

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) site is a community based group that works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, other agencies and organizations to identify and meet the information needs of the community concerning selected federal cleanup activities at the LOOW, to include the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS).

## Finding Answers

### Sharing Information

## Consensus Building

### Reaching Goals

The LOOW RAB's goal is to work with the various state and federal government agencies to understand and provide input to the future environmental restoration plans for the LOOW and NFSS sites. The LOOW RAB is also determined to address environmental and health concerns associated with both Federal and private property owners throughout the entire 7500-acre LOOW site.

*“When government decision-making is transparent-- when it's open to the public-- the public is more likely to trust the decisions that representatives and government officials make. When the public is directly involved in the shaping of those decisions the quality of decisions is improved and the level of trust simply escalates.”*

*Dr. Sean Kelly, former LOOW  
RAB Steering Committee Chair*

**The Mission** of the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is to influence the investigation and promote the satisfactory remediation of the entire LOOW site (including all publicly and privately owned parcels). The RAB endeavors to ensure that the community is provided the opportunity as early as possible to obtain information about, provide input to, and have impact on, the decisions regarding all investigations and restoration activities at the LOOW site within 1942 boundary. The RAB will:

- \$ establish and maintain a forum for the public and all stakeholders for the exchange of information;
- \$ promote the investigation and remediation of the site by encouraging stakeholders to work together to achieve this goal;
- \$ promote the best use of all available resources to achieve this goal;
- \$ facilitate communications and actions regarding related initiatives in the region.

For further information, contact Membership Committee Chair, Bill Choboy at 716-745-7790 or email at [billc313@yahoo.com](mailto:billc313@yahoo.com)

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Visit [www.loowrab.org](http://www.loowrab.org) for news and information.

## The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Site



### The LOOW RAB is:

A *team* of concerned individuals, organizations and government agencies

*dedicated* to the health and well being of the Lew-Port community.

**What Agencies are involved in the LOOW site?** Because the Lew-Port community has many concerns about the entire 7,500 acre LOOW site, the LOOW RAB works with several state and Federal agencies to address a variety of environmental and health concern issues.

The foremost Federal agency involved in the LOOW site is the US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District (the Corps). The Corps is the primary Federal agency that supports the RAB. The Corps is conducting environmental investigations at the LOOW site under two DoD Environmental Restoration Programs:

- **(DERP FUDS)**, stands for the **Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites**. This Federal program addresses properties that the DoD once owned or used, but no longer is the property owner.
- **(FUSRAP)** stands for the **Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program**. Under this Program, the Corps investigates and, if necessary, remediates properties that once were used by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the Nation's early atomic weapons program. This program only addresses contamination associated with those activities. This Program specifically covers work the Corps is conducting at the NFSS.

Other agencies that have interest in the LOOW site are the Niagara County Department of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The RAB is engaging other agencies (i.e., Department of Energy, the New York State Department of Health) to better address jurisdictional and health related concerns.

## History of the LOOW site

The former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) is located within the Towns of Lewiston and Porter in Niagara County. The property is about 10 miles north of the City of Niagara Falls. The former LOOW was built by the Federal government for the purpose of manufacturing trinitrotoluene (TNT) during World War II. The TNT production, production support, and storage areas were constructed on approximately 2,500 acres (this portion is commonly referred to as the "LOOW Developed Area"). The remaining 5,000 acres, located to the west of the production area, were left undeveloped (known as the "Undeveloped Area").

Environmental investigations have confirmed Department of Defense related contamination at several areas. Current owners of the site include the Lewiston-Porter Schools, local and federal governments, general residential areas, and private corporations such as Chemical Waste Management, Inc. The Corps is conducting environmental investigations at the former LOOW site under the DERP-FUDS program.

### THE NIAGARA FALLS STORAGE SITE (NFSS)

The Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) is located on the developed portion of the former LOOW site. The property is a 191-acre area that includes a 10-acre interim waste containment structure (known as the IWCS). Material stored in the IWCS includes approximately 25,000 cubic yards of radioactive residues and 235,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris from the Manhattan Project. Primary constituents of concern are radium, thorium and smaller amounts of uranium. The underground IWCS, which houses the residues and contaminated material, is covered with an interim cap designed to retard radon emissions and rainwater infiltration.



### STRUCTURED TO MEET COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Nearly 2 years ago, the LOOW RAB underwent an organizational change. A community Steering Committee now coordinates the RAB; replacing the old format that was coordinated by Government and Community co-chairs. This new Steering Committee is comprised of the representative chairs from each of the RAB's subcommittees (listed at right). The RAB Steering Committee coordinates overall RAB involvement with the environmental restoration activities conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the former LOOW site.

- The **Historical Committee** collects, shares and works to increase the amount of historical information concerning past activities at LOOW and the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS).
- The **Membership Committee** works to ensure a balanced and diverse membership structure and maintain membership information.
- The **Chemical Committee's** responsibilities are identical to the Radiological Committee, however, this committee focuses on public and private areas that are covered under the DERP - FUDS program – specifically those areas contaminated with chemicals from DoD operations at the LOOW site.
- The **Advocacy Committee** seeks and advocates for government and private funding sources to accomplish RAB goals.
- The **Radiological Committee** focuses on the Niagara Falls Storage Site and other areas on the LOOW site that may be contaminated with radiological residues.
- The **Outreach Committee** works to determine community concerns and implements programs to improve public awareness and understanding about environmental and health related concerns associated with the LOOW (and NFSS) site.