

Takeaways from Representative Meeting on USACE shipments

Perspectives from Michigan House District 31

Background Summary

- Waste source & description
 - Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) [Lewiston, New York] was used by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) to store radioactive residues and wastes from uranium ore processing. Radioactive wastes and residues continued to be brought to the site for storage until 1952. In 1982 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began cleanup and consolidation of the radioactive wastes and residues in an earthen containment cell constructed on the property, which was completed in 1986. The cell now contains radioactive residues, contaminated rubble and debris from the demolition of buildings, and contaminated soil. – [USACE website](#)

Background Summary

- Waste Profile

Source- [USACE](#)

WASTE/MATERIAL PROFILE FORM

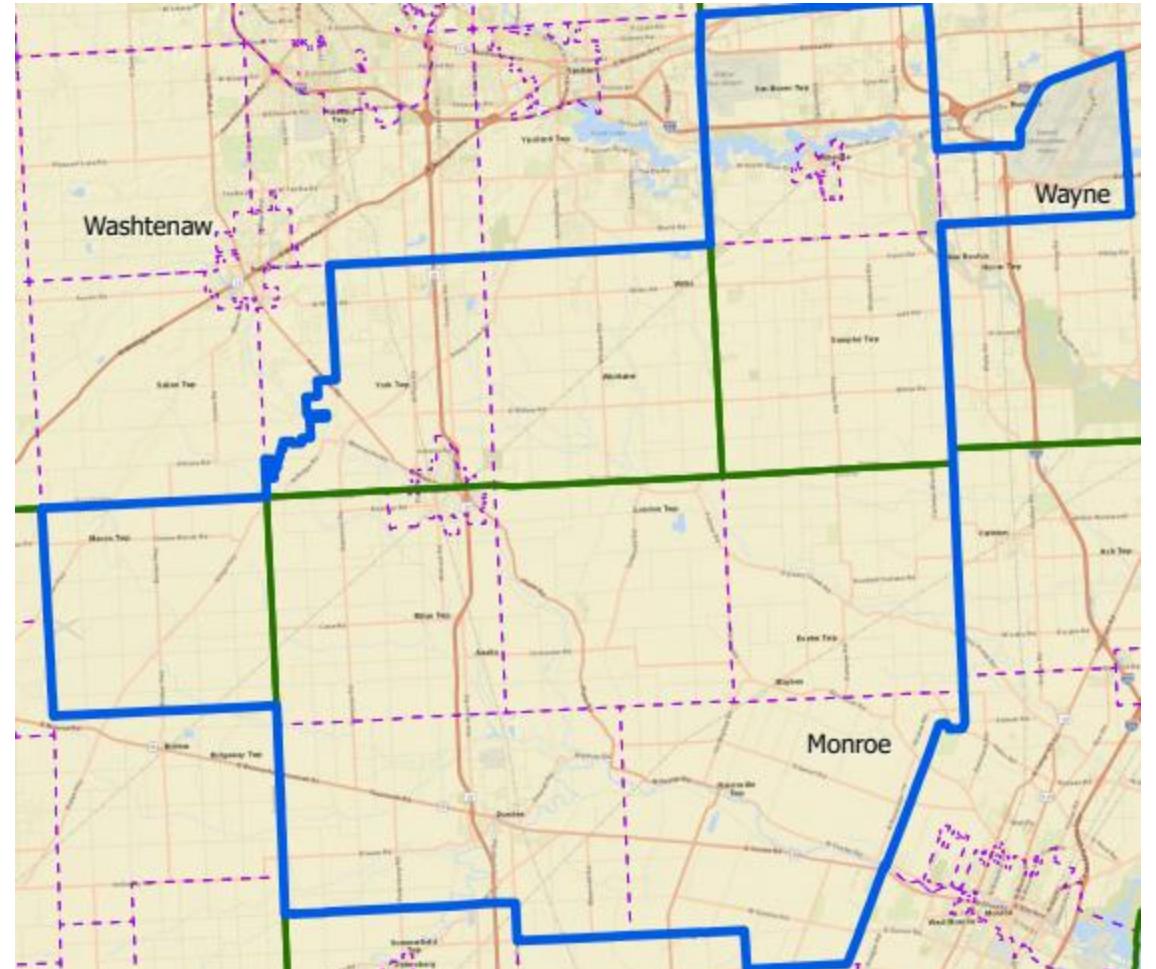
Profile #: _____

Uniform Radioactive Waste Acceptance Supplement

Generator Information					
1. Generator Name: US Army Corps of Engineers – Buffalo District			2. EPA ID #: NY7890108973		
3. Site Address: 1397 Pletcher Rd, Lewiston, NY 14207					
Radioactive Material Description & Site Waste Acceptance Capabilities					
Radionuclides in the Waste Stream (Please check all that apply)	Waste Concentration (pCi/g)	Site Permit Limits (all values in pCi/g unless otherwise specified)			
		Grand View Facility	Belleville Facility	Robstown Facility	Beatty Facility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Source Material (<u>any</u> Uranium and/or Thorium) Do you know if the source material is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Uranium / Thorium ^{1,2} <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Uranium ³ , or <input type="checkbox"/> Refined Uranium ⁴	(Enter U & Th concentrations) U-238 - 13 pCi/g Th-228 - 7 pCi/g Th-230 - 45 pCi/g Th-232 - 6 pCi/g	<0.05% by weight (500 ppm) ⁵	<0.05% by weight (500 ppm) ⁵	<0.05% by weight (500 ppm) ⁵	<0.05% by weight (500 ppm) ⁵
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radium-226 (Ra-226)	43 pCi/g	500/1500 ⁶	50	30 ⁷	5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radium-228 (Ra-228)	7 pCi/g	500/1500 ⁶	50	30 ⁷	(Note)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lead-210 (Pb-210)		1500	260	150	N/A ⁸
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potassium-40 (K-40)	121 pCi/g	818 ⁹	Not Specified	818 ⁹	818 ⁹

Background Summary

- Destination – Truck Route to Disposal Facility in Belleville Michigan, 31st House District



Response

WAYNE

Thousands of tons of radioactive waste from atom bomb-making heading to Wayne County



Keith Matheny

Detroit Free Press

Aug. 19, 2024 | Updated Sept. 17, 2024, 1:12 p.m. ET

Response

Miller Celebrates Community Victory in Blocking Federal Radioactive Waste Shipment to Wayne County

“Radioactive waste has no business coming through our neighborhoods without local input or consent. Wayne County families deserve to know their health and safety will never be put up for negotiation. We cannot let legal maneuvering distract from the real issue: protecting our water, air, and health. My bill is still on the table, and I will keep continuing on in this fight.”

###

A pending lawsuit could decide whether radioactive waste could come into Michigan in the future. In the Legislature, Rep. Miller and state Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton) have introduced House Bill 4393 and Senate Bill 246, respectively, which would ban radioactive waste disposal in Michigan and hold polluters accountable.

July 23, 2025

Barriers to acceptance

- Communication Barriers
 - Response-based outreach instead of advance/proactive outreach
 - ‘Omission = lying’, don’t bury the story
 - Response-based inquiries fielded by many people instead of promoting media/public contacts beforehand
 - Destroys trust, harder to regain trust than to maintain it
 - Threat perception
 - Sensationalism - ‘Manhattan Project Waste’ vs. low level rad waste
 - Accessibility of resources to help communicate and understand risk
 - First-time activity vs. common activity
 - Who’s line is it anyway?
 - Everyone is impacted by a break down in communication anywhere

Barriers to acceptance

- Organizational Barriers

- Notification of shipments goes to who, when, where?
 - MRMTC provides a planning guide for shipments through midwestern states - <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/994578/>
- Is meeting minimum regulatory requirements enough?
 - Environmental Cleanup Programs tend to have public involvement requirements near the clean up site, but outreach for transport and destination may be lacking
- Are contacts trained and able to handle communication with the public?
- Are roles clearly communicated and understood?
- Are there real or perceived conflict of interests among parties?

Barriers to acceptance

- Other Barriers
 - NIMBY
 - Shipments coming through residences and popular areas
 - Current events and heightened awareness
 - Local or national events may necessitate changes in normal procedures
 - Ohio train derailment and local disposal

Questions?