

March 6, 2006 -\$100,000 in Federal Funding for Lake Ontario Works Project Cleanup

Rep. Slaughter Announces \$100,000 in Federal Funding for Lake Ontario Works Project Cleanup
Effort Will Lead to First Comprehensive Environmental Revitalization in Site's History

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today joined Paulette Kline, Niagara County's Public Health Director, to announce \$100,000 in federal funding that Rep. Slaughter secured to complete the first comprehensive review of the environmental quality of Niagara's Lake Ontario Ordinance Works Project (LOOW) site.

Bill Ross, and Dan Sklarski of the Niagara County Legislator, in addition to Scott King, Project Coordinator for the Community LOOW Project, were also present at the event.

"Volumes and volumes of data have been generated about this site, but the public often ends up with more misinformation than fact," Rep. Slaughter said. "The bottom line is that this government owes our community more," she continued. "We must cut through the years of red tape and bureaucratic obstacles and get about solving this ongoing problem now."

A site-wide study of environmental contamination and remediation of the LOOW site has never been undertaken. Numerous investigations, cleanups, and monitoring by various programs have been conducted since the mid-1940's, but their effectiveness remains uncertain.

"This funding is going to be a big part of our effort to clean this site once and for all," Rep. Slaughter said. "We will finally know with confidence that both it and the people who live here are safe -- and that is what this project is all about."

The \$100,000 secured by Congresswoman Slaughter will be used to build a Geographical Information System (GIS) database that will consolidate volumes of information for public and government agencies to access. Scientists and researchers will be able to use this consolidated data to create detailed maps that will reveal gaps or duplications in current investigations and remediation work. With better coordination and collaboration between government agencies and our community, the project will provide an effective means for measuring progress and evaluating priorities for environmental cleanup, and will ultimately ensure that the LOOW site is clean and safe.

BACKGROUND

The LOOW site originated as 7,500 acres purchased by the federal government in 1942 to support WWII military weapons operations, including the Manhattan Project. Today, the site stores half of the world's high-activity radioactive material used for atomic weapons production. It contains the only industrial solid hazardous landfill in the northeast, and is contaminated with numerous toxins and chemicals, including TNT, radium and Boron-10.