

## (January 6, 2008) \$100,000 grant may save Lucas-Berg Pit

\$100,000 grant may save Lucas-Berg Pit

(<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/727542,010608lucasbergpit.article>)

January 6, 2008

By Jim Hook, Staff writer

For 30 years, Adele Benck has fought to keep dredgings from the Calumet-Sag Channel out of the Lucas-Berg Pit in Worth.

Most of that time, Benck, who lives blocks away from the former gravel pit, has felt like she was waging an uphill battle.

Even though none of the potentially hazardous materials has ever been dumped in the 70-acre pit just west of 111th Street and Harlem Avenue, she feared it could someday happen.

But a \$100,000 grant secured by U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) will allow Benck to breathe a bit easier.

The money will pay for the Army Corps of Engineers to search for alternate sites to dump any materials that are periodically dredged from the canal to improve the flow of barge traffic.

"I'm hopeful they can find another site," Lipinski said. "Looking at the Lucas-Berg Pit in Worth, surrounded by all its residential, business, parks and schools, certainly is not a place to dump dredgings.

"There's got to be another site well away from Worth," he said. "Somewhere with less impact."

Lipinski said the Army Corps is expected to begin the alternate site analysis within the next few months.

The actual analysis is expected to take up to one year to complete.

"Now we've got a fighting chance," Benck said. "This is the best news we've had in a long time."