  
Project Manager  
New York District  
August 25, 2016




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## Presentation Overview

- Site History
- Investigation Status
- Formation of a Restoration Advisory Board
- Public Input

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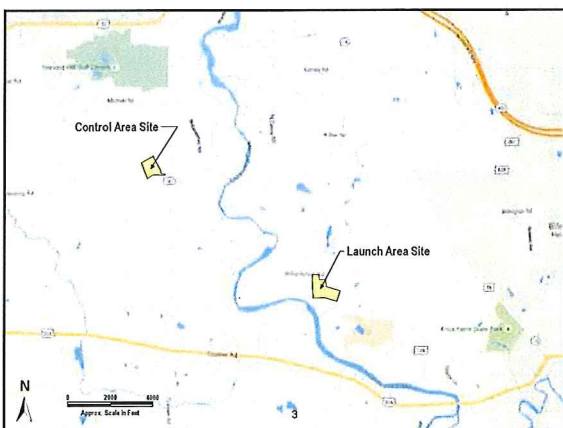
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### Control Area and Launch Area Summary

- Control Area and Launch Area used by the Army from 1957 to 1965
- Launch Area used for underground missile storage and aboveground launch capabilities
- Control Area used for missile/target radar tracking and administrative functions
- 1964-1965: Launch Area transferred to private ownership, Control Area transferred to HRI




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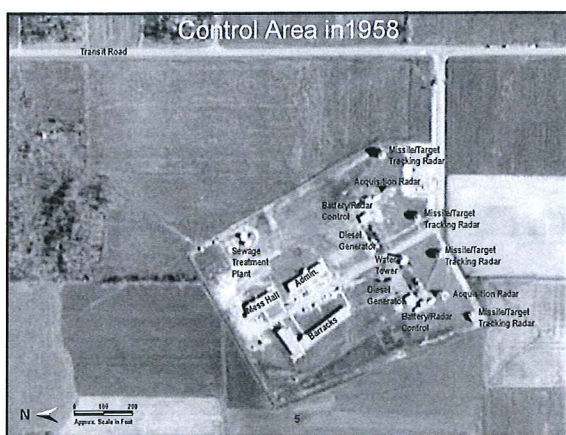
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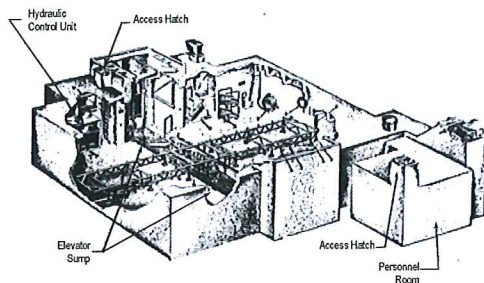
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### Closure of Underground Silos



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### Formation of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

- Why RAB?
- Scope and Responsibilities
- Membership Eligibility
- RAB Alternatives



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### What is a Restoration Advisory Board?

- A stakeholder group which meets on a regular basis to discuss environmental restoration, where the Department of Defense oversees the restoration process
- RAB activities may include-
  - Reviewing/commenting on environmental restoration documents/activities
  - Providing and receiving input to/from the community
  - Obtaining information on schedule/type and status of environmental restoration activities



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### Restoration Advisory Board

- Focus is on addressing environmental restoration activities
- Army Co-Chair will identify the point of contact for handling other issues of interest to the appropriate office for resolution
- All RAB meetings are open to the public
- RAB membership is voluntary; community interest forms are available
- Community members will select a Community Co-Chair


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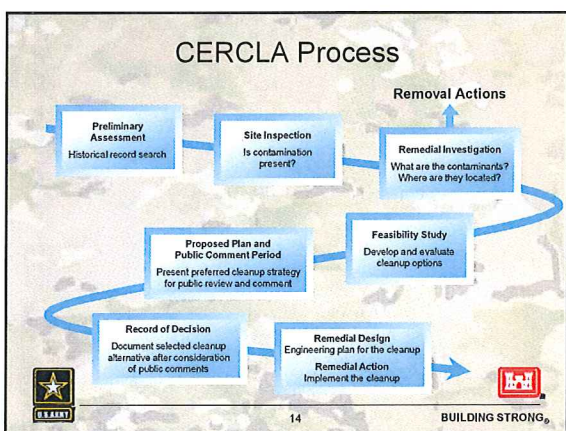
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### Discussion

- Questions/Public Input
- Schedule Next Meeting


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**COMMUNITY INTEREST FORM FOR  
FORMER NIAGARA FALLS- BUFFALO DEFENSE NIKE BATTERY BU 34-35  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Conditions for Membership:

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members are volunteering to serve a term and attend RAB meetings. Duties and responsibilities will include reviewing and commenting on plans and activities associated with the Formerly Used Defense Site Program at the former Niagara Falls Nike Battery BU 34-35. Technical experts will be made available to the RAB. Members will be expected to be available to community members and groups to facilitate the exchange of information and/or concerns between the community and the RAB. Priority for RAB membership will be given to local residents.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt.# City State Zip

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Home

1. (OPTIONAL) Are you affiliated with any group related to restoration or base closure activities? If yes, list the group and your position, if applicable.

2. Briefly state why you would like to participate on the RAB.

3. What has been your experience working as a member of a diverse group with common goals?

4. The community co-chairperson will be selected by community members of the RAB. Please indicate if you are interested in being considered for the community co-chairperson position on the RAB.

☐ Yes, I would like to be considered.

5. Are you willing to voluntarily serve on the RAB?

☐ Yes, I am willing to serve.

6. By submitting this form, you are aware of the time commitment which this appointment will require of you.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The personal information requested on this form is being collected in order to determine interest in and qualification for membership on the Restoration Advisory Board. The information will be reviewed by a selection panel and will be retained in a file at the New York District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The information will not be disseminated. Providing information on this form is voluntary.





**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
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## **FACT SHEET – Niagara Falls – Buffalo Defense Nike Battery, Nike BU 34/35 (Launch & Control Areas)**

### **Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Niagara Falls - Buffalo Defense Nike Battery BU 34-35 consisted of a launch and a control area. From December 1955 to April 1956, the subject site was acquired by the United States for defense purposes by direct purchase. Both the launch and control areas are in Erie County, New York; specifically the launch area is located on Willardshire Road, in the Town of Aurora, New York and the control area is located off of Transit Road, in Orchard Park, New York. The properties related to this FUDS are located in Congressional District NY-26.

After acquisition by the United States, a surface-to-air missile launch and other ancillary buildings were constructed by the U.S. Army between December 1955 and January 1957. The type of missile stored was the Nike Ajax Missile. This installation was never subject to other-than Department of Defense (DoD) use and control during the period of DoD interest.

The launch area is currently owned by a limited liability corporation (LLC). The only facility utilized (post-DoD) was the enlisted men's barracks and bachelor officers' quarters building. This building was converted into apartments.

The control area is currently owned by the Health Research, Inc., a public benefit Corporation of the State of New York. Former Nike facilities that were rehabilitated for use were the mess hall, the garage, the administration building, the enlisted men's barracks and bachelor officers' quarters, two stand-by generator plants, two fire unit integration facility rooms (radar control buildings), and the water pump building. These facilities were used in the past for cancer research.

**AUTHORIZATION:** The Nike BU 34/35 properties are being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 authorized that program.

**PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS:** Limited environmental investigations and studies were drafted by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the launch area in 1996, however, the reports were not finalized, and no remedial actions were taken.

The control area was not studied directly by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), since Nike control sites typically do not present environmental issues related to DoD use of these parcels, as hazardous materials were not stored or used by DoD in control areas. Studies, assessments and site clean ups conducted by the current site owner were undertaken at the control area. USACE will not be conducting any field investigations at the control area.

### **STATUS/SCHEDULE (AS OF AUGUST 2016):**

USACE will review all previous studies, investigations and reports regarding the former launch and control sites, and perform remedial investigations (e.g., sampling and analysis of groundwater, soils, silo water), as necessary, to determine the need for any further action at these sites.

- Remedial Investigation work plan has been finalized.
- Remedial Investigation field work was conducted at the launch area in April 2016.
- Remedial Investigation report will be issued in spring 2017.
- Any future remedial actions will be undertaken, subject to availability of funds, and an assessment of alternatives based upon results of the remedial investigation. Date: to be determined.

**PROJECT COST:**

Estimated Federal Cost: \$1,500,000 (Remedial Investigation)

**CONTACT:**

Gregory J. Goepfert, New York District Project Manager

917-790-8235

Gregory.J.Goepfert@usace.army.mil

**Current as of August 2016**

# New York State Department of Health

## What is Exposure?

*Exposure is contact. No matter how dangerous a substance or activity, without exposure, it cannot harm you.*



### Amount of exposure:

Over 400 years ago, a scientist said "...nothing [is] without poisonous qualities. It is only the dose that makes a thing poison." The **dose** is the amount of a substance that enters or contacts a person. An important factor to consider in evaluating a dose is body weight. If a child is exposed to the same amount of chemical as an adult, the child (who weighs less) can be affected more than the adult. For example, children are given smaller amounts of aspirin than adults because an adult dose is too large for a child's body weight.

The greater the amount of a substance a person is exposed to, the more likely that health effects will occur. Large amounts of a relatively harmless substance can be toxic. For example, two aspirin tablets can help to relieve a headache, but taking an entire bottle of aspirin can cause stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, headache, convulsions or death.



### Routes of exposure:

There are three major means by which a toxic substance can come into contact with or enter the body. These are called routes of exposure.

**Inhalation** (breathing) of gases, vapors, dusts or mists is a common route of exposure. Chemicals can enter and irritate the nose, air passages and lungs. They can become deposited in the airways or be absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream. The blood can then carry these substances to the rest of the body.

**Direct contact** (touching) with the skin or eyes is also a route of exposure. Some substances are absorbed through the skin and enter the bloodstream. Broken, cut or cracked skin will allow substances to enter the body more easily.

**Ingestion** (swallowing) of food, drink, or other substances is another route of exposure. Chemicals that get in or on food, cigarettes, utensils or hands can be swallowed. Children are at greater risk of ingesting substances found in dust or soil because they often put their fingers or other objects in their mouths. Lead in paint chips is a good example. Substances can be absorbed into the blood and then transported to the rest of the body. The route of exposure can determine whether or not the toxic substance has an effect. For example, breathing or swallowing lead can result in health effects, but touching lead is not usually harmful because lead is not absorbed particularly well through the skin.





## Length of exposure:

Short-term exposure is called **acute exposure**. Long-term exposure is called **chronic exposure**. Either may cause health effects that are immediate or health effects that occur days or years later.

**Acute exposure** is a short contact with a chemical. It may last a few seconds or a few hours. For example, it might take a few minutes to clean windows with ammonia, use nail polish remover or spray a can of paint. The fumes someone might inhale during these activities are examples of acute exposures.

**Chronic exposure** is continuous or repeated contact with a toxic substance over a long period of time (months or years). If a chemical is used every day on the job, the exposure would be chronic. Over time, some chemicals, such as PCBs and lead, can build up in the body and cause long-term health effects.

Chronic exposures can also occur at home. Some chemicals in household furniture, carpeting or cleaners can be sources of chronic exposure.



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## Sensitivity:

All people are not equally **sensitive** to chemicals, and are not affected by them in the same way. There are many reasons for this.

- People's bodies vary in their ability to absorb and break down or eliminate certain chemicals due to **genetic differences**.
- People may become **allergic** to a chemical after being exposed. Then they may react to very low levels of the chemical and have different or more serious health effects than nonallergic people exposed to the same amount. People who are allergic to bee venom, for example, have a more serious reaction to a bee sting than people who are not.
- Factors such as **age, illness, diet, alcohol use, pregnancy and medical or nonmedical drug use** can also affect a person's sensitivity to a chemical. Young children are often more sensitive to chemicals for a number of reasons. Their bodies are still developing and they cannot get rid of some chemicals as well as adults. Also, children absorb greater amounts of some chemicals (such as lead) into their blood than adults.

### For more information:

New York State Department of Health  
Center for Environmental Health  
ESP, Corning Tower, Rm. 1642  
Albany, NY 12237  
**518 402-7530 or 1-800-458-1158**