

Former Schenectady Army Depot Newsletter

Schenectady, New York

FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT
VOORHEESVILLE AREA

February 2004



Investigation and Cleanup Activities Move Forward

Burn Pit, Garage Area Cleaned Up, RAB Meets, Data Gap Work Plan Contract Awarded

Burn Pits Receive “Corps” Treatment

From May to July 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) conducted a cleanup of the former depot’s burn pit area, also known as Area of Concern #3 (AOC #3). The burn pits were used to dispose of wastes. During the cleanup, the Corps excavated and disposed of visibly contaminated soils at licensed landfill facilities.

Currently, the groundwater monitoring program is underway. (Tests done in recent years showed that the groundwater was impacted by the disposal activities at the burn pits.) The groundwater will be sampled four times a year for a period of two years in the vicinity of AOC #3. The monitoring program will determine the effectiveness of the cleanup action.



Heavy equipment was used to excavate over 2,800 tons of contaminated soil from the burn pit area cleanup.

Corps Cleans Up Bus Garage Area

During construction of a new school bus garage workers discovered buried Army material. The construction site is on land that was once a part of the former Schenectady Army Depot. Guilderland Central School District officials, concerned about the potential danger of the buried items and building delays, notified the authorities right away.

The Corps team responded to the building site within 24 hours. Representatives from the following organizations assisted in identifying buried items:

- New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Dept. of Health
- Guilderland School District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
- U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit
- U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine.

Shortly after the team was assembled, the Corps began cleanup activities and conducted additional investigations to ensure that no other Army items remained on school property. Approximately 1,300 tons of material and associated soils were removed from the bus garage area, including water treatment kits and protective ointments for soldiers packaged in tubing material which contained lead.

To keep the public informed, the team consulted the community co-chair of the local Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Also, local newspapers were notified that the Corps was removing and disposing of the buried items.

Completed in November 2002, the prompt execution of this project kept the school district from encountering costly construction delays. The partnering efforts established with the RAB, state regulatory agencies, and other U.S. Army support organizations serve to benefit future investigation and remediation efforts planned for the former depot and at other New York State formerly used defense sites.



Project coordination and cooperation allowed the cleanup of buried items and construction of the bus garage to occur at the same time.



Gregory Goepfert (right), RAB Corps Co-chair and FSADVA Project Manager, presents Dr. Peter Buttner (left) with the Commander's Certification of Appreciation.

RAB Co-chair Receives Honor

At the May 6, 2003, RAB meeting, the Corps presented a framed certificate of appreciation to Dr. Peter Buttner, RAB community co-chair.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District Commander's Certificate of Appreciation

is awarded to:

Peter J.R. Buttner, Ph.D.

in recognition of:

your dedicated service as Co-Chairman of the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area of Albany County, New York. Your leadership greatly facilitated the remediation efforts at this Formerly Used Defense Site. These contributions are hereby acknowledged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

Dated:
6 May 2003

Signed by:
John B. O'Dowd, COL, EN
Commanding

The Corps also presented Dr. Buttner with the gold coin of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

Also at the May 6 RAB meeting, Charles Rielly and Ted Ausfeld were elected RAB community co-chair and alternate community co-chair, respectively. The Corps announced the cleanup work would soon start on the burn pits (AOC #3), which has since been completed. The Corps awarded the AOC #3 cleanup contract to Shaw Environmental of Latham, New York, for \$900,000.

The RAB also met previously in a day-long meeting on October 17, 2002. Board members discussed the content of the Remedial Investigation Report and plans for future sampling.

Corps Awards Work Plan Contract

The Corps awarded the Data Gap Work Plan contract to Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. of Liverpool, New York, for \$209,000. The Data Gap Work Plan will describe additional sampling and analysis to complete the Remedial Investigation Report.

Field work under the plan will be completed in the Spring of 2004. Field efforts will include sampling of sediment and surface water from the Black Creek and site-wide groundwater.

Project Information Available

Information and documents related to the Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area are available on the Internet at www.fsadva.com. In addition, many technical and non-technical documents are housed at the project repositories. The locations of the repositories are listed below.

The Guilderland Public Library
2228 Western Avenue (Route 20)
Guilderland, New York

The Voorheesville Public Library
51 School Road
Voorheesville, New York

For Additional Information

For information regarding the Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area please contact:

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