

## April 28, 2009 - Murtha: \$5 million in Stimulus Funds Headed for Parks Township Cleanup Project

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman

John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has designated \$5 million in the recently passed economic stimulus bill to begin cleanup of the radioactive waste at the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA), Parks Township, Armstrong County.

"Today's funding announcement is much-welcomed news for the Kiski Valley," said Murtha. "Cleaning up the NUMEC site in Parks Township has been a priority of mine because I understand how important this project is to our community. With the addition of these stimulus funds, and \$3.5 million included in this year's appropriations bill, we are finally on schedule to fully remediate the site."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Congress passed in February with Murtha's support, provided \$4.6 billion for Army Corps Civil Works Programs nationwide.

"The purpose of the Economic Stimulus Bill was to put Americans back to work, to jumpstart our economy, and to make critical investments in our nation's infrastructure," added Murtha. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, will receive a total of \$140 million in stimulus funds, creating 1,700 direct and 1,900 indirect jobs. Included within this total is \$84 million to continue replacement of the Charleroi Locks on the Monongahela River."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was originally tasked to cleanup the SLDA. Because of NRC's protracted schedule, and at the urging of the local community, Murtha instead directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cleanup the SLDA site in the 2002 Defense Appropriations Act, which became public law 107-117.

The 44-acre SLDA site was used between 1961 and 1970 to bury low-level radioactive waste materials. During that 9-year period, Nuclear Materials and Equipment Company (NUMEC) disposed of radioactive waste into ten separate pits or trenches that occupy 1.2 surface acres of the 44-acre site. Beginning in the late 1950's, NUMEC operated the nearby Apollo nuclear fuel fabrication facility to convert enriched uranium for use as fuel for commercial nuclear power plants and for United States Navy propulsion reactors. Waste from the Apollo facility was disposed of in the trenches at the SLDA in accordance with the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) regulations that were in effect at the time.

In 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a SLDA Remedial Investigation that identified between 23,500 and 36,700 cubic yards of potentially contaminated waste materials buried in the ten trenches that will require remediation. In 2006, the Army Corps completed a Feasibility Study that concluded that the most effective way to treat the site was to completely remove the radioactive materials buried within the trenches and dispose of the materials at an approved off-site facility.

"This wasn't an easy project to accomplish," added Murtha. "But it is because of the continued commitment of community leaders and activists that we've reached this point, and I'm thrilled by this progress."

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