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# DOE

# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 8, 1992

## PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON HAZELWOOD/BERKELEY CLEANUP PROPOSAL

ST. LOUIS, MO -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking public comment on a proposal to excavate radioactively contaminated soil from local properties in the communities of Hazelwood and Berkeley, Missouri.

The proposed interim removal action is part of a comprehensive environmental review of the St. Louis sites that were contaminated during the early days of the government's atomic energy program. The proposed interim removal action and the long-term review are part of DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

David Adler, DOE's Site Manager for the FUSRAP's St. Louis sites, said: "The proposed interim removal action would relieve local property owners and municipalities of the burden associated with contamination on their properties. If the plan is approved, residential properties are first in line for cleanup."

Adler explained that the areas cited for possible cleanup this spring and summer pose no immediate threat to the public or the environment, but DOE is concerned that contaminated soil could be inadvertently moved by property owners. The targeted properties are those where business expansion, development, or even routine maintenance has been slowed because of the possibility of further spread of contamination. The proposed interim removal action, if approved, would be completed this year.

The properties included in the cleanup were contaminated during the 1960's-70's when uranium processing residues created during World War II were bought by a private company and transported between the St. Louis Airport Site and the Latty Avenue properties.

According to Adler, "DOE's preferred plan involves transporting the contaminated soils to the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) for temporary storage until the environmental review process is completed. Following approval of a long-term waste management plan, the waste would then be shipped to an appropriate facility for permanent disposal."

For planning purposes, DOE is estimating that 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil could be brought to HISS for interim storage this spring and summer. This volume is equal to about 10 percent of the volume of soil currently stored at the site. As required by cleanup needs in the years before a final Record of Decision is issued, as much as 70,000 cubic yards could be added to the HISS. This represents approximately 10 percent of the estimated volume of contaminated soil present in the North County area.

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The proposed interim removal action for the Hazelwood and Berkeley properties is detailed in a report entitled Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis-Environmental Assessment (EE/CA-EA).

During the next 30 days, through May 8, 1992, Adler is looking forward to receiving written comments from as many people as possible about the plan. "We believe that we have a technically sound plan for cleaning up the contaminated material, and want to know what people in the affected communities think about it," Adler said.

The address for submitting comments is David G. Adler, Site Manager, U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Field Office, Former Sites Restoration Division, Post Office Box 2001, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8723.

The EE/CA-EA report is available in the Administrative Record along with other documents related to the environmental review process. The Administrative Record is available during normal business hours in the Government Information Section of the St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis; the St. Louis County Library, Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane, Hazelwood; or at the DOE Public Information Center, 9200 Latty Ave., Hazelwood. Copies of the EE/CA-EA are available through the DOE Public Information Center on Latty Avenue at (314) 524-4083.

DOE's entire cleanup effort was implemented as a result of Secretary of Energy, James D. Watkins, 10-Point Initiative, announced in June 1989, which reset departmental priorities to reflect greater emphasis on environment, safety and health. The FUSRAP is a vital element of the Department's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Five-Year Plan, which contains DOE's strategy for achieving its goal of restoring the Nation's environment.

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

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# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri

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U.S. Department of Energy