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Record of Decision Addressing Contamination at the North St. Louis County Sites Signed

ST. LOUIS, November 7, 2005 – The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is pleased to announce that the *Record of Decision for the North St. Louis County Sites* has been approved and signed. The ROD will be available for examination at an open house Thursday, November 10 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the FUSRAP Project Office, 8945 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, Missouri 63134. Technical staff will be on-site to answer questions.

“We are pleased that the final remedy for the North St. Louis County sites has been selected,” said FUSRAP Program Manager, Sharon Cotner. “With this step, we can start the final cleanup of these sites by following the process outlined in the Record of Decision.”

The ROD outlines the final remedy for sites in North St. Louis County that were contaminated by activities associated with the nation’s early atomic program. Analysis of soil and sediments samples from the sites confirmed the presence of radioactive contamination in the form of radium, thorium, and uranium. The North St. Louis County sites include the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs), and Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS)/Latty Avenue VPs.

USACE worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the interested public to develop the decisional document. Six cleanup alternatives were presented to the public in May 2003. In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, these alternatives were presented in two documents, the *St. Louis North County Site Feasibility Study* and the *St. Louis North County Site Proposed Plan*. Both of these documents, along with the ROD, are available for public review with the Site Administrative Record File at the St. Louis Public Library at 1301 Olive Street in St. Louis, Missouri and the FUSRAP Project Office at 8945 Latty Avenue in Berkeley, Missouri. Copies of these documents are also available online at www.mvs.usace.army.mil/engr/fusrap/home2.htm.

The USACE held a public meeting on May 29, 2004 and reviewed the six alternatives presented for the sites in the feasibility study and proposed plan. All comments from the meeting and those submitted during the 75-day comment period (May 1 – July 14, 2004) were carefully reviewed and considered before reaching a decision on the final remedy. Alternative Five of the Feasibility Study was selected and approved by the EPA and MDNR as the final remedy.

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Alternative Five: *Excavation with Institutional Controls Under Roads, Bridges, Railroads, and Other Permanent Structures* – This alternative protects human health and the environment and provides the best balance of effectiveness, cost, and implementability. Under Alternative Five, the USACE will remove contaminated soils from SLAPS, HISS, and the VPs for out-of-state disposal. Institutional controls, such as land use or zoning restrictions, will be placed on contaminated soils remaining under actively used roads, bridges, railroads and other permanent structures.

“The public’s input, as well as our coordination with the EPA, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and other governing entities, was critical in determining the best way to remediate these properties,” Cotner said. “We are anxious to get started on the cleanup.”

For more information, please visit our web site or call (314) 260-3905.

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