

Newsclippings

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Project Office

INFORMATION REPOSITORY FOR THE ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN SITE



**U. S. Army Corps
of Engineers,
St. Louis District**

July 8, 1998

THE SUPERFUND

Who pays to clean up the mess?

The federal Superfund law was designed to protect Americans from the health hazards of carelessly dumped, dangerous chemicals and pollutants. Though it has had its share of problems, the law has served the public interest well. It has helped clean up scores of polluted sites that otherwise would have remained health hazards. And it has revolutionized the way corporations dispose of toxic materials.

But now the core principles that prop up the Superfund law are in danger of being gutted. About half a dozen different bills are floating around the House and Senate. Most would help big polluters weasel out of their obligation to clean up their messes. Some would also weaken cleanup standards.

Most at risk is a provision known as the "polluter pays" principle. Simply, it says that when a business or group of businesses can be identified as the cause of a toxic waste site, those parties must pay for the cleanup. In cases where the polluters cannot be identified or are no longer in business, money collected from a tax on chemical and petroleum industries is used instead. Currently, more than 1,300 sites are on the federal Superfund list, including 23 in Missouri, such as sites in Valley Park and Shrewsbury.

The "polluter pays" principle is fair: You pollute, you pay. But a second, equally important aspect of the law is its deterrent power: It is a strong incentive for companies to minimize pollution and properly dispose of hazardous materials in the first place.

But the big polluters don't like being held re-

sponsible for their messes, so they have been lobbying Congress hard to pass a slew of sneaky rules that would let them wiggle out of paying for the damage they have caused.

One of those loopholes would exempt companies with fewer than 100 employees. Supporters of this provision portray themselves as big protectors of small businesses, but the Environmental Protection Agency already has the authority to exempt a small business from footing an unaffordably large bill. Environmentalists fear the new rule could be manipulated by mega-polluters to set up small subsidiaries and then claim the subsidiaries are exempt under the law.

Polluters are also trying to keep their costs down by redefining the standards of what has to be done for a cleanup. Currently, a contaminated site must be cleaned to acceptable scientific standards of safety, rather than just being sealed off. Polluters want to remove that provision of the law and replace it with one that gives more consideration to cost. But it will always be cheaper to do minimal containment than a proper cleanup.

The Superfund law needs to be reauthorized. It has been in limbo since 1995. Until it is reauthorized, the tax from the chemical and petroleum industries cannot be collected. Each day it stalls, an estimated \$4 million is lost. But the Superfund law should not be passed at any cost. Reauthorizing a neutered version that cripples the polluter-pays principle, or trades proper cleanup for mere containment, would be a step backward.

Any reauthorization must protect the health of the public, not the wallets of the polluters.

Saturday, July 11, 1998

Section: NEWS

EPA PREFERS BURNING DIOXIN-LACED SOIL FROM TWO PLACES IN COUNTY

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of The Post-Dispatch

* The agency wants to transport the soil from Ellisville and St. Ann to a commercial incinerator in Knsas City. The cost would be \$14.3 million.

The Environmental Protection Agency wants to dig up dioxin-contaminated soil at two sites in St. Louis County and haul it to a commercial incinerator in Kansas.

The EPA announced Friday that excavating the soil and burning it out of state has been chosen as the preferred cleanup method for Lemar Drive in Ellisville and McDonnell Park near St. Ann.

The cost would be \$14.3 million.

The agency had announced in March that it was considering four options for cleaning up the Lemar site.

It chose excavation and incineration in Coffeyville, Kan. - the most expensive option - after considering public comments.

The other options included burning or treating the soil on site.

"We had an overwhelming response from the community asking EPA to excavate the soil and, please, take it off site," said Hattie Thomas of the EPA's Kansas City office.

The agency decided to include McDonnell Park in the same cleanup plan. "We have the opportunity to take care of both sites," Thomas said.

Following a 21-day comment period that ends July 31, the EPA will select a final cleanup plan.

Work is scheduled to begin this fall.

The contamination at the two sites was discovered after an incinerator at Times Beach had shut down. That incinerator burned 265,000 tons of contaminated material from Times Beach and 26 other sites in eastern Missouri.

At Ellisville, the contamination is centered on a long gravel driveway that runs along several lots in a residential area a few blocks northeast of the intersection of Manchester and Clarkson roads.

The total contamination there is estimated at about 7,500 tons, or about 400 truckloads.

At McDonnell Park, which is off Adie Road, the contaminated area is smaller and

limited largely to an old riding arena.

Much of the arena had been covered with fill after the area became a park in 1977.

The EPA said both sites were sprayed with contaminated oil to control dust by drivers for Russell Bliss, the waste hauler responsible for the other dioxin sites in Missouri.

After the Lemar site was confirmed in July 1997, the EPA asked for public assistance in locating additional dioxin sites.

Leads led to 35 sites, and the EPA determined that soil should be tested at six of those sites. Dioxin was found at only one, McDonnell Park.

The EPA said it has completed all its investigations into those leads, and is not aware of any new dioxin sites in the St. Louis area.

The Coffeyville Chamber of Commerce has pursued the EPA contract for the Lemar contamination because its incinerator is running out of business. The incinerator, which once had 400 employees, has been idled since February.

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Sunday, July 12, 1998

Section: METRO

NIXON CRITICIZES BOND'S RECORD OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT SENATOR CALLS CANDIDATE'S AGENDA 'ULTRA-LIBERAL' SIERRA CLUB PRAISES ATTORNEY GENERAL

By Jo Mannies
Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent

Standing on the banks of the Meramec River, Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon on Saturday accused Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., of "treating the planet like a depreciable resource" that needs no protection.

In reply, Bond charged that Nixon was espousing "junk science."

Flanked by area environmental leaders, Nixon said voters need to be aware of the "polar differences" as they choose between him and Bond in this fall's Senate election. Nixon, a Democrat, said he was concerned that Bond's expensive ad campaign was allowing him to recast his record.

"Kit Bond has taken a national role in fighting against mainstream concerns for clean air and clean water," Nixon said, noting that Bond chairs the subcommittee that oversees the Environmental Protection Agency.

State and national Sierra Club leaders praised Nixon's record and endorsed him. State Sierra Club director Ken Midkiff cited:

- Nixon's creation of an environmental enforcement division in his office.
- His actions to stop "all-terrain vehicles from playing their destructive games in the Black River."
- His suits against mining, poultry and hog operations for "fouling the air and waters of our state, and literally poisoning our citizens."

In contrast, Midkiff said, Bond "is a ranking member of the 'Toxic Ten' in the Senate, taking money from polluting industries and voting their way consistently."

Bond's campaign manager, David Israelite, replied later, "Under Senator Bond's leadership, more money has been spent for clean air and clean water than in any time in history. Senator Bond supports mainstream environmental protection measures but does not agree with Mr. Nixon's ultra-liberal environmental agenda, which is anti-business junk science."

The sparring between Bond and environmental groups isn't new. In response to repeated criticisms, Bond recently dubbed them "green socialists" and "wackos."

Quipped Midkiff on Saturday: "Coming from Senator Bond, we take those names as a compliment."

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Sunday, July 12, 1998

Section: METRO

SOIL FROM ORDNANCE SITE IS READY TO BURN, BUT DOUBT SHADOWS TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP EXPERTS SAY INCINERATOR IS SAFE, BUT CRITICS ARE WARY

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of The Post-Dispatch

The flame has been lighted on an incinerator ready to burn explosive residues at the old Weldon Spring Ordnance Works plant in St. Charles County. The plant made up to a million pounds of TNT a day for World War II before closing in 1945.

The incinerator is scheduled to burn 28,000 tons of soil - 2,100 truckloads - and 16 miles of wooden pipeline contaminated with toxic TNT and its chemical cousin DNT. The explosives were produced as a crystalline powder, which stained the earth red when spilled or leaked and seeped into ground water.

Crews will excavate a similar amount of soil containing radioactivity and lead and transport it to a bunker being built to entomb waste at an adjacent uranium-processing plant, which is undergoing its own billion-dollar cleanup.

After a series of tests with clean and contaminated soil, the incinerator will perform a three-day trial burn, scheduled to begin Aug. 10. Air emissions will be analyzed and the results presented to the public and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If the incinerator passes the trial, it will begin burning up to 20 tons an hour of explosives-contaminated material. The incineration is scheduled to start in late August and continue around the clock, seven days a week, for two months.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which is heading the project, said the same incinerator was used to successfully burn 230,000 tons of TNT-contaminated soils at two other Army facilities in Alabama and Illinois.

Soils going into the incinerator are tested to ensure that they do not contain radioactivity, which is not destroyed by burning, said Dan Mroz, who is heading the project for the Army.

Air-pollution controls ensure that only white clouds of steam and traces of heavy metals within established limits leave the 100-foot-tall stack, Mroz said. The incinerator is required to destroy 99.99 percent of the TNT contamination.

A farmer living nearby for 30 years and eating home-grown foods stands a one-in-a-million chance of getting cancer from the incineration, the corps says. The odds decrease to one-in-100 million for those living farther away.

The materials to be burned do not contain dioxins, Mroz said, but they can be formed during incineration. "We are sampling for dioxins in the trial burn," he said.

"At a similar operation in Nebraska, where TNT-contaminated soils were incinerated, no dioxins were found."

Computers will monitor the emissions, and a display terminal will be available to the public at the project office. "We are doing everything we can reasonably do to ensure that the emissions are safe," Mroz said.

Incineration - because it is an open-ended process - has fallen out of favor for many toxic cleanups. Kay Drey, an anti-nuclear activist from University City, is a critic of the Weldon Spring incinerator.

"What's going to go out this 100-foot stack? How far will it travel? St. Louis County is just four air miles away," Drey said. "I think there may be radioactivity in the materials that go in, even if the Army doesn't."

"We know a lot of the problems with incinerators, that they malfunction. It's just a very hazardous technology. It's one thing to use an incinerator in the desert in Utah. We're talking about a highly populated area - 18,000 people live within five miles."

A year before the United States entered the war in December 1941, the intersection of Highway 94 and Route D in St. Charles County was known as Toonerville. It consisted of a tavern, dance hall, general store, service station and a few residences and small farms.

In December 1940, the Army began acquiring land near the intersection by purchase and eminent domain. The final total was more than 17,000 acres, nearly 27 square miles, a tract half the size of Chesterfield.

The project displaced the 576 residents of Toonerville, Hamburg and Howell, who lost a Supreme Court battle to save their towns. By November 1942, some \$65 million had been spent to build the nation's largest explosives plant.

Wooden pipelines, resembling hollowed-out utility poles, carried waste water from 20 explosives production buildings. Lead was used on some floors and equipment to avoid sparks - and catastrophes.

During peak production in 1943, the plant produced 35 million pounds of TNT per month, running three shifts, 24 hours a day with 5,200 employees. On V-J Day - Victory in Japan - in August 1945, production was terminated.

\$40 million in cleanup costs

Over the next two decades, equipment was salvaged and buildings were burned and razed. Today, concrete foundations and a few buildings remain. The total amount of TNT left on the grounds is estimated at around 3,000 pounds mixed in the soil at nearly 100 sites over 150 acres. Army personnel previously cleared the grounds of fist-sized chunks of TNT.

In 1956, more than 200 acres were given to the old Atomic Energy Commission, which used it for a uranium-processing plant. That plant closed in 1966, and the Department of Energy is cleaning up the site. The bulk of the original 17,000 acres used for the Ordnance Works is now the Busch and Weldon Spring conservation areas. Only 1,655 acres of the core processing complex still belongs to the Army, which uses uncontaminated areas for Reserve and National Guard training.

In 1988, the Army began studying how to decontaminate the processing area of the Ordnance Works site. Two years later, it was added to the national priority list for cleanup. By the time the cleanup is completed, an estimated \$40 million will have been spent.

That figure includes a \$14 million contract awarded to Roy W. Weston Inc. of Pennsylvania to bring in the portable incinerator, to excavate and burn the explosive soils and pipeline and to excavate and stabilize the lead contamination.

Concerns over radioactivity

Burning often has been used to destroy TNT, which does not detonate at low concentrations when exposed to flame.

The excavated soils and the shredded pipeline will be fed by conveyor belt into the kiln, which is heated to 1,800 degrees with propane. The treated soil and ash will be tested, and used to refill site once it is decontaminated. Gases from the kiln pass through a secondary combustion unit and are destroyed. The exhaust is sucked through a cooling tower and into a second pollution-control unit, where filter bags remove particles before venting into the stack.

The major concern for Drey and other activists is that radioactivity that migrated onto the site from the uranium-processing plant next door will end up in the incinerator - and out the stack. Testing, which began in 1975 and continued over the years, identified five sites totaling less than an acre that were radioactive. The sites, two in drainage areas and three along railroad tracks, were turned over to the Department of Energy. That agency has responsibility for radioactive wastes.

Bill Empson of the corps said crews have walked over the areas to be excavated with instruments similar to Geiger counters and have found no other radioactivity. In addition, the corps has agreed to a request by the state Department of Natural Resources that spot checks be made of soils before they enter the incinerator. Replied Drey: "They say they didn't find anything major, but that doesn't mean they've tested everywhere."

The corps created a Restoration Advisory Board, made up of more than two dozen local residents and officials, to advise the community of cleanup activities. The board holds quarterly meetings open to the public; the next one is scheduled Thursday and includes a site tour. For information, call (314) 441-8681.

Edward Ring, a retired military man who lives in St. Charles, saw a notice posted in the library that the board was seeking members. He volunteered.

"I haven't missed a meeting yet," said Ring, 65. "I was in Vietnam and subject to Agent Orange. I've seen what chemicals can do to people."

Ring said he approves of the process being used. "I'm no engineer, but I know if somebody's snowing me or not," he said. "I was really skeptical. How could we control this on an emergency shutdown?"

"But I'm really impressed with those guys, and I'm with them 100 percent. I don't think there will be any hazard or damage to health, whatsoever."

Publication Details

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Monday, July 13, 1998

Section: NORTH POST

OFFICIAL URGES HARMON TO MEET, DISCUSS BUYOUT 'PROTECTION ZONE' PUTS HOUSES IN JEOPARDY

By Kathleen Hill
Special To The Post-Dispatch

Bridgeton Councilman John O'Connell, 2nd Ward, says that St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon should meet with Bridgeton officials to explain the city's effort to buy some houses near Lambert Field.

O'Connell said that neither he nor anyone else in Bridgeton's government had been informed that Lambert officials had contacted three property owners in his ward to buy their houses.

O'Connell says the houses in the 11200 block of Cypress Garden Court have fallen into the protection zone of one of the runways because a new landing system has enlarged the protection zone. The protection zone is the area considered too close to the runway to have houses in it.

"We frequently hear that Lambert wants to be a good neighbor," O'Connell said. "A good neighbor communicates with people."

O'Connell says that Harmon is the ultimate authority over the airport and should be willing to talk about the problem with Bridgeton.

Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers says he always has found Harmon willing to meet and discuss airport issues. He said he would contact Harmon to see whether the two could talk about the new runway protection zones.

Moving from planes to automobiles, the council asked Paul Plotas of Larkin Associates Consulting Engineers for cost estimates of traffic studies. The council has discussed at previous meetings the need for a more scientific way of determining the effect of proposed developments on traffic patterns.

Bridgeton is particularly concerned about traffic on St. Charles Rock Road. Council members say they think that the section of the road going through Bridgeton is already carrying more traffic than it is designed to carry.

Plotas said he could provide estimates on the cost to study just heavily traveled intersections, heavily traveled corridors such as St. Charles Rock Road or to create a computerized traffic model of Bridgeton.

Developers who bring traffic studies to the Planning and Zoning Commission and to the City Council hire their own traffic engineers. Council member Ray Rolan, 2nd Ward, says he thinks that some of those studies do not present an unbiased view of the effect of traffic.

Plotas says his company could review and critique those studies in about a week, for about \$1,000. For Larkin to handle the studies, he said, would cost between \$3,000 and \$7,000 and take 15 to 20 working days to complete.

Monday, July 13, 1998

Section: METRO

GROUP HAS HIGH HOPES, PLANS FOR COMEBACK ON 14TH STREET ARCHITECTS OFFER IDEAS TO RALLY NORTH ST. LOUIS NEIGHBORHOOD

By Anthony Jaffe
Of The Post-Dispatch

Flanked for two blocks by rows of broken, tired buildings, the 14th Street pedestrian mall looks nothing like the lively environs envisioned by Will Winter, director of the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group.

Pigeons roost on crumbling brick chimneys and roofs with slipping shingles. Glass is smashed and jagged. Most of the buildings are deserted; a furniture store advertises a sofa sale, handwritten on a large piece of plywood nailed to a spot once occupied by a window.

Over the weekend, Winter and about 20 volunteer architects gathered to come up with ideas to revitalize the mall - between St. Louis and Warren Avenues - and other, less decrepit parts of Old North St. Louis. The racially mixed neighborhood of about 60 blocks lies north of downtown, bordered by I-70 on the east and North Florissant on the west.

The group presented sketches and diagrams to more than 50 residents on Saturday and Sunday. Members explained that it was possible to create affordable housing, picturesque, tree-lined streets and a community abundant in parks and recreational opportunities.

"We presented a vision of what the neighborhood could look like," said Winter, 32. In response, residents said they supported a plan that aimed toward realistic goals, such as creating jobs in this mostly lower-income area.

There are some signs that businesses can prosper in the neighborhood, amid old brick buildings, derelict houses and modest apartment complexes. At Crown Candy Kitchen, a restaurant across from the mall, the lunch crowd regularly spills out the door.

From his apartment balcony, just beyond the Old North St. Louis mall office on St. Louis Avenue and 14th Street, Winter can look south and glimpse the top of the Gateway Arch, barely looping into sight over the trees that bisect the pedestrian mall. He and his colleagues think that efforts to reinvigorate the area are ultimately as important as the oft-mentioned revitalization plans for nearby downtown.

"The wider purpose of architects is to make cities," said volunteer John Burse, a member of the St. Louis chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Cities, he said, are a collection of neighborhoods, making the vitality of each one critical.

The letters on the sign of a defunct North St. Louis drugstore are pocked with empty light bulb sockets. On the sidewalk below, resident Vanessa Hendrix rests in the shade and remembers the 14th Street mall in the 1970s.

"It was real nice," she said. "I used to shop down here - both sides were open."

"The place used to be swingin,' " added her husband Bennett.

Winter said that although the mall might not bustle for some time, residents and planners can look elsewhere to quickly inject life into the area. For starters, he suggested turning vacant land into anything from Christmas tree lots to places to produce golf-course sod.

"You've got to start small and work with what's there," he said.

For information on the ONSL Restoration Group, call 241-5031.

Monday, July 13, 1998

Section: METRO

BERKELEY'S CIVIC CHAOS IS HEADING TO COURT FEUD AMONG OFFICIALS LEAVES TOWN OF 12,000 IN DISARRAY JUDGE WILL SORT THROUGH ACCUSATIONS

By Margaret Gillerman
Of The Post-Dispatch

City Hall is still open in Berkeley but with a few players missing - such as the mayor, the police chief, the city attorney, the city clerk and the city manager.

Anyone claiming to hold one of those offices has either been fired or barred by a judge from carrying out official duties. That includes people from both factions in the political dispute that has been afflicting this city of 12,000 residents for months.

Now it is all going to court, beginning with a hearing scheduled for today before St. Louis County Circuit Judge George W. Draper III. Earlier this month, he issued an order keeping most city officials from carrying out their duties until he could sort out who should be in charge.

Meanwhile, department heads are running City Hall, the St. Louis County Police have taken control of the police department and police officers are standing guard to protect city records.

"I've been here 41 years, and I didn't think I'd ever see anything like this," said Manuel "Ink" Levin, 87, a longtime resident and former city inspector. "We'll keep our fingers crossed."

Matters came to a head last month when Mayor Ted Hoskins was ousted by a judge because he violated the city charter by holding a second elective office. Hoskins is appealing that ruling, and a recall election to oust Hoskins remains on the election ballot next month.

An ally of Hoskins, George Hopper, has claimed to be the acting mayor in Hoskins' stead, but few residents accept that. Many say Hopper should not have been sitting on the City Council, either. In April, Hopper came in second in the election for councilman-at-large, but Hoskins swore him onto the council, anyway. Hopper's election rival, top vote-getter Kenneth McClendon, also claims to hold the same council seat.

County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch has filed suit seeking to oust Hopper.

Two people also claim to hold the job of acting city manager; the city has not had a full-time city manager since the last manager left last winter. Cecil Hill has been filling in for the job. After Hoskins was gone, Hill started removing Hoskins' allies. He changed the locks at City Hall, fired City Attorney Elbert Walton and Police Chief Robert Lewis and ousted City Clerk Eileen Davis Young.

In return, Hopper, claiming to be mayor, fired Hill, but Hill said Hopper had no authority. Hopper appointed James Trimble city manager anyway. Hill appointed a new police chief, Lt. James McMullin, and hired the Herzog, Crebs & McGhee law firm to replace Walton.

Next, Walton filed suit to oust Hill and McMullin, saying they conspired to take over the city government. Judge Draper responded by temporarily enjoining the plaintiffs and defendants - including Hill, McMullin, Lewis, Hopper, Walton, Young and Trimble - from carrying out duties.

Hill's attorneys sought to get the appellate court to intervene, but on Thursday, the appellate court said Draper could proceed with the case. The hearing today is on Walton's suit.

Residents are wondering what is left that can happen to their city government.

"We're in limbo," said resident Jan Kreutz. "I think it's total chaos now. If we didn't have chaos and confusion before, we sure the hell do now.

"Every time we think we'll get some relief, it all kind of blows up again."

Meanwhile at City Hall, city business is still being carried out, said Ryan Shaughnessy, a member of the law firm appointed by Hill.

Shaughnessy said: "The city is functioning with department heads - without a city manager and without a city clerk and without a mayor and without a police chief."

► Publication Details

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Saturday, July 18, 1998.

Section: EDITORIAL

FUSION AND THE TEST BAN TREATY

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The United States is in danger of becoming a nuclear hypocrite and a nuclear outlaw.

The U.S. government insists on limiting the number of countries that are part of the international nuclear family, and imposes sanctions on countries like Pakistan and India that test nuclear weapons. Yet our country continues to invest billions of dollars each year on research that could lead to a whole new generation of advanced nuclear weapons. The message being sent is that other countries should not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons through existing technology, but it's fine if the United States forges ahead with more advanced weapons of annihilation.

Many critics have long feared the United States' double standard as an obstacle to real nuclear nonproliferation. But last week, for the first time, a group of esteemed American nuclear scientists criticized American efforts as not only hypocritical, but also illegal.

The criticism came from The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research of Takoma Park, Md. It consists of a group of scientists including a Nobel laureate who was one of the main architects of the first atomic bomb, former nuclear advisers to the White House, and a former atom bomb designer and weapons inspector. They charge that both the nature and intent of U.S. nuclear fusion research violates the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The treaty is the international agreement aimed at ending all nuclear test blasts as a means to stop further development of nuclear weapons. The treaty prohibits "any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion." The Clinton administration promoted and signed the treaty in 1996.

The institute's scientists say that nuclear fusion projects at the nation's weapons labs - projects that will cost about \$4.5 billion per year for 10 years - violate the treaty. In particular they criticize the National Ignition Facility, a football-stadium-sized center currently being built to develop small thermonuclear blasts.

If perfected, these blasts could be packaged into pure hydrogen bombs. They would be relatively cheap to make and tiny enough to be mounted on warheads.

The Energy Department and weapons makers scoff at the idea that the research is illegal. And they claim the purpose of it is not weapons development, but to find cheap sources of energy.

The United States should suspend any further building on the National Ignition Facility until there is clarification on whether such research violates the test ban treaty. An international test-ban conference is expected as early as next year.

But beyond the issue of legality, Americans need to think seriously about the future of our nuclear arsenal, and whether we really want it to grow.

St. Louis area population follows national trend toward suburban growth

St. Louis
Post-Dispatch
7/24/98

Region may have 2.8 million people by 2010

BY TERENCE SAMUEL

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Census Bureau report released today shows that more than 6.3 million people moved out of the nation's central cities between 1996 and 1997, while fewer than 4 million moved in.

Compare that with America's suburbs, which gained 2.7 million during the same period, and rural areas, which picked up a little more than 200,000 new people, and it is clear that what is happening in the St. Louis region reflects national trends.

The St. Louis area has grown by 2.6 percent since 1990, and with a population of 2.5 million, now ranks 18th in the nation, a one-spot drop from 17th in 1990, the bureau said.

New York and its sprawling suburbs remain No. 1, with 19.8 million people, while Enid, Okla., ranks 273rd, at the bottom of the list, with 57,000.

The big gainer in the top 20 was Phoenix and its suburbs, which grew by half a million people since 1990, an increase of 26.9 percent. Phoenix's population last year hit 2.8 million, moving it from 19th in 1990 to 15th this year.

The national numbers confirm that much of the population growth is taking place in the South and the West. The fastest-growing metropolitan region is Las Vegas, where the population shot up by 48 percent since 1990. The metropolitan area now has 1.3 million people.

The Census Bureau projects that by 2010, the St. Louis region will have nearly 2.8 million people. There are not specific projections for the city or the individual counties in the region, but the trend predicts suburban growth and a shrinking city.

As reported in March, the city of St. Louis, which has been losing residents for decades, registered a more than 11 percent drop since 1990, while St. Louis County last year recorded its first population decline.

The city of St. Louis is now home to an estimated 341,000 people, down from 396,000 in 1990. The city lost about 9,000 people between 1996 and 1997 alone. St. Louis County's population stands at 1 million.

The Census Bureau's State and Metropolitan Area Data Book paints the U.S. population as one that is increasingly suburban, votes less often, is hospitalized less often, but goes to the doctor more.

On the whole, American population continues to fall in central cities and rise in the suburban rings. If central cities have managed to attract any population, it has been largely through immigration. Nearly one in five of all the people moving into central cities between 1985 and 1997 were foreign immigrants.

While border cities in the South and the West have experienced population booms as a result of immigration, Midwestern regions like St. Louis attract fewer immigrants than other parts of the country.

Despite recent reports that cities are returning to stability and limited prosperity, the portrait that emerges from the census numbers is one of continuing decline in terms of population.

Suburbs that make up metropolitan regions have also begun to lose population. In the Metro East region, for example, Alton, Belleville, Granite City and East St. Louis all lost population.

The growth in the St. Louis region is decidedly suburban. Among the Missouri counties, the ones with substantial population gains were Franklin (up 12.9 percent), Jefferson (up 12.7), Lincoln (up 21.8) and St. Charles (up 24.2). In Illinois, Monroe County grew by 15.5 percent, but St. Clair County rose just 0.4 percent.

The census data also shows the St. Louis metro region ranked 16th in the amount of money deposited into banks in 1996, with \$29.5 billion. The per-capita income in 1994 was \$23,684, which ranked the area 25th out of 273.

With a 4.7 new babies for each 1,000 residents, the region ranks 118th in birth rate and 170th in the proportion of residents who live below the poverty line, 13 percent.

Between 1990 and 1996, St. Louis area residents sought permits to build 76,292 homes, the 24th highest rate in the nation.

In darker statistics, motor accidents killed 14.1 people for every 100,000 residents in 1993, putting the area 171st in automobile deaths. Heart attacks are more of a danger, however, with 392.2 people out of every 100,000 dying from heart attacks.

St. Louis Post Dispatch

7-26-98

NUCLEAR POLITICS

Punishment or dialogue?

In retribution for the May testing of nuclear bombs by both India and Pakistan, scientists from those countries are being denied visas to attend scientific conferences in the United States and Britain. Canadian officials have said that they will follow suit.

Dr. Rajagopal Chidambaram, chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, was denied a visa to attend a meeting in Virginia last week. Placid Rodrigues, director of the Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research, and Baldev Raj, a prominent scientist from the same institution, were forbidden to enter England for a meeting of editors working on a scientific encyclopedia at Oxford.

Dr. N. Ravi, also from the Gandhi Center, was denied a visa to Britain for a June meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency. And Dr. Srinath Chellavaraja of Bombay and an expert in particle physics, was not allowed to attend a professional conference in Colorado.

There is an American law that calls for denying visas in such circumstances, under the pretext of preventing technology transfer into the wrong hands. But it is ludicrous to believe that in today's information age, something as simple as keeping a scientist out of a meeting will stop

a country from getting scientific information. Denying scientists visas and preventing them from participating in international scientific conferences is meant as a slap on the wrist. But it's hard to see what the policy achieves.

America welcomes scientists from Cuba and Libya. And even during the Cold War, Soviet scientists were regularly issued visas.

Conferring rogue status on Indian and Pakistani scientists will only aggravate the threat those countries might pose to global instability. It makes more sense to try to engage them in an international dialogue. Consider what a powerful object lesson the scientists from India and Pakistan might have been able to offer to their nuclear colleagues around the world.

Their presence would have added immeasurably to a rigorous debate over the uses and abuses of nuclear technology, its literal and figurative costs and the role of politics in curbing or unleashing it. Inclusion in such a dialogue would be the first step in holding the scientists to account for whatever role they may have played in their government's actions. The next step is to attempt to influence their thinking and, ultimately, their countries' nuclear policies.

Tuesday, June 2, 1998

Section: NEWS

SEN. BOND MOVES TO SOFTEN HIS ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL REPUTATION

By Tim Poor

Highway money should be spent for highways," says Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo. But he doesn't really mean it, not exactly.

Bond was on a committee that hammered out the details of a big highway funding bill that is expected to make its way to the president's desk soon. His office listed 42 Missouri "priorities" he pushed for. Most are roads, but not all.

Included is money for bicycle paths, for parking lots and bus centers, and \$30 million for a commuter rail project in the Kansas City area.

St. Louis civic leaders are especially happy with \$2 million Bond helped secure to restore the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River for use by bicyclists and hikers. The bridge is the centerpiece for Confluence Greenway, a looping hiking-biking trail along and across the river.

St. Louis 2004, a group headed by former Sen. John Danforth, gave Bond's staff a tour of the bridge last year. And when Bond got the money, the group sent out a glowing news release.

"This funding is a great step toward making the St. Louis region famous for its system of trails and greenways," said Danforth, a former Republican colleague of Bond's in the Senate. Post-Dispatch Publisher Nicholas G. Penniman IV, chairman of the group's task force on greenways, was also quoted saying good things about the project.

The release and its headline trumpeting Bond raised the eyebrows of some Democrats and environmentalists who connect Bond's name more with concrete and business than with advocacy for green space.

Marc Solomon, vice president of St. Louis 2004, insists there was nothing political about the group's praise of Bond. He said it plans a similar news release today noting Rep. Jerry Costello's snaring of money for a portion of the greenway on the Illinois side.

"We will take help from whomever will give it," he said.

Nonetheless, Bond is running for re-election in November and he, too, will take help from wherever he can get it. A couple of million dollars for a greenway won't ensure his return to the Senate, but it could help soften the anti-environment image that some groups want to pin on him.

His support for the bridge project has pried some grudging compliments from even his most ardent environmental critics, though they're quick to qualify the kind words.

"I'm glad he's doing something helpful," said Rachel Locke of the Sierra Club in St. Louis. "Even a blind pig will find a nut occasionally."

The Sierra Club has been running ads suggesting that Bond has been an environmental disaster for Missouri due to votes the group describes as against the protection of wetlands and clean water. Bond protests that he's been miscast, but neither his rejoinders nor his support for bike paths has won over Locke, who will never confuse Bond with Ralph Nader.

"It doesn't change his overall record," she said.

Roy Kienitz is director of the Surface Transportation Policy Project, a Washington-based group of nonprofit organizations that pushes for money for nonroad uses such as mass transit and bike trails.

Kienitz said Bond's support for those kinds of spending measures in an election year is evidence of the changing politics of highway spending. He said politicians realize they can get mileage by appealing to the environmental instincts of those suburban parents sometimes dubbed "soccer moms."

"Those are people who like having a bike path in their neighborhood," Kienitz said."

So when Bond says "highway money should be spent on highways," he means on any number of transportation-related measures. It's a position welcomed by Kienitz, who favors relatively short-term projects that produce an immediate benefit with little or no downside.

Projects such as the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge.

Work is under way on the span, which is the longest pedestrian-bicycle bridge in the world and offers spectacular views of the Mississippi and its surroundings. It's scheduled to open weekends beginning Sept. 26.

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Thursday, June 4, 1998

Section: NEWS

BOND DEFENDS VOTE TO OVERHAUL THE SUPERFUND, BRANDS CRITICS 'GREEN SOCIALISTS' AND 'WACKOS'

By Tim Poor
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON

Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., defended his vote to revamp the toxic-waste Superfund on Wednesday, referring to critics as green socialists and wackos.

Bond made the remarks in an address to members of the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association, who were in Washington for their annual visit with members of Congress from Missouri and Illinois.

Bond is a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which passed the bill in March by an 11-7 vote. Supporters say the bill is aimed at making the federal cleanup program, which has been plagued by long delays and lawsuits, more effective. It authorizes spending \$7.5 billion over five years.

"We passed a good Superfund measure," Bond said Wednesday. "We've seen the green socialists complain about the Superfund. . . . The wackos don't like the bill," he added, but said he was acting in the interest of taxpayers.

Bond also is chairman of a subcommittee that is expected to take up legislation next week to fund the Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the Superfund.

Bond said he will oppose the Clinton administration's request for more money for the Superfund "until we reform it."

Environmental groups say the legislation goes too far in protecting business interests.

"The bill carves out huge exemptions for polluters so that they're not liable to clean up the dumps they create," said David Rosenfeld, organizing director for the Missouri Public Interest Research Group.

The bill threatens to end the "polluter pays" principle that has governed the Superfund, he said.

Leanne Jerome, a spokeswoman for Bond, said the legislation creates exemptions for small businesses that are not financially viable or that acquire property after it had been polluted. She said the exemptions would not be a significant portion of companies responsible for toxic-waste sites.

Bond's testiness may have been prompted by efforts to target his record as he runs for re-election against Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon.

Rosenfeld said his group will be distributing a "scorecard" of the environmental voting records of Bond and other members of Congress, aiming to visit 100,000 households in the next several months. He said Bond scored zero on the eight votes the group included.

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Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

NUCLEAR STATUS QUO HAS BEEN BLASTED APART

By Mikhail Gorbachev
Copyright La Stampa

The recent nuclear tests in the South Asian subcontinent have shaken the international community. Their consequences are much more than just the start of a regional nuclear-arms race.

Some people are already saying that nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are now a lost cause. That may turn out to be true, but only if the policy makers of major powers confine themselves to short-term reaction, without drawing appropriate conclusions.

But some of the suggestions being made in the wake of the tests could lead to exactly the wrong conclusions. Some see them as a pretext for refusing to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and even abandoning negotiations on reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons.

There is no doubt in my mind that by their recent actions India and Pakistan have not strengthened their security. To the contrary, by launching the mechanism of mutual threats they have added a strong element of unpredictability to the already difficult security equation in the subcontinent. Any perceived gain in status or "clout" too is a delusion. The euphoria will pass, but the angry global reaction will continue to cause both countries serious problems, not only international but domestic as well.

And yet, one must recognize the validity of much of the criticism directed at the five nuclear powers, particularly the United States and Russia.

After all, it has long been obvious that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is bound to be shaky unless there is real movement toward nuclear disarmament. Yet, of late both the United States and Russia have been making it increasingly clear that they intend to rely for their defense on nuclear weapons, advanced delivery systems and anti-ballistic missiles. As was to be expected, the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty failed to lock in the status quo or to increase the treaty's credibility and effectiveness.

We have to face the truth today: The status quo has now been broken.

Economic sanctions offer no solution. Indeed, as we have seen, they can cause resentment and bitterness and make the situation even more difficult. Nevertheless, the international community cannot afford to ignore the contempt with which it has been treated by New Delhi and Islamabad.

More important, however, is to seek constructive courses of action, primarily within the United Nations. Only a serious, no-nonsense dialogue can persuade India and Pakistan that they must cease the nuclear escalation and adhere to non-proliferation and comprehensive test ban treaties.

The other nuclear powers, too, must do a lot. It can no longer be business as usual. They must act concretely to prove they are serious about nuclear disarmament.

I would also urge greater attention to the problem of nuclear delivery systems. The United States and Russia are observing the treaty banning intermediate and shorter-range missiles that President Ronald Reagan and I signed in 1987. Negotiations should now begin on enlarging this treaty to include other countries, since missiles with a range of about 300 miles to 3,500 miles are particularly dangerous on a regional level.

I want to recall what happened in 1991, when the United States and the Soviet Union agreed, on the basis of an informal arrangement, to drastically reduce their arsenals of tactical nuclear weapons. Similar steps today, taken unilaterally, without engaging in protracted negotiations, would go a long way toward normalizing the situation and persuading people that world leaders are capable of acting to assure their security.

Finally, I have to put the actions of India and Pakistan within the overall context of the world's post-Cold War evolution. It has been adversely affected by the mistaken conclusion that one side won the Cold War and thus secured for itself the right to unconstrained leadership.

Whatever the intentions were, things went wrong. Over the past years, all kinds of things have been tried - but little or nothing was ever done to strengthen the United Nations, or to coordinate on a regular and systematic basis the nuclear policies of the existing powers and seriously consult with the threshold states.

It should now be clear that in this as in other matters, one power center is simply not capable of being the sole decision-maker and regulator. This is a lesson to be learned if we are to have fewer unpleasant surprises in the future.

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Saturday, June 13, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR : IN CRITICIZING ENVIRONMENTALISTS, SEN. BOND SHOWS HIS COLORS

I am completely outraged after reading the June 4 article quoting Sen. Christopher Bond referring to critics of weakening the Superfund laws as "green socialists" and "wackos."

How can a supposed representative of the people, expect the taxpayers to clean up these toxic waste sites?

His energies would be better focused forcing those who actually contaminated the ground to clean up the toxic waste. In conjunction with Bond's definition, I proudly call myself a wacko.

Sara Shulman, St. Louis

It appears that Sen. Christopher Bond wants to be clothed in green this election year, despite an 11-year record of wearing various shades of grey. Before Congress adjourns, Bond will have many chances to earn his environmental stripes. Simply getting \$2 million of political pork appropriated to restore the Chain of Rocks Bridge is like wearing a green pinky ring. To be fully dressed, Bond will have to do much more.

For starters, he can vote against any Department of Defense authorization that allows the importation into the United States of PCBs, a highly dangerous class of cancer-causing chemicals. He can vote against the Regulatory Improvement Act of 1998, a bill that would virtually prevent federal agencies from enacting new environmental, public health and safety protections (he co-sponsored a similar bill in 1995). He can allow the Endangered Species Act to be reauthorized in its present form, if not strengthened (in 1996, he voted to give only \$1 to the program that determines which species need protection).

And as chair of the subcommittee that sets EPA's budget, he can make sure no funds are cut and no anti-environmental riders are attached to the EPA appropriation (in 1995, he oversaw cuts of 23 percent and allowed numerous harmful riders).

Bond is capable of being as green as he wants to be - all it takes are a few green votes.

Jennifer Hicks, Manchester

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Section: NORTH POST

CONCERNED RESIDENTS WORRY ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY EPA BACKS ACTIVISTS WITH \$250,000 GRANT TO TACKLE PROBLEMS

By Margaret Gillerman
Of The Post-Dispatch

- All five of Donna and James Wright's children, ages 6 to 16, suffer from asthma, a condition the Wrights believe has to do with poor air quality in the neighborhood. The Wrights keep their Pagedale home scrubbed and as free of dust as they can. They have hardwood floors, and smoking is prohibited. But nothing seems to stop little William's bad attacks.

- In the St. Louis neighborhood of Hyde Park, Margaret Minor is helping the community become aware of a proposal to ship radioactive materials through the community. She worries about contaminants already in the soil, water and air. Others are concerned about the mix of chemicals emitted into the air from the different kinds of industries.

- Across the river, in East St. Louis, the residents of the Goose Hill neighborhood have lived for years in the shadow of industries and with the contaminants left behind by companies that the city. A group of residents met recently with officials from an adjacent pigment-producing plant. Now they're working out a "good neighbor policy."

In each of these communities, residents are trying to correct environmental conditions that they believe are harmful to their health and the health of their neighbors.

What's unusual about these activists is that they're working with - and even funded by - the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

People from Pagedale, Wellston, Hyde Park and East St. Louis are taking part in a pioneering three-year project aimed at helping local community groups identify and solve environmental problems. The St. Louis Environmental Justice Project targets minority and low-income neighborhoods in industrial areas.

The effort is funded by a \$250,000, three-year grant from the EPA. The Public Policy Research Centers at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, which secured the grant, is working closely with Project HOPE, a community activist group headed by the Rev. Buck Jones and several other organizations and agencies.

David Doyle, who oversees the project for the EPA's regional office in Kansas City, described it as an experiment.

"If communities can organize and show some success, it's going to wake up some people," Doyle said.

EPA is sponsoring the project, called the Community/University Partnership Environmental Justice Program, in several other cities.

In St. Louis and East St. Louis, the issues are similar to those of urban areas across America, Doyle said. These issues include air, water and soil pollution, sewer back-ups, lead paint, asbestos, asthma and cancer, illegal dumping, and abandoned buildings.

The university's role is to provide technical assistance, write up community profiles and analyze the impact of environmental conditions on the neighbors' health. The UMSL staff is drafting a handbook for residents that identifies problems - such as Superfund sites, leaking underground storage tanks, hazardous waste generators and wastewater discharges. The handbook also explains regulations and tells people which state or federal agency to contact to handle particular problems.

Mark Tranel, who is heading up the project for UMSL's Public Policy Research Centers, said the goal is to give residents "training, information, resources and an understanding of the regulatory enforcement system, such as for emissions, so they can take action on behalf of themselves."

Typically, residents in the low-income target areas feel cut off from traditional channels to get their problems fixed. This project gives them a chance to meet one-on-one with EPA and academic experts. Project HOPE (Helping Other People Emerge) hired the community organizers to encourage residents to participate. The number for Project HOPE in St. Louis is (314) 421-7012. In East St. Louis, the number is (618) 271-7979.

James Wright, who works with Project HOPE, got involved because his family knew firsthand about problems caused by a poor environment. His youngest child, William, has been particularly ill with asthma.

"We know we're choking - we've got asthma, allergies, we smell odors. If people are sick, the more they are informed, the more they can do about it," he said.

"We want to right some environmental wrongs. Pagedale has so many industries compacted in such a small area, and Wellston (next door) has a lot of industry, too."

Wright also wants to help residents develop an evacuation plan in the event of a chemical leak in the neighborhood. At least twice in the past few years, he said, Pagedale residents were told to go indoors because there had been a discharge from a local factory.

Pagedale residents met recently in the basement of St. Catherine of Sienna Church, 6815 Page Avenue, with the experts and talked about the problems most troubling to them.

Al Clark and Carolyn Clark of Pagedale shared their frustrations about an incident last year that involved raw sewage running down their street. The Clarks, who have four children, don't want it to happen again. Theresa Mingo, another resident, was concerned about some of the neglected and dangerous housing in the community.

At the meeting, Pagedale residents received results of a survey on neighborhood health problems that could be linked to environmental conditions. "The numbers are alarming to me," said Rev. Buck Jones.

Among others working with the residents were Gordie Blum, with the EPA in

Chicago, and LaDoris Payne, with Woman's Spirit and the Imani Family Center here.

Trinette Buck, a coordinator for the Hyde Park part of the project, said many residents in that neighborhood worry about foul odors in the air and soil.

"They are aware a lot of chemicals were dumped here in the area, but they're not aware of what chemicals or where the companies disposed of them," she said. The neighborhood also has a high rate of children with asthma, she said.

The Environmental Justice Project has attracted support from many other organizations, including Sustainable St. Louis. An Environmental Justice Empowerment Board meets regularly to set direction and oversee grant activities.

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Saturday, June 20, 1998

Section: NEWS

CARNAHAN SIGNS \$15.4 BILLION BUDGET

By Bill Bell Jr.
Post-Dispatch Jefferson City Bureau
JEFFERSON CITY

* Officials have been warned not to do any spending until a lawsuit by state Auditor Margaret Kelly challenging the way casino fees are accounted for is resolved.

Missouri's funding pie just got nearly \$1 billion bigger.

About 100 state officials and other people who got a slice of the budget gathered Friday to thank Gov. Mel Carnahan for signing the \$15.4 billion operating budget.

The biggest chunk of money - \$4.7 billion - goes to the Department of Social Services, the arm of state government that handles state welfare money and Medicaid. About \$3 billion of this money comes from the federal government. The department got a \$274 million increase, including more health insurance coverage for children in low-income families.

Other big winners in the budget, which is \$825 million more than last year's, were the higher education department. It got another \$94.8 million. The Department of Corrections got \$55.2 million more. It will hire 2,700 more employees, most of them prison guards.

The governor also approved the capital improvements budget. The St. Louis area gets:

- \$23.1 million for a performing arts center at the University of Missouri at St. Louis.
- \$4.3 million for a performing arts building at Harris-Stowe State College.
- \$776,000 for classrooms and laboratories for five vocational education programs at the Lewis and Clark Career Center in St. Charles.

For the second straight year, Planned Parenthood was cut out of the budget. The Legislature rejected any funding to groups that provide or promote abortions. Planned Parenthood offers abortion services but not with state funds.

Carnahan, an abortion rights supporter, did not veto that part of the overall budget but defended family planning services. "The point of the family planning money is to reduce unwanted pregnancies," he said.

Carnahan said he has asked state Attorney General Jay Nixon to seek a clarification from U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan Jr. about whether it is legal to reject Planned Parenthood funding. Nixon's office filed the request Friday afternoon.

Last year, Gaitan ruled it was unconstitutional to withhold family planning money from Planned Parenthood because it performs abortions. Nixon's office did not appeal his ruling, which angered anti-abortion lawmakers.

This year, Nixon sped passage of the budget by promising to hire a special counsel to defend the cuts in Planned Parenthood money. Nixon picked Jordan B. Cherrick, a partner in the St. Louis law firm Thompson Coburn.

Cherrick said he filed a request with the Cole County Circuit Court in Jefferson City. He wants a state judge to rule whether lawmakers have the discretion to exclude Planned Parenthood from state money.

Planned Parenthood has scheduled a news conference Monday to address the funding situation.

Legal questions may also surround the capital improvements budget.

Budget Director Mark Ward said officials have been advised not to spend the money until a lawsuit filed by state Auditor Margaret Kelly is resolved. She has argued that casino entrance fees should be counted as part of total state revenue and therefore be subject to the state's revenue lid.

Ward said that if Kelly's argument succeeds, the state would have to refund \$122 million. Such a refund would spend all the money available for capital improvements.

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Monday, June 22, 1998.

Section: EDITORIAL

RADIOACTIVE WASTE SITE SHOULD BE CLEANED UP THE CONCENTRATIONS OF THESE ISOTOPES ARE A MAJOR HEALTH CONCERN.

By Tom Bratkowski

The recent nuclear testing in India and Pakistan and the specter of an arms race there should not detract Americans from efforts to clean up nuclear wastes in our own back yard.

From 1942 until 1957, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. extracted ore to obtain enriched uranium at the St. Louis Downtown Site. This is where the fissionable materials were accumulated in the national wartime effort to build the atomic bomb known as the Manhattan Project. For more than 50 years now, highly radioactive wastes have remained in a vulnerable location in the flood plain of the Mississippi River, protected only by a flood wall.

The Army Corps of Engineers now administers the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. Locally this program encompasses the future of the Mallinckrodt Site in north St. Louis and the Latty Avenue site near Lambert Airport in north St. Louis County. The Corps recently completed a proposal for the future of the city site that includes a series of alternatives ranging from no action to complete excavation and off-site disposal of radioactive waste.

At an April 21 public hearing at the Henry Clay School in St. Louis, the Corps plan recommended alternative 4, which calls for the partial excavation of the city site with off-site disposal.

I spoke as a local resident in favor of alternative 5, which calls for the complete excavation of the city site with off-site disposal of the wastes.

According to the Corps, the time for public comments ended on May 8. The Corps will submit its final cleanup remedy to the Environmental Protection Agency by July 3.

There are several reasons the Corps should follow alternative 5 for the complete excavation and cleanup of the city site.

- Cost: The expense for any remediation will be high, but the relative costs are not that different. Based on the Corps' own study, the selective excavation and off-site disposal of the radioactive waste will cost \$114 million. By comparison, the complete excavation and off-site disposal of the waste will cost \$140 million, which is only about 23 percent more.

- Environmental Hazard: The city site is very close to the Mississippi River. Although it is partly protected by a flood wall, over the years some radioactive material has spread under the flood wall and into the sediments of the river. A flood of major proportion could disperse the wastes throughout the region and down the Mississippi River. By moving waste to a more geologically stable location, risk to

the public would be reduced.

Some of the radioisotopes at the site have half-lives that range from 1,600 years (radium 226) to 4.5 billion years (uranium 238). Although the city site escaped the devastating flood of 1993, we cannot be sure it will be free from flooding in the next millennium and beyond. Moreover, a major earthquake could change the river and disperse the radioactive material over a wide area.

- Business: According to the Corps, the complete cleanup and removal of the radioactive waste at the St. Louis site will not cause Mallinckrodt to end its industrial activity or dismantle its operations. The U.S. government will pay for all of the excavation and disposal activities.

- Environmental justice: The city site was the heartland location for building our nuclear capability in World War II and in the Cold War. In the 1940s and 1950s, nuclear contamination was viewed as a necessary sacrifice by some locations for the survival of the entire nation. All that time, high levels of radioactive waste have remained on site.

The concentrations of these radioactive isotopes are a major health concern for St. Louisans. The hot spots in the contaminated soils at the city site contain wastes of radium 226, uranium 238 and thorium 230 that are at 5,400, 95,000 and 98,000 times the respective levels of these radionuclides detected in soils in nature (picocuries per gram of soil).

The city site should be cleaned up completely once and for all. The fact that it is possible to remediate this site completely is a blessing. The additional money - \$26 million - would be well spent to avoid returning to this problem in the future when the costs would be even higher.

- Personal: I can see the city site in the distance from my kitchen window. Both Clay School and Holy Trinity Catholic Church are even closer to it.

Isn't it time we remove this radioactive stigma from the redevelopment efforts in urban neighborhoods like Hyde Park and Old North St. Louis? Haven't inner-city residents from several generations paid their dues for the nuclear age?

We can't yet know of what use our urban location will be to future St. Louisans, but we owe it to them to provide as safe and as sustainable an environment as our resources and technology will allow today.

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Sunday, May 3, 1998

Section: METRO

EXPERTS IN MISSOURI, EPA DIFFER ON EFFECTS OF DIOXIN

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of The Post-Dispatch

Times Beach residents complained they never could get a clear answer on the dangers of dioxin. More than 15 years after the town's buyout, the situation is about the same.

Daryl Roberts is the state health official in charge of studying the effects of dioxin on Times Beach residents and others exposed to the man-made chemical. He is head of the Department of Health's section for environmental public health, which was formed because of Missouri's dioxin problems.

"From what I've seen, I don't think it's as serious as what was thought 20 years ago," Roberts said recently. "But I can't prove it."

Working with St. Louis University, Roberts has followed the health of 350 Missourians who lived and worked in contaminated areas, including some who had what in the mid-1980s were the highest dioxin blood levels in the world. They have been questioned yearly.

Dioxin is an unwanted byproduct of the manufacturing of chemicals and the operation of municipal incinerators as well as from wood burning and forest fires.

The scientific literature said dioxin could cause chloracne, a skin rash, among humans. Animal studies found it also affected the immune system, liver, reproductive system and nervous system.

To date, no major problems have been found among the Missourians who were studied, Roberts said. People came down with illnesses that might be expected in any population, including cancer, but there were no groupwide health effects that could be attributed to the exposure.

"Nobody had chloracne or nervous-system problems," he said. "We had nobody that we could show had a real difference in liver function. The only thing we found was a suppression of the immune system, and that was borderline."

Most of dioxin's toxic effects have been demonstrated on laboratory animals, Roberts said. Human studies are mainly limited to occupational and accidental exposures.

Roberts said his review of those exposures had concluded that "the human being falls somewhere in the middle of the spectrum between the guinea pig and hamster, for which dioxin is extremely toxic, to the rhesus monkey, where it's not as toxic. Humans are probably closer to the monkey side."

Roberts acknowledged that some dioxin experts with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington had opposing views. One of those is Dwain Winters, director of the Dioxin Policy Project.

The EPA released a draft reassessment of dioxin in September 1994 that concluded it was a probable human carcinogen and also caused developmental and

reproductive defects. Winters said the final reassessment should be out by early next year, and he expected no big changes.

So why don't health problems show up in the Missourians exposed? Simple, said Winters, the number studied was too small.

"Unless you have megadoses and lots and lots of people, it's statistically hard to see a response - that's the nature of mathematics," Winters said.

"Dioxin is not an acute poison. We're looking at average daily dose over a long time. If you're looking to see that expressed in a population of 300 people, you'd never see it."

Roberts and Winters do agree on one thing: The evacuation and cleanup of Times Beach was the right thing to do.

"The true jury conclusion may still be out," Roberts said. "But if it happened today, we'd still have to err on the safe side for the population."

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Post Dispatch 5/06/78

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hold it right there

The Army has decided to ship 60,000 gallons of hazardous waste from Johnston Island in the South Pacific to be burned in Sauget.

The decision raises serious questions, as noted by *Post-Dispatch* reporter Bill Lambrecht. Among them:

- Why spend \$2 million to transport 60,000 gallons of toxic waste 6,000 miles?

- Why not destroy the hazardous waste at an incinerator already on the island?

- Why was the project's public hearing only held on the shipping end, in Hawaii, and not on the receiving end, in Sauget or East St. Louis?

State and federal environmental officials should put the Army's plan on hold until all these questions are answered.

Deteriorating storage drums on the island contain traces of mustard, as well as arsenic, mercury and a soup of heavy metals. The Army has a \$200-million incinerator on the island that is capable of burning the waste. Instead, the Army has mapped out a 6,000-mile Odyssey — by barge to Hawaii, by ship to California, by rail to the Midwest — to deliver the toxic waste to Trade Waste Incineration in Sauget.

The Army says it's cheaper to move the waste because its Johnston Island incinerator is expensive to operate and doesn't have a federal permit to burn the kinds of chemicals in the storage

drums. It also wants a special waiver from the EPA shortening the public comment period on the plan. It would seem far more logical to ask the EPA to issue a special permit for Johnston Island to burn the stuff there.

The Army says the health risks posed by burning this material are extremely low. That may be true. Even so, people living near the incinerator have the right to full disclosure and to comment.

That's especially important considering Trade Waste Incineration's history of EPA violations — including a current, undisclosed action pending against it. In 1995, the company was ordered to pay \$850,000 for violations including storing wastes without proper permits and fouling the air. In 1991, the company was fined \$1.9 million for belching air pollution caused by improperly mixing wastes.

The men, women and children who breathe the air and drink the water near the Sauget incinerator — as well as those who work with the wastes — have a right to know the potential risks. They also deserve to have their say at a proper public hearing.

Not a drop of toxic brew should leave Johnston Island until people living near the Sauget incinerator get a chance to ask sensible questions, get satisfactory answers and have their say.

Post Dispatch
5/06/98

Gutting Superfund

Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond's description (April 29 letter) of the Senate's new Superfund bill as an improvement of the law is — in a word — dishonest. While everyone agrees that Superfund should be made more effective, industry has convinced Bond and others in the congressional leadership to craft a bill to their liking. Public health, the environment and citizen oversight all suffer in this sweetheart deal.

People should remember that the Superfund law was signed by President Jimmy Carter in the closing days of his administration. Its intent was to assess, assign responsibility for and clean up hazardous waste sites that were created before new federal waste laws were put into effect.

Wherever possible, the government was to recover clean-up costs from parties responsible for the waste. Bond says the law was intended to be temporary. Most federal environmental laws have limited life spans, just so Congress can amend and correct them in time. The Superfund law was not expected to be temporary, but there was a gross miscalculation of just how many serious waste sites there are and how much it would cost to clean them up.

That too much money has gone to lawyers defending those responsible for these wastes is true — thanks for the most part to the first 12 years of inept implementation under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. This sorry early history put EPA and Superfund into a tail-spin that the Clinton administration was trying to correct.

Regulated industries and environmentalists worked with Congress on a compromise reauthorization bill for Superfund that was scuttled after 1994 when Bond's party took control of Congress. But for Bond and his cronies, Superfund could have been up and running smoothly with across-the-board support four years ago.

Pat Waterston
President
Missouri Coalition
for the Environment
University City

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

ENVIRONMENTALISTS' SCARE TACTICS AREN'T WORKING

By Tony Snow
Copyright Creators Syndicate Inc.
WASHINGTON

Every era produces at least one fad that future generations come to regard as sweetly idiotic. Ours has created environmentalism for this purpose.

Although this pagan religion retains considerable cachet among America's illuminati, it has become a pestilential bore for the rest of us.

Earth Day came and went this year, unfeted and unobserved, because we're fed up. After years of Chicken Little hysteria and annoying regulations, we've sent Gaia worshipers to the pillories to languish with such peers as tax collectors, child molesters and tobacconists.

America's Greens earned this obloquy by trying to prevent our eating what we wanted, doing what we enjoyed and living as we chose. They sneered at what we held dear and, in the name of public safety and health, threatened jail or fines if we didn't do as we were told.

Today's environmentalist harbors an infantile fear of the grown-up world. He believes that technology moves remorselessly forward, hastening our destruction; that mankind is hurtling blindly toward extinction, driven by brainless material appetites; that carbon dioxide is piling up beneath the stratosphere, converting our verdant planet into a Venusian hothouse.

Al Gore, high priest of the movement, captures the cult's saturnine way s when he warns that the internal combustion engine is an unparalleled menace, "more deadly than . . . any military enemy we are ever again likely to confront."

The solution: drastic federal intervention. Shut down the factories! Garage the cars! Set up HOV lanes for bicycles so our streets may look like Beijing's!

These days, Gore stands Joshua-like at the gate, commanding us to honor the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty that would require the United States to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions so that we spit out 7 percent less of the gas in 2012 than we did in 1990.

His commandment is based on the premise that global warming will get us. In truth, climatologists say it will be a decade before we have the technical means to know whether global warming is even taking place.

He produces similarly mysterious predictions of prosperity. Janet Yellen, chair of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, recently told Congress that the treaty would have minimal impact on American workers, households and businesses. When Rep. John Dingell asked her to produce the analysis that enabled her to draw this conclusion, she replied that her words were the analysis.

The environmental gospel has lost its sheen because of such nonsense. Today, our air is cleaner than it has been since the World War I, and our water hasn't been as pure since horse-and-buggy days. We have more timber than a century ago and more virgin forest. We add nearly 100,000 acres of wetlands annually. Ever since

Hiroshima, we have been engaged in what amounts to a gigantic clean-up - or, more accurately, a consumer-driven ecological revolution.

Despite this, the administration proposes the economic equivalent of bleeding the patient. The American Petroleum Institute predicts a 75 percent increase in energy costs over the next 14 years (an overwrought forecast that underestimates the potential for innovation), and every major study projects rocky times if Kyoto becomes law. Congress is looking skeptically at the thing, feeding fears that the president will impose the treaty's edicts by regulatory fiat - trying, King Canute-like, to make an unimpressed planet bend to his will.

Yet, the most important dispute over Kyoto doesn't concern numbers; it concerns the soul of American civilization. The environmentalist looks at the human spirit as a wildfire in sore need of control. He regards every innovation with trepidation and demands the right to ban it before people can develop a taste for it.

This turns the traditional American ethos on its head. Not so long ago, we venerated captains of industry, who got rich by giving people what they wanted and needed. Environmentalists these days exalt the politician, who gets powerful by seizing our money and telling us what we should want.

Computer scientist and essayist David Gelernter has written brilliantly of this clash between cultures - one, a society imbued with the ideals of progress, and the other, a society hooked on control. Kyoto brings the war to a head.

The treaty will make us decide whether to place our faith in ourselves or in the Gore Brigades, whether to take pride in our growing ability to meld innovation, progress and ecological protection - or to look upon every sun-drenched Sunday as a harbinger of annihilation.

The fight, long overdue, ought to be fun. And if Earth Day was any indication, the good guys will win.

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Sunday, May 10, 1998

Section: METRO

EARTH DAY WILL FINALLY ARRIVE IN ST. LOUIS

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of The Post-Dispatch

Earth Day is alive and well, although a few weeks late, in St. Louis.

The day dedicated to environmental awareness is celebrated internationally April 22 but will be marked in St. Louis with a festival May 16-17 at Tower Grove Park. As they did last year, organizers moved the date back in hopes of better weather.

Shuttle buses will ferry visitors to additional displays at the nearby Missouri Botanical Garden.

The festival is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. It is free. Visitors with a festival hand stamp will be admitted without charge to the garden.

The St. Louis Audubon Society will set up a migratory bird display at the garden, and a hands-on computer exhibit there will explain the latest environmental uses of cyberspace.

"There's just so much more on the Internet," festival organizer Laura Neuman said. "We'll have a list of the incredible variety of Web sites that are out there."

One new site offered by the Environmental Defense Fund (www.scorecard.org) ranks communities according to the toxic releases emitted by local industry. Residents of Jefferson County in Missouri might be surprised to see it is 20th among the top 100 counties in the nation ranked by emissions.

The list of Earth Day booths has grown to 122 with the addition of 28 exhibitors, including the Save the Manatee Club, which will offer adopt-a-manatee sign-ups.

"Personally, we won't be satisfied until the manatee is returned to the Mississippi," festival director Jerry Klamon said with a smile. Manatees are native to tropical waters, but club members want to spread the message that help is needed everywhere to protect the large, plant-eating mammal.

Although Earth Day no longer is marked by the urgency that prompted massive public protests, Klamon said progress achieved in the past two decades, thanks to federal laws that forced the cleanup of air, land and water, does not mean the job is done.

Among the success stories:

- St. Louis no longer dumps 300 million gallons of raw sewage daily into the Mississippi River.
- Times Beach is a park, cleared of dioxin, and crews are cleaning up radioactive waste sites around St. Louis after a 50-year hiatus.
- Lead has been removed from paint and gasoline and no longer is a major pollutant in air over the metropolitan area.

The bad news:

- Corporate hog farms that produce waste equal to a major city are spreading throughout Missouri, fouling the air and water.
- Clear-cutting is growing in Ozark forests to supply chip mills owned by the pulp and paper industry.
- Major highway construction projects promise to stall traffic this summer, adding to ozone levels that already exceed federal guidelines.

At the festival, food vendors will sell an international menu of veggie items, art exhibitors will feature willow furniture and jewelry and sculpture made from recycled materials, and two stages will offer entertainment ranging from the Cambooley Steel Drums and Vietnamese Dragon Dancers to Reggae at Will and Jake's Leg, a favorite of area Deadheads.

"The festival should make people aware of how they can improve the quality of their lives," Klamon said. "But it's not all doom-and-gloom negatives. At the same time, the festival should be fun."

*** Earth Day weekend schedule

Saturday, May 16

- 10 a.m. - Festival opens with Missouri River Cloggers on the main stage. Live music, dancing, storytelling and a puppet show will be held on two stages throughout both days.
- 11 a.m. - Eco-Cart presentation in the Missouri Botanical Garden's Brookings Interpretive Center. (Also at 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. both days.)
- 5 p.m. - Festival closes.

Sunday, May 17 - 7:30 a.m. - Registration opens for 5-kilometer "Run for the Earth" through Tower Grove Park. Run starts an hour later. Fee of \$12 includes a T-shirt.

- 8 a.m. - Start of bike rides of 18 to 28 miles. Call (314) 644-4660 for details.
- 10 a.m. - Exhibits open.
- 10:30 a.m. - Endangered species hat-making workshop for children. Free.
- 12 p.m. - Music starts with Cambooley Steel Drums on the main stage.
- 2 p.m. - All-species parade and costume review. Starts at main stage.
- 5 p.m. - Festival closes.

For information, call (314) 776-4442.

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Section: NEWS

NEW MEXICO NUCLEAR DUMP GETS LICENSE ENVIRONMENTALISTS FOUGHT PROPOSAL FOR 24 YEARS

The Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

A nuclear waste dump carved out of ancient salt beds under the New Mexico desert finally got its federal license Wednesday, 24 years after it was proposed, meaning truckloads of Cold War refuse could begin rolling in next month.

In a long-anticipated ruling, the Environmental Protection Agency licensed the \$2 billion Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.

Energy Secretary Federico Pena promptly notified Congress that his department intends to open the repository - starting the clock ticking on a 30-day waiting period before shipments can begin traveling the nation's highways.

And just as expected, environmentalists promptly promised a court fight to halt the opening of the 2,150-foot-deep repository, which has been ready for a decade.

Environmental groups question the safety of hauling radioactive waste across the country by truck and of storing the material in brine pockets for thousands of years.

Federal officials said they're confident they can win any legal battle and that they've done everything they can to ensure the repository is safe.

The repository's opening would be "a major milestone in our nation's efforts to clean up the environmental legacy of the Cold War," said James Owendoff, the Energy Department's acting assistant secretary for environmental management. p "It is in an isolated area where salt formations . . . have remained geologically stable for more than 220 million years."

Scientists chose to bury the waste in the salt bed of a former ocean partly because salt creeps over time. Once a repository room is filled with waste, nature will be allowed to take its course: in seven to nine years, the room's roof and walls will collapse, encapsulating the waste.

Opponents question the Energy Department's finding that brine pockets in the salt won't allow radioactivity to escape to the surface and assumptions that a oil and gas drilling near the repository wouldn't accidentally breach it.

Supporters in Carlsbad say the repository has opened up hundreds of good paying jobs in the city of 27,000 and led to better roads, an influx of educated people and a center that helps laid-off potash and oil workers train for new jobs.

Mayor Gary Perkowski said he's happy the process is nearing an end.

"The citizens of Carlsbad have worked hard for years keeping this project on the front burner in Congress and the state Legislature," he said.

The EPA certified that the facility can safely bury plutonium-contaminated clothing, tools, equipment and sludge generated as a byproduct of decades of nuclear weapons work.

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Saturday, May 16, 1998

Section: NEWS

SIERRA CLUB IS RUNNING CAMPAIGN AGAINST BOND, CITING HIS VOTING RECORD

By Jo Mannies

Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent

* His spokeswoman says, "It's hard to take them seriously when they're blaming Sen. Bond for the 500-year flood."

The Missouri chapter of the Sierra Club hit the radio waves this week and will go door-to-door today to blast Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond's voting record on environmental issues.

Bond, R-Mo., is seeking re-election this year. He also chairs the Senate subcommittee that oversees the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Sierra Club's radio ad, which will run through May 25 on three area stations, targets Bond's vote April 2 against funding for the Clean Water Action Plan. That plan called for more flood-mitigation money for the Corps of Engineers and to help restore the nation's dwindling wetlands, which now are declining by about 117,000 acres a year.

The Sierra Club says wetlands decline, caused by development and levee construction, has contributed to the severe floods throughout the country - including the flood in 1993 along the Mississippi River.

The club faults Bond for backing levees and ignoring the wetlands problem.

A spokeswoman for Bond, Leanne Jerome, accuses the club of misrepresenting Bond's record. "It's hard to take them seriously when they're blaming Sen. Bond for the 500-year flood," she said.

Bond voted against the proposal April 2 because of objections to the way it would be funded, not because he opposed spending more money on wetlands, Jerome said. "At a hearing on April 30, he and EPA Administrator Carol Browner discussed ways that they could increase funding" for the Clean Water Action Plan and wetlands.

Jerome also detailed several cases where Bond, as subcommittee chairman, added more money to various clean water programs than President Bill Clinton initially proposed.

The Sierra Club has scheduled an anti-Bond rally today at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival in Tower Grove Park. Afterward, at least 1,500 fliers were to be distributed in Shrewsbury and Webster Groves, said spokeswoman Rachel Locke.

Bond is among four senators nationwide targeted by critical Sierra Club ads that ask listeners to phone the senators to express their concern, Locke said. So far, Bond has gotten only two such calls, Jerome said.

The Sierra Club plans to run more ads in the months ahead criticizing Bond's record on other environmental issues.

The club has yet to endorse a candidate in Missouri's U.S. Senate contest and has had no contact with the best-known Democratic candidate, Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, Locke said.

Friday, May 22, 1998

Section: METRO

BOND, GEPHARDT ARE TARGETED ON SUPERFUND ISSUE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS CONCERN CONSUMER GROUP

By Jo Mannies

Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent

A pair of Missourians in Congress - Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, a Republican, and Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, a Democrat - have been targeted by a local consumer group concerned about the duo's big campaign contributions from companies that the group says oppose the nation's toxic-waste cleanup law.

The Missouri Public Interest Research Group, called MoPIRG, said Thursday that it fears that the contributions already have swayed Bond, who voted recently for a bill to weaken the Superfund cleanup law.

Bond, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has received almost \$600,000 in campaign donations from Superfund opponents, the group said.

Gephardt, the House minority leader, has received almost as much.

"There's been no action yet in the House on Superfund, so we're withholding judgment on Gephardt," said Dave Rosenfeld, organizing director for MoPIRG.

At a news conference, MoPIRG released a list of corporate political action committees that have donated to Bond, Gephardt and others. The list was compiled by the national Public Interest Research Group Education Fund.

Bond was the third-highest recipient in the Senate, while Gephardt was the second-highest in the House. MoPIRG says it plans to distribute 50,000 Superfund "scorecards" on Bond, Gephardt and others to Missouri voters this summer.

Gephardt spokesman Erik Smith said the congressman's voting record reflects the interests of his constituents, not his contributors. He often has voted in support of Superfund and its aims, Smith said.

Bond spokeswoman Leanne Jerome said MoPIRG is failing to make clear that the nation's Superfund law is "riddled with waste, fraud and abuse."

Bond said in a statement Monday that too much Superfund money is going to lawyers, and not enough to hazardous-waste cleanup. Until Superfund is reformed, he said, he will oppose any proposal to give it more money.

Bond also took issue with the report's list of hundreds of companies deemed anti-Superfund. Jerome said that many, such as Boeing and St. Louis-based Monsanto, care deeply about the environment.

Monsanto spokeswoman Linda Fisher said,

"Our bigger issues are tied to biotechnology, agriculture and pharmaceuticals. We have not in a long time put Superfund as one of our top issues."

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Monday, May 25, 1998.

Section: EDITORIAL

NUCLEAR DANGER RE-EMERGES IN OUR CONSCIOUSNESS

By David Broder

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WASHINGTON

This Memorial Day holiday finds the people of the United States forced to think once again about the threat of nukes. Sure, I know most of us are too busy having fun at the beach or the ballpark or in the back yard to worry about incineration of anything but hot dogs. But the news of the underground nuclear weapons tests by India has brought that unwelcome subject back into our consciousness.

For the first two decades of the Cold War, the risk of atomic war was never far from our minds. Even those who thought civil defense exercises and family bomb shelters were foolish diversions could not avoid conversations about scary "what if" scenarios. But as the Cold War waned, we stopped talking, or even thinking, much about doomsday possibilities.

You knew, somehow, the subject was bound to recur. We've been aware for a long time that the Indians had the knowledge and technology to build a bomb. Science is impossible to confine. The human mind and the devices it creates do not respect national boundaries.

We hoped that India, which for two generations set itself on a high moral pedestal, decrying the rivalries of the Cold War and the nuclear arms race, would refrain from pushing open the door of the nuclear clubroom. But democracies have a habit of changing governments and India now has leaders who prefer nationalist self-assertion to international respectability - or maybe believe, with some reason, that nukes command respect.

Now, the old members of the nuclear club are trying to dissuade India's rival Pakistan from testing nukes. And suddenly, that vague abstraction called "nuclear proliferation" is no longer quite so ephemeral a concept as it has seemed.

The shock of the Indian tests in this country was minuscule compared to what Americans of my generation felt when the Soviet Union broke the U.S. nuclear monopoly. The Soviets were big and aggressive, so the shiver of fear at the news from Moscow was eminently understandable.

No one I've talked to in the last two weeks has reported bad dreams about a surprise attack from New Delhi. But the fact that the Indians were able to mount their tests without any advance warning, that the keepers of our spy satellites were literally asleep at the switch, is more than disquieting.

Just as Americans in the first third of the century lulled themselves into complacency thinking the Atlantic and Pacific provided all the security we needed, so we in our time have come to think that the combination of surveillance and deterrence would protect us against harm coming our way.

Sure, there were alarms after the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City bombings about terrorists with miniaturized explosives, but we never applied the lesson to our foreign policy.

During the recent Senate debate on expansion of NATO, few lawmakers gave much heed to arguments that the real security of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic would be best assured if NATO concentrated on persuading the Russians to reduce their nuclear stockpiles and safeguard them against profiteers who would love to sell those weapons to outlaw states.

Now we have the fiery Gen. Alexander Lebed well-positioned to try to succeed Boris Yeltsin as president of Russia in the next election. People are beginning to think again what could happen if Russian nationalists come to power and decide that NATO expansion is a threat to the mother country. Already Russia is building a nuclear power plant for Iran. All it has to do is let down the guard on its atomic weapons inventory and the Persian Gulf could suddenly become a much more dangerous place.

President Bill Clinton had no choice under U.S. law but to apply economic sanctions to India for deceiving the world and testing nuclear weapons. But sanctions have limited effect and tend to erode over time.

A more serious response would require the administration and Congress to agree that halting the spread of nukes should be the top priority of American foreign policy, and everything must be weighed by its impact - positive or negative - on that objective.

Neither end of Pennsylvania Avenue seems to grasp that point today. If the Indian nuclear tests serve to shock us into facing that reality, they could turn out to be a blessing in disguise. But for now, they simply revive a nightmare we thought was part of our past.

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Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Section: NEWS

GOP SHIFTS TACTICS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RULES

By H. Josef Hebert
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON

* A quiet approach to blocking the president's proposals has been as effective as the previous frontal assaults.

The shrill partisan rhetoric over environmental regulations - a hallmark of the Republican revolution three years ago - no longer echoes on Capitol Hill. Gone are the calls to strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its power or to gut the Endangered Species Act to protect landowners.

But the abandonment of frontal assaults on environmental regulations doesn't mean congressional Republicans are ready to embrace President Bill Clinton's top environmental priorities.

From a modest package of tax cuts and incentives to address global warming to new efforts to clean up the nation's waterways and purchase new parkland, Clinton's environmental agenda is being blocked at every turn on Capitol Hill.

Marking Earth Day today, Clinton plans to highlight his frustration with Congress over that agenda in a visit to the Appalachian Trail.

Republican congressional leaders maintain that the disputes simply involve disagreements over spending priorities as well as serious doubts - voiced by Republican and Democratic lawmakers - about the global warming agreement the administration agreed to in December in Kyoto, Japan.

Examples of the disagreements:

* Clinton's five-year, \$6.3 billion package of incentives to promote energy efficiency and give tax breaks for more fuel efficient cars and buildings - an early effort to address global warming - is all but dead. First, lawmakers withheld funds from the program. Then the money was stripped from the Senate's budget blueprint.

* A highly touted clean water effort to limit agricultural runoff into lakes has been blocked for lack of money. A proposed \$568 million never made it into the Senate budget and faces trouble in the House.

* More than \$300 million approved last year for nearly 100 purchases of federal land for parks and refuges is in limbo over a disagreement about how the money should be spent. An additional \$92 million Clinton proposed for public land improvements next year also is in jeopardy.

* \$650 million, earmarked by the EPA to speed the cleanup of Superfund sites, is not being funded. Lawmakers are refusing to reinstate a Superfund tax until the Superfund law is revamped.

"Congress has learned to be more surreptitious," said Rodger Schlickeisen, president

of Defenders of Wildlife. "There's not as much chest beating. Now they're being much more cautious in their approach. But there's still an anti-environment agenda."

The administration projects a similar view. "This is a stealthier Congress, but it's plain they have the same agenda," said Wesley Warren, the White House Council on Environmental Quality's deputy chief of staff.

Congressional Republicans, both moderates and conservatives, scoff at such criticism.

"Sure there's still an anti-environmental agenda (among some lawmakers) . . . but it's essentially a handful of people who shout the loudest," said Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., a moderate supported by most environmental leaders.

"There's no doubt in my mind there's a heightened sensitivity to environmental issues," continued Boehlert. He blames the administration for not pushing some environmental issues, such as Superfund reform, more aggressively.

Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that deals with public lands issues, says the administration wants to spend too much money on new land purchases at the expense of dealing with a backlog of repairs.

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Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Section: METRO

ST. LOUIS CELEBRATES EARTH DAY IN MAY

Communities around the nation are celebrating Earth Day today. As they did last year, St. Louis organizers have delayed the celebration in hopes of fairer weather and will hold the Earth Day Community Festival on May 16-17 in Tower Grove Park. Some 120 exhibitors are scheduled for the event, which is free and open to the public. Some programs run concurrently in the Missouri Botanical Garden, where admission will be free to those bearing a festival hand stamp. The festival again will feature vegetarian food, arts and crafts inspired by nature and recycled materials, a 5-kilometer "Run for the Earth" and daylong live music and entertainment. For more information, call 776-4442.

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Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

WE CAN AFFORD CLEAN WATER

By R. Roger Pryor

It's budget time again in Congress. This year the problem is what should be done with the budget surplus. The House has voted to fund more highways. Some fiscal conservatives don't want to spend it at all. President Bill Clinton wants to use it for health care, Social Security and the environment. Some might wonder what the American people want to do with the surplus.

Most Americans regard themselves as environmentalists, according to various polls taken during the past six years. And most Americans say that clean water is the environmental problem about which they are most concerned. Members of Congress may want to pay attention to this sentiment and consider designating a little of the federal budget to programs that will help address our increasingly larger problems with clean water.

The Senate recently passed its budget and voted not to include the additional money for clean-water programs that Clinton had requested. The additional money - \$568 million - is needed to fund the president's Clean Water Action Plan. This is money that would help communities in every state clean up water polluted by fertilizers, pesticides, manure, mine tailings, sediments from poor forestry practices and urban runoff. Most of the money goes back to the states like Missouri and Illinois.

The House will be putting together its version of the budget when members of Congress come back from their recess in late April. We're hoping they will do more to support state and local efforts to provide safe, clean water to communities across the country.

America's waterways have been fouled by decades of industrial pollution and agricultural and urban runoff. The Clean Water Action Plan would direct more money to states, localities and farmers to help with cleanup efforts. The plan provides a 35 percent increase in funding to use at the local level to clean up pollution in our water and prevent further damage to our drinking water sources.

Despite tremendous strides in cleaning our rivers, lakes and coastal waters, 40 percent of America's waterways are still too polluted for fishing and swimming. We can increase the amount of money people have for health care, but the most important element to good health, according to the Centers for Disease Control, is clean water.

Polluted runoff is the single biggest cause of water quality problems in the nation today. As we approach warmer weather we are going to see new fish kills in our rivers, streams and estuaries because of this runoff from urban areas and from farm activities.

In Missouri, water quality problems abound. Pesticides from agricultural runoff contaminate the Missouri and Mississippi rivers as well as smaller northern Missouri streams. Some of our finest Ozark streams are threatened by an expanding lead mining industry.

While the Senate didn't include funding for the Clean Water Action Program, the funding can be included in the House budget and then be available for the various appropriations committees to use for clean-water programs.

This is not a complicated issue. Americans care about having safe, clean water for their families and friends to use for drinking, swimming and fishing. The funding is available in the federal budget. The only obvious question is why the Senate did not leap at the opportunity to show its support for clean water.

Without this modest down payment on our future, the president's Clean Water Action Program will remain just an idea - nothing more. And many communities will suffer as a result.

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Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

EARTH DAY . . . AND HOW IT GREW

By Edward Flattau

As the nation observes Earth Day, it's useful to examine how environmentalism has evolved since the first observance of the occasion 28 years ago.

There have been many changes, and happily, most of them have been for the better.

Leadership: By 1970, strong grass-roots support for environmental cleanup had emerged in response to highly visible instances of air and water pollution. This support did provide impetus for Congress to enact landmark environmental legislation, but it was Capitol Hill that in large part spearheaded the revolution in pollution abatement. Over the years, the most visible environmental insults have been addressed, but other problems remain that are just as serious, but nowhere near as conspicuous.

While this decline in the obvious has eroded congressional leadership, grass-roots activism fortunately has picked up the slack. Now, the driving force for reform more often than not originates from the bottom up.

Public Awareness: In the early 1970s, there was widespread concern about environmental degradation due to some conspicuous insults (for example, the polluted Cayuga River catching on fire), but public reaction tended to be site-specific. During the past 28 years, the public has acquired a general awareness of environmental threats - even the subtle ones. Consequently, a larger percentage of the population has become activist.

Nature of the Threats: The remediation of the most obvious environmental problems has left us with the most insidious ones. The hard-to-detect incremental character of these threats makes it more difficult to mobilize an aggressive public response even though a general awareness of the threats exists. Falling into this category would be such afflictions as suburban sprawl, depletion of the stratospheric protective ozone shield, and perhaps the most notorious of all, global warming.

Corporate Citizenship: Industrial corporations were a primary villain at the inception of Earth Day, and some of them still are. One reason for their early transgressive behavior was that they didn't anticipate the power and momentum of the environmental revolution. Corporate chieftains were confident that the importance of their companies to the national economy would alone offset any criticisms of pollution or demands for stricter regulation. They were wrong.

Over time, most of the business community has come to grips with the environmental revolution. Virtually every company at the very least pays lip service to being ecologically responsible, and many are genuinely attempting to integrate sound environmental practices into their operations. They are even funding environmental projects, as in the case of American Electric Power Co., which has

made a commitment to conservation through purchase of a Bolivian rain forest that will be turned into a nature preserve.

Environment vs. the economy: Faced with an environmental revolution in the 1970s, many industrialists sought to use their companies' contributions to a prosperous economy as leverage against tougher regulation. Their case has made little headway with the public, especially as it has become increasingly evident that a healthy economy and environment are synergistic rather than mutually exclusive.

Our economy is not going to remain robust over the long term unless it functions in an environmentally sustainable manner. That means maintaining our natural resource base through preservation of biologically diverse ecosystems, the use of renewable materials, and the recycling and reuse of finite substances.

What Lies Ahead? The overall trend is favorable. People are increasingly aware that environmental issues permeate virtually every aspect of their daily lives. Grass-roots support for protection of our air, water, soil, and wildlife (and by extension, ourselves) has become too dynamic for officialdom to ignore.

With individuals and even businesses becoming more environmentally activist, the nagging question that lingers is one that pertains to timing. Will the necessary environmental reforms be adopted before irrevocable damage is inflicted?

Complacency and inertia are the booby traps that society must skirt when confronted with potentially devastating environmental degradation that moves at an insidious pace.

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Pena announces plans to leave Cabinet position

He took over Department of Energy after 4 years as transportation secretary

FROM NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Federico Pena said he would leave the administration at the end of June to devote more time to his family.

The departure of Pena, the only Hispanic in the Cabinet, had been expected sometime this year. After four years as transportation secretary, Pena took the energy post reluctantly as President Bill Clinton's second term began.

Clinton praised Pena for his "invaluable service" over more than five years in two Cabinet posts and said Pena had "provided much of the analysis that gave me the confidence" to press ahead on a global warming policy "without harming the economy."

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said Clinton would "cast a wide net" for a replacement.

But the most likely successor to Pena appears to be Elizabeth Moler, the department's deputy secretary. She came close to get-

ting the top spot 15 months ago.

Pena, 51, announced his resignation days after the White House released its blueprint for bringing competition to the nation's \$230 billion electricity market, which was largely his department's work.

He said in a news conference that he was departing for "personal and family reasons" and wanted to spend more time with his wife and their three small children. He said he notified Clinton of his decision over the weekend.

Pena, a former two-term mayor of Denver, said he planned to enter the private sector and did not intend to pursue political office.

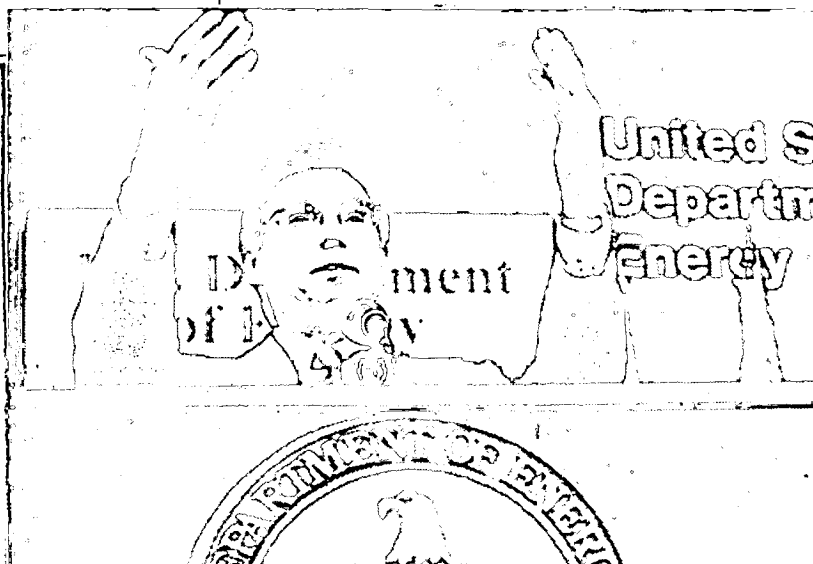
Pena took over the Energy Department as Congress was pressing to dismantle the agency and after his predecessor, Hazel O'Leary, drew intense congressional criticism over her foreign travels.

Attacks on the department subsided during Pena's tenure, although he has been a key figure in crafting strategies to promote new technology and energy efficiency to support the president's controversial global warming policy.

With Pena leaving and with Henry Cisneros' resignation in 1996 as housing secretary, the highest-ranking Hispanic in Clinton's administration is now Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

St. Louis Post-
Dispatch

4/7/98



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Energy Secretary Federico Pena announces his resignation Monday in a news conference. Pena, the only Hispanic in the Cabinet, said he wanted to spend more time with his family.

Sunday, April 5, 1998

Section: NEWS ANALYSIS

A YEAR LATER, HARMON IS STILL 'GROWING' AS MAYOR THE REFORMER TRIES TO LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES 'EVERYONE HOLDS YOU RESPONSIBLE'

By Norm Parish
And Mark Schlinkmann
Of The Post-Dispatch

In his first year in office, Mayor Clarence Harmon has found his status as a political outsider to be both a blessing and a curse.

To much of the public, newcomer Harmon has successfully maintained his squeaky-clean image as the new sheriff in town - a reputation developed while he was police chief from 1991 to 1995.

Since taking office last April, Harmon has worked to make good on his promise to restore confidence in city government. Cases in point: Harmon replaced the leaders of the city's troubled Health Department and Housing Authority and overhauled the city's ambulance service. At the same time, however, newcomer Harmon has had trouble grasping the nuances of government and politics - something that has hurt his ability to work with other elected and appointed officials, advance an agenda and unite the city.

Quick to react, but also quick to retract, Harmon and his backtracking on issues has become legion in political circles. The resulting confusion over where his administration stands on a particular issue at any given moment has led some officials to call him "Mayor Waffle" - or worse.

Moreover, Harmon has failed to win acceptance by many of his fellow black St. Louisans - more than a year after he defeated the city's first black mayor, Freeman Bosley Jr., in a racially polarized Democratic primary and then cruised to victory in the general election.

For his part, Harmon, 58, says he is "growing" into the job.

"I guess I wasn't quite ready for the . . . degree to which everybody holds you responsible for everything," he said.

"Any person on the street expects to see you at their function, expects to get time on your calendar and expects you to return their phone calls. People do think they own a piece of you."

How would Harmon grade himself?

"I guess I give myself medium to high marks," he said in a recent interview with the Post-Dispatch. "Of late, I've been referring to the governmental structure here as a feudal form of government as in days of old when everybody had their little pieces

of turf . . . Sometimes it has to be spelled f-u-t-i-l-e . . . There are so many interests, some which relate to important issues and some of which do not."

Sitting in his museumlike office in City Hall where 15 previous mayors over the last century have made political deals and decisions, Harmon sounds as if he knows he must change his ways for his own good. But he seems reluctant to change too much. This is, after all, the same man who three years ago resigned as police chief because he was fed up with the politics of the job.

"I am determined to try to learn better the art of politics," he said. Yet he added that he has to keep faith with voters who he says elected him precisely because he was not "the glad-handing, behind-the-scenes politician my predecessors were."

'I think he is trying'

Predecessor Bosley sums up his view of Harmon and his first year simply: "It is a hard job. I think he is trying."

Among his accomplishments, Harmon cites his shift of the ambulance system to the Fire Department from the Health Department, which had followed complaints of poor morale and a highly publicized delay of getting an ambulance to a park worker who had collapsed.

Harmon shook up the Health Department and the Housing Authority following reports by the Post-Dispatch of serious problems in the two agencies. The health agency's problems ranged from the handling of prenatal care to the failure to report more than 1,200 tuberculosis infections to the state. The authority's troubles concerned mismanagement and other irregularities, including the way contracts had been awarded.

The mayor also points to his quick response to the closing of the St. Louis Regional Medical Center, a hospital that cared for many of the city's poor. After inheriting the impending closing of the hospital, Harmon worked with the area's private health care systems to set up a temporary system to replace Regional.

But negotiations on a permanent solution have dragged on for months, and Harmon has missed several deadlines for submitting a budget for his health care plan to aldermen.

Harmon also is putting a major emphasis on efforts to revitalize downtown. As part of his initiative, his administration has attracted a developer for a convention hotel - a long-sought priority of civic leaders and former mayors. However, no firm deal is yet in hand.

There has been less progress on some other key issues:

- * Redevelopment of The Arena, which closed in 1994, remains a big question as Harmon has reconsidered options to save the building possibly for an aquarium instead of razing it to make way for an office park.

- * Construction of a new downtown jail has been delayed, initially because of Harmon's decision to move the site to spare a historic building. That drew accolades from preservationists, but others complained about the additional cost. Recently the jail was further delayed because of a squabble over parking with the building's owner.

* A package of bond issues and property tax increases that would pay for new firehouses and other public-safety improvements has been yanked back twice by Harmon before aldermen could vote on it. Harmon hopes to try again later this year. Voters eventually would have the final say.

Harmon's biggest challenge may lie ahead: The mayor has been making a pitch to the Legislature to be given responsibility over the city's oft-criticized school system.

"There is not a community meeting I go to, not a gathering of 10 or more people, that I'm not asked about the schools," he said. "I don't think it can change internally."

Harmon says he now realizes he will be unable to accomplish all that he wants to in one four-year term and that he plans to seek a second.

Flipping and flopping

As for the flip-flops, some have been quite public - such as Harmon's off-and-on endorsement last fall of Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, a fellow Democrat running for the U.S. Senate.

Another zig-zag began Jan. 6 when Harmon urged the University of Missouri at St. Louis to help renovate the closed Kiel Opera House downtown instead of building a performing arts center on its Normandy campus. He backed off 10 days later in a meeting with UMSL Chancellor Blanche Touhill, saying she had convinced him that the campus facility wouldn't compete with the Opera House.

Then there was the time at a neighborhood meeting that the mayor blasted a prominent developer for failing to deliver a major new store promised for the old Famous-Barr Southtown site. A week later, he backed off his criticism and his threat to bar the developer from future projects.

Harmon said he's just being as candid as possible when he speaks, and if he gets new information that leads him to change his position, so be it.

There also have been numerous behind-the-scenes shifts by Harmon that have irritated insiders with whom the mayor must deal regularly.

For example, several aldermen complain that Harmon made firm commitments to them on appointing certain people to various positions. Then they weren't appointed.

Last fall, Harmon initially refused to unconditionally back a MetroLink tax increase after his preferred MetroLink route through Forest Park lost in a vote by a regional planning group. Harmon, St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall and others previously had agreed to present a united front in support of the tax increase no matter which route was chosen.

These incidents in themselves will not make or break Harmon as mayor, but their cumulative effect could hurt him down the road when he needs help advancing his agenda.

"He has a tendency to tell people what they want to hear," said one Harmon

associate who requested anonymity. "People feel they had a commitment from the mayor; invariably the mayor does not feel he made that commitment."

The biggest public blow-up came last month from Samuel Glazer, owner of the historic Court Square building, after a deal with Harmon to save Court Square and move the downtown jail site fizzled in an 11th-hour dispute over parking spaces. "That son of a bitch did a complete double-cross," Glazer told the Post-Dispatch after the agreement fell apart during a dinner he and Harmon had at Kemoll's.

For his part, Harmon says any misunderstanding over parking was Glazer's. Overall, he denies having deliberately misled anyone and said his statements sometimes are misconstrued. Others say Harmon just doesn't always spend enough time mastering the details on city issues.

"I've got to learn speaking in very definitive terminology," Harmon said.

Getting along with Westfall

Except for the dispute over the MetroLink route, Harmon's relations with Westfall generally have been cordial. However, Harmon hasn't had as close a relationship with Westfall as Bosley did.

The only major Harmon-Westfall joint effort to date ended in failure: a push for voter approval of a sales-tax increase to help finance additional extensions of MetroLink. The plan was narrowly endorsed by voters in the city, but it failed in the county. Approval was required in both.

On another regional issue, Harmon has been a vocal opponent of urban sprawl and its impact on the city and closer-in municipalities - a cause that has cost him some friends in areas such as St. Charles County. His public comments in October detailing the estimated cost to area taxpayers of providing infrastructure for new homes in St. Peters created a ruckus after the mayor refused to name the source of his estimate. Now, a regretful Harmon acknowledges that the episode over the quote had "de-legitimized" his argument on sprawl.

Meanwhile, Harmon has followed in the footsteps of Bosley and former Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. in pushing for a \$2.6 billion westward extension of city-owned Lambert Field into Bridgeton. Final approval from the Federal Aviation Administration is expected soon; then the issue is likely to shift into the courts.

The Lambert expansion has been heavily supported by the region's businesses and business groups such as the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association.

Richard Fleming, who heads the RCGA, said business leaders in general tend to be optimistic about Harmon although some are disappointed with the pace of activity.

"There is an inevitable learning curve for anyone coming into that position for the first time as an elected officer," Fleming said.

Among the items Harmon talked about in last year's campaign that have been on the back burner at City Hall is a plan for a sales-tax-free zone downtown to promote shopping. Harmon says he is still talking about the idea with another business group, the Downtown St. Louis Partnership.

Harmon also has yet to fulfill a campaign pledge to appoint a city ombudsman to

listen to citizen complaints. Harmon said he's trying to figure out how to create such a position independent of the mayor's office.

Another yet-to-be-fulfilled campaign promise is the creation of a special housing court to speed consideration of building-code violations. The mayor said he may include that in his proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

'A breath of fresh air'

Despite the delayed promises and the political stumbles, some city residents say Harmon is doing exactly what they hoped when they elected him.

At a neighborhood meeting at the Gardenville Community Center on the far South Side last week, Harmon was received warmly.

Even George Leahy, who complained loudly about the way the city maintains its alleys, had only good things to say about the mayor himself.

"I don't mean to criticize you," Leahy, 74, said. "You're a breath of fresh air."

The main reason people elected Harmon "was they wanted an honest, steady hand on the helm," said Alderman James Shrewsbury, D-16th Ward, a middle-class area in southwest St. Louis that gave Harmon 97 percent of the vote in last year's Democratic primary against Bosley.

The same lack of political sophistication that frustrates fellow officials may be just what the public wants to see in Harmon, Shrewsbury said. "That is his greatest political strength and his greatest liability."

A year in the life of Mayor Clarence Harmon

Here's a look at what the mayor has and hasn't accomplished since he was sworn in April 15, 1997.

Done:

- * Revamped troubled Health Department and Housing Authority.
- * Shifted ambulance system to Fire Department.
- * Had Focus St. Louis civic group review city government.
- * Picked developer for convention hotel downtown.
- * Set up interim plan with private hospitals to care for uninsured poor after shutdown of Regional Medical Center.
- * Started new initiative to revitalize downtown.

Yet To Be Done:

- * Firm up hotel deal.
 - * Develop permanent safety-net health system for poor.
 - * Decide fate of old Arena site.
 - * Build new downtown jail.
 - * Seek voter approval for tax increase for public safety improvements.
 - * Obtain authority to oversee city schools.
 - * Get Kiel Opera House renovated.
 - * Reorganize development agencies.
 - * Set up new ombudsman office.
 - * Get sales-tax-free zone downtown.
 - * Work out Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District revamping with county.
 - * Implement Focus St. Louis recommendations.
-

► Publication Details

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Sunday, April 5, 1998

Section: NEWS

CLARENCE HARMON MARKS FIRST YEAR AS MAYOR

Hundreds of people packed into the City Hall rotunda on April 15, 1997, to hear Clarence Harmon deliver his inaugural address. The newly elected mayor promised to lead the revival of St. Louis, to promote racial unity and to disappoint "those who believe that this political 'babe in the woods' isn't bound to do anything but fail."

Harmon, the city's first black police chief, the man who had quit that job because he hated politics, had entered the political arena himself - and won.

First, he defeated incumbent Freeman Bosley Jr., the city's first African-American mayor, in a divisive Democratic primary. Then, he handily beat Alderman Marit Clark, a Democrat who ran as an independent, and Republican Jay Dearing in the general election.

Today, as he winds down his first year in office, Harmon has learned the difficulty of achieving all his promises.

he has been devoted to cleaning up and improving city government. He has been supportive of new plans to revitalize the city. Yet, time and again, his efforts have been stymied by his own struggle with the nuances of government and the details of his job.

► Publication Details

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Friday, April 3, 1998

Section: NEWS

HARMON IS NOT GETTING SICK OF BEING THE MAYOR

By Jerry Berger

UNDER A REST: Since his election one year ago this week, St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon has worked hard to put his own style on Room 200. Observers note that Harmon's sometimes unfortunate shoot-from-the-hip style of rhetoric recalls the dizzier moments of predecessor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr.'s tenure, while his frequent appearances at ceremonies and public meetings suggest the ceremonial preoccupation of forerunner Freeman Bosley Jr. Harmon, older by far than either of his two predecessors, has also imposed a more deliberate pace to city government. The retired police chief, frequently troubled by stress-related head, stomach and back pains, has tried to plan his recoveries to occur on Fridays and Mondays to stretch out the recuperative power of time away from Silly Hall. That sensible scheduling has, however, prompted the ambitious to speculate that hizzoner will not compete his four-year term. Harmon pooh-poohs the concern about his health and speaks frequently of running for a second term in three years.

CLEANING UP: Is St. Louis County Councilwoman Edith Cunnane a true reformer or just another smooth-talking politician? Supporters of either proposition can find their evidence in Cunnane's schedule for the next two weeks. Saturday, Cunnane will hold a party for Ellen Miller, the national chairwoman of an organization that is seeking to curb the influence of special-interest dollars in politics. On April 16, Cunnane, who has no significant opposition for re-election, is holding "a private reception for platinum and gold patrons" who pay \$525/\$250 each to enrich Cunnane's war chest.

KEEPING TABS: Tony's bossman Vince Bommarito is on the mend from heart surgery, courtesy of the brotherly team of Drs. Peter and Michael Murphy at Missouri Baptist Med Center. . . .

As predicted here, Karen Carroll of American Radio System, will meet with the staff at KMOX radio at 10 a.m. today, upon taking the reins of The Voice of St. Louis. The appointment is effective Monday. . . .

While attending Southwest High, U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt was part of a comedy team. With many moons under his belt of working in "Hollywood for ugly people" (the Beltway), he is returning to comedy with a stint in a segment on Al Franken's "Lateline" (8:30 p.m. Tuesday on Channel 5). To celebrate his network comedy debut, Gephardt will be honored at a pouring that night in the palazzo owned by Mary Lou and Bill Schicker. If you're there, you might want to wish the Schickers a happy 40th wedding anniversary. . . .

Holly and Lisa Hollenbeck, owners of the Alpine Shop in Webster Groves, will be host to the Banff Festival of Mountain Films on April 19 at the Tivoli Theatre. Featured will be an award-winning assemblage of short films on exotic destinations, extreme sports. . . .

Mid.Tec, downtown St. Louis' business incubator and welfare-to-work training

facility, was the site of a recent drop-in by former HUD official Roy Priest, who was given the grand tour by Mid.Tec chiefs Brent Evans and Patrick McKeehan . . .

John P. Fields' in Clayton was where literary maven Robin ("Coma") Cook bopped in with his date, Suzanne McGee, to feast on chef Michael Holmes' shrimp Ponchartrain.

WORKING THE ROOM: About \$100,000 was raised at the St. Louis Effort for AIDS' Carnivale at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. It was at the glammie ball where businessman Raymond Ammons was presented the organization's First Aide Award. Seen in their best finery were: Rhonda and Doug Cassity; Gary and Dee Joyce-Hayes; Marcia and John Cohen; Laura and Spence Koch; Staci and Brian Yawitz; Bob and Fran Wulfers; Bill and Sandy Shearburn; Lynn and Ron Atkinson; Dr. William Powderly; Drs. David and Kathryn Diemer; Mark and Ramsey Botterman; Guy Slay; Gail Bass; Jill Former; Steve Tang; Helen Costello; the gala's chairmen Lynn Atkinson and Jimmy Jamieson, with his sister, Jennifer, along with Monetta Slay and Brian Craig; Timmie Cullen; David and Susan Sherman; John and Jennifer Wehrle; Dr. Pat McGuire; Paul Higgins; Eric Tokey; Lynn Palan; Alise O'Brien; Christa Shatz; and Deb and Gary Godwin.

► **Publication Details**

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U.S. is helping remove dangerous nuclear fuel from troubled ex-Soviet republic of Georgia

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States has begun an operation to remove a cache of highly enriched uranium and spent nuclear fuel from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright disclosed Tuesday.

Concern had been expressed that the material would fall into "the wrong hands," and other countries are cooperating in the operation, Albright said. "We are taking the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of this material," she said.

The uranium and spent nuclear fuel will be sent to Britain, where it will be broken down for use in civilian power plants, a senior U.S.

official said.

A "significant amount" was involved, and "we were concerned that in the wrong hands it would give someone a head start in building a nuclear weapon," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

Chechen rebels and Georgian extremists were among the possible recipients of the weapons material, the official said.

Georgia is plagued by unrest and bordered by unstable Caucasus nations, including the Russian rebel republic of Chechnya.

A British government spokesman said safety considerations and Britain's strong commitment to deterring the spread of nuclear technology and material were consid-

erations in cooperating with the United States.

The Georgian nuclear material consists of 9.5 pounds of highly enriched uranium-235 and 2 pounds of spent nuclear fuel.

The uranium-235 was used for scientific projects involving the Physics Institute's research reactor, built in the late 1950s, and was left in Georgia when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Georgia has said it wants to get rid of the uranium, and officials have offered it for sale on the condition that it not be used for military purposes. Georgia Physics Institute officials say the material is sufficient to build a nuclear weapon.

Water group with ties to Bond misused funds, EPA says

BY DAVID MITCHELL

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., will investigate allegations that a trade group that he has worked closely with and that gave him an award misspent as much as \$2.3 million in federal money, a spokeswoman said.

The National Rural Water Association, which represents small water companies, was the subject of a critical report by the Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general last week. The report alleged that the group had

broken the law when lobbying Congress to relax federal water standards.

The trade group "improperly used Federal assistance agreements and contracts to support an aggressive lobbying agenda," the report said.

The report also said:

- The group spent federal tax dollars to pay for Washington lobbyists, a violation of federal laws.

- The group used its authority over millions in federal money to strong arm affiliate water associations.

- An EPA employee on the pub-

lic payroll actually lobbied the EPA and Congress for the water association.

Leanne Jerome, Bond's spokeswoman, said Bond would look into the EPA allegations when the association's budget comes before his subcommittee. She said that Bond might ask the association to give back any federal money he found to have been illegally spent.

A water group official denied the report's charges, saying his association and its 44 member groups were audited each year, and that no irregularities had previously been found.

Environment campaign to take off on Earth Day

On Earth Day Wednesday, the statewide "Choose Environmental Excellence" education campaign will be launched.

Established in 1994, the campaign is designed to improve environmental awareness and to start voluntary programs to improve the local environment.

The campaign is sponsored by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, the Conservation Federation of Missouri and Bridging the Gap of Kansas City.

An example of the many local programs started under this effort was Kansas City Power & Light Co.'s commitment to support the peregrine falcons in downtown Kansas City.

For more information and to get a "how-to" manual, call (888) 895-3605.

St Louis Post-Dispatch
4/29/98

Public Meeting

The St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, invites interested citizens to a public discussion to review and comment on the alternatives outlined in the Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP) for the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS). The alternatives described in this document are designed to remove contaminated materials that resulted from activities associated with the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC).

The meeting will be held Tuesday April 21, 1998, at The Henry Clay Elementary School, Gymnasium, 3820 North 14th Street, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. A poster session on the downtown site and the alternatives being considered will be at 7:00 p.m. followed by a formal presentation at 7:30 p.m.

The public document is also available at:

St. Louis Public Library
Government Information
Section
1301 Olive St

Henry Clay Elementary
School, 3820 N. 14th St

Prairie Commons
Branch Library
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO

Washington Univ. Library
of Biological Sciences
One Brookings Dr.

Julia Davis Branch Library
4415 Natural Bridge

St. Louis County Library
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd
Clayton, MO

The Corps of Engineers St.
Louis District FUSRAP Home
page:
<http://144.3.144.51/enar/fusrap/index.htm>

St. Louis Site Office, 9170
Lafayette Avenue, Berkeley, MO
63134 (314) 324-4083. Email:
FUSRAP@usa.net

For more information: Christopher Haskell, Environmental Projects Information Officer, U.S. Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action program (FUSRAP)

POST-DISASTER

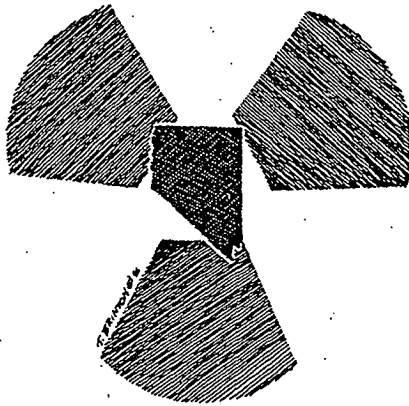
Nuclear waste storage

I am writing in response to the March 31 letter from Kay Drey opposing legislation that would create an "interim" storage facility at Yucca Mountain, Nev., for irradiated fuel rods. She asks if we really want to consolidate the volatile wastes in one location.

If that is her concern then why did she push to remove the radioactive waste material from the St. Louis Airport Site and the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site? No documentation is available that proves that anyone suffered from the waste stored at these facilities. Yet she and her supporters pushed, and were successful, in mov-

ing it to Envirocare in Clive, Utah. Is this not the same situation?

Drey also wonders if Missouri really wants to offer its highways, railways and bridges for the shipment of these wastes for the next 30 years. When wastes are moved, they have to go by rail and highways. And where do these railroads and highways go? Through the states and cities that lie between the two points involved. Did she not



think about that when she pushed to have the wastes moved from the St. Louis area?

I agree with her on one point: Leave the fuel rods at their present location. If this waste is stored where it is created, we will not contaminate more locations in our country.

Leave it where it is but monitor it, and if it creates a problem, then, and only then, take care of the problem. Don't move it just because it is there.

Martin Buchheit
Berkeley

Toxic messes, careless industries

The April 8 article regarding the long-delayed cleanup of the heinous Great Lakes Container Co. toxic waste dump mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking information on potentially responsible parties to help pay for the cleanup of the site. I hope this goes well, since it is a travesty that the taxpayers be forced to pay for the toxic messes of careless industries.

Unfortunately, if folks like Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond have their way, future polluters will be allowed to pollute at will and stick taxpayers with the bill.

In 1980, Congress passed the Superfund law to clean up the worst toxic waste sites around the country, including Love Canal, N.Y., and Times Beach. The central principle of the Superfund law is that polluters should pay to clean up the toxic messes they helped to create.

Not surprisingly, major polluters, including the chemical, oil and mining industries, along with their insurance companies, hate the polluter-pays principle of Superfund and have sought repeatedly to weaken the law under the guise of "reform."

On March 26, the Senate Environment Committee passed a bill that would supposedly "reform" Superfund. In fact, the bill, S8, would let big polluters off the hook for cleaning up toxic dumps and restoring the environment, weaken cleanup standards and protections for groundwater and drinking water and curtail the right of citizens to participate in cleanup decisions in their communities.

Unfortunately, Bond supported S8 and opposed efforts to strengthen the law, including an amendment that would have required the protection of uncontaminated groundwater, the source of drinking water for more than 50 percent of Americans, from contamination.

I am outraged that Bond voted for an anti-environment, anti-public health, pro-polluter bill. The people of Missouri have a right to expect better and deserve an explanation from Bond. I hope that when the battle over Superfund moves to the floor of the Senate, Bond will represent the interests of public health and the environment, rather than fat-cat polluters.

Bill Miller
St. Louis

4/29/98
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

4/10 Post
Dispatch

Legal Notice

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, issues the Proposed Plan for the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS), associated with the Mallinckrodt plant and surrounding properties) for public comment.

The sites became contaminated as a result of activities in support of the nation's early atomic energy program in the 1940s. The sites are being addressed under the Formerly United Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Cleanup of these sites is now managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The alternative evaluated in the Feasibility Study are summarized in the Proposed Plan. Inaccessible soils are not included as part of this operable unit. Abbreviated, partial descriptions of the alternatives are as follows:

Alternative 1 - No Action

Mandated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liabilities Act (CERCLA), periodic environmental monitoring would be conducted, but no remedial action would be conducted.

Alternative 2 - Institutional Controls & Site Maintenance

Institutional controls and site maintenance would be implemented to prevent unacceptable exposures to site contamination.

Alternative 3 - Containment

Alternative 3 incorporates containment, institutional controls, and environmental monitoring to reduce further spread of contaminants and reduce the potential for direct exposure. Under this alternative, accessible soils from SLDS and vicinity properties would be excavated and consolidated and capped at a downtown location such as the City Property or Plant 2 area.

Alternative 4 - Partial Excavation and Disposal

This alternative includes excavation of accessible soils in the upper 2 feet to the composite criteria of 5 pCi/g in surface soil (top 6 inches) and 15 pCi/g in shallow subsurface soil (to 2 feet) (for Ra-226, Ra-228, Th-230, and Th-232) and 50 pCi/g for U-238. Site specific dose and risk-based target removal levels of 50 pCi/g Ra-226, 100 pCi/g Th-230 and 150 pCi/g U-238 would be used for excavation of soils below 2 feet for most site areas.

Alternative 5 - Complete Excavation and Disposal

This alternative involves excavating soil contaminated above the composite criteria regardless of depth.

Alternative 6 - Selective Excavation and Disposal

This alternative focuses on reducing the need for future studies, designs and remedial actions. In addition to protection of human health and the environment relative to Alternative 4, it is anticipated that excavation to the composite criteria would proceed to the depth of 6 ft west of the St. Louis Terminal Railroad Association tracks and at the former location of Buildings 116, 117, 704-707. Excavation for the composite criteria would stop at 4 ft at all other areas of SLDS including the vicinity properties and under the roads.

The Corps of Engineers has identified alternative 4 as preferred.

Copies of the proposed plan are available during business hours:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District
FUSRAP Public Information Center
9170 Laffey Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134
(314) 524-4083

Written comments will be accepted during the 30-day period following FS/PP release at the above address. Oral comments may be provided at the Public Meeting on Tuesday, April 21st, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at Henry Clay Elementary School, 3820 N. 14th Street.

The FS/PP is also available for public review at:

St. Louis Public Library
Government Documents
1301 Olive St.

Henry Clay Elementary School, 3820 N. 14th St.

Prairie Commons Branch Library
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO

Washington Univ. Biological Sciences Library
One Brookings Dr.

Julia Davis Branch Library
4415 Natural Bridge

St. Louis County Library
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd
Clayton, MO

EPA finds barrels of toxic waste at old Great Lakes Container site

The initial cleanup will include removal of asbestos and razing of the buildings.

BY TOM UHLENBROCK
Of the Post-Dispatch

Environmental Protection Agency crews have moved onto a long-neglected hazardous waste dump in an industrial area of St. Louis to begin a Superfund cleanup budgeted at more than \$5 million.

To no one's surprise, the agency found barrels of toxic chemicals buried at the site, the abandoned Great Lakes Container Corp. plant on Ferry Street off Broadway. The plant is contaminated with asbestos, cancer-causing PCBs, lead, the pesticide chlordane, a hodgepodge of industrial wastes and traces of dioxin.

For nearly a decade, until it left St. Louis in 1986, Great Lakes reconditioned used 55-gallon steel drums, cleaning and repainting as many as 2,500 a day. The drums came by truck and by train from all over North America, and had contained everything from paints and chemical solvents to pesticides.

Many still held residues, which often were simply washed into the basement of the building or stored in other drums. Former plant supervisor Robert O'Brien said hun-



Nelson Mix examines a vent to an underground storage tank at the site of the old Great Lakes Container Corp. plant. On a visit this week, Mix found the basement of the main processing building contains some 250,000 gallons of contaminated water. The water will be pumped out and treated, Mix said, and then crews will remove the toxic sludge that covers the basement floor and haul it to a licensed landfill.

TED DARGAN / POST-DISPATCH

dreds of drums containing wastes were stacked in a ravine when employees left on a Friday for a holiday weekend in 1984.

When they returned on Monday, O'Brien said, the ravine was replaced by a hill of dirt. Instead of properly disposing of the wastes at a cost of several hundreds of dollars per barrel, they were buried. O'Brien said workers later referred to the area as "the graveyard."

O'Brien entered a hospital Tuesday with a heart condition,

but he told the Post-Dispatch in a 1995 interview: "We took everything that nobody else wanted. I remember at least 10,000 drums came out of Canada with skull and crossbones on the side. They wouldn't even take them up there."

After Great Lakes shut down, the site reverted to city ownership because of \$70,000 in delinquent taxes.

O'Brien told his story to the FBI
See Cleanup, Page C8

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Cleanup

EPA starts cleaning hazardous waste dump

Continued from Page C1

in 1994, but by then Irving Rubin, the owner of Great Lakes Container, was in trouble in New Hampshire and Michigan.

New Hampshire successfully sued Rubin for cleanup of a similar "graveyard" at a Great Lakes barrel-recycling operation in that state. Some 900 barrels also were found buried at a Great Lakes facility in Michigan, where Rubin fought attempts to recover cleanup costs by declaring bankruptcy.

Rubin served three months in prison in 1993 and was fined \$250,000 for antitrust violations. Now elderly and apparently living in a Detroit suburb,

Rubin failed to return messages left on an answering machine.

Nelson Mix is the Environmental Protection Agency coordinator of the cleanup in St. Louis. He said the first task was to remove asbestos from the buildings, and then tear them down with heavy machinery. On a visit this week, all that was left was wood, brick, steel and other debris segregated into piles, and the basement of the main processing building, which contains some 250,000 gallons of contaminated water.

The water will be pumped out and treated, Mix said, and then crews will remove the toxic sludge that covers the basement floor and haul it to a licensed landfill.

"The site samples for dioxin were below the action level of 1 part per billion," he said. "The main concerns here are PCBs and lead."

Some trenches were dug in the "graveyard" area and barrels recovered. The digging caused a chemical odor, Mix said, and air monitors will

be used to check for hazardous fumes. He said testing with a magnetic device determined 100 or more barrels were underground, most believed to contain sludges.

Barrels that are removed intact will be repacked and taken to a landfill. Most are corroded and leaking, breaking apart during removal, and will be excavated along with thousands of tons of contaminated soil.

The site is near the Mississippi River, but Mix said it had not been determined whether wastes were leaking into the river. "It's a possibility," he said. "But it's difficult to attribute pollution in the Mississippi as coming from this particular site."

Although health officials first investigated Great Lakes in 1979, and the EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources began negotiating a cleanup in 1986, the site remained neglected for more than a decade, largely because it was not judged an imminent hazard because of its industrial location. It became a popular

dumping grounds — in October 1995, a stolen car was set afire in the main processing building, causing an 11-alarm fire.

The site is bordered by railroad tracks, a fertilizer plant and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's Bissell Point treatment plant. The cleanup will be done to industrial standards, meaning deed restrictions will limit future uses of the site to commercial activity.

The EPA would like to recover some of the cleanup costs — if not from Rubin, then possibly from some of the companies that shipped barrels to Great Lakes Container.

"As we're excavating the buried drums, we're looking for labels or other identifying markings," Mix said. "We've sent out a lot of notice letters to potentially responsible parties."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

4/8/98

Coatings, resins company sold to California firm

BY WILLIAM FLANNERY
Of the Post-Dispatch

Futura Coatings Inc. has been sold to IPI International Inc. of Elkton, Md., a division of the holding company PMC. No purchase price was disclosed.

Located in Hazelwood, Futura has nearly 70 employees and annual sales of about \$10 million.

Futura makes industrial protective coatings, resins and sports surfaces. Among its products are artificial stones and trees for Disney World and 50 other theme parks, as well as for zoos and museums.

In 1993, the company gained attention for a White House running track it designed for President Bill Clinton.

Futura had been privately owned by the family of E. Dean Jarboe, who founded it in 1978. Dean Jarboe will be a consultant to PMC after the acquisition. His son Rodney Jarboe will remain president of Futura and another son, Jeffrey Jarboe, will remain vice president.

"After 20 years of operating as a family business, we felt that there



TED DARGAN / POST-DISPATCH

Rodney Jarboe, president of Futura, sits on a rocky waterfall made by his company, which has been bought by a California concern.

were many benefits to joining forces with a much larger corporation in our industry," Rodney Jarboe said in a statement. IPI makes foam for roofing, tanks and building insulation. The

"After 20 years of operating as a family business, we felt that there were many benefits to joining forces with a much larger corporation in our industry."

Rodney Jarboe

parent, PMC, is a privately held company with annual sales of about \$1.1 billion. It is based in Sun Valley, Calif.

Gary Kamins, president of IPI, said in a statement that all of Futura's employees would be kept. He said customers and suppliers "should experience a transparent change."

Officials at Futura could not be reached for comment.

PMC officials said the acquisition of Futura is part of the company's strategy of buying successful firms with strong growth potential. Futura will continue to operate independently, PMC said.

St. Louis Post Dispatch
April 29, 1998

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Superfund reform

The writer of an April 19 letter lacked the understanding that the Superfund law is in desperate need of reform. An overwhelming majority of Americans want a government that is more effective and cost-conscious in performing its responsibilities — this includes the Superfund program. Status quo is not an acceptable position.

There is no dispute that the Superfund law is not working! The Superfund law was enacted in 1980 to ensure that contaminated sites were identified and cleaned up, but it was intended to be a temporary measure. The biggest successes of the Superfund program have been delay and wasteful spending of both public and private dollars on lawyers and their lawsuits rather than actual hazardous waste clean-up.

In fact, the General Accounting Office has identified the Superfund program as one of the federal government's 25 high-risk programs — meaning the levels of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement are intolerable.

On March 26, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, on which I serve, passed a bill that will reform the Superfund program. Contrary to what the letter said, the bill *does not* relieve parties at Superfund sites of their responsibilities. In fact, the bill establishes a mandatory, non-binding liability allocation process to assign who will pay.

The bill *does* base cleanup decisions on protecting public health and the environment by reducing real risks under actual conditions at each site. The bill *does not* "curtail the right of citizens to participate in cleanup decision in their communities."

The fact is the bill establishes Community Action Groups to represent the people during both planning and cleanup stages. Overall, the bill shifts the focus of the current law's inadequacies that encourage litigation and delay to real protection of human health and the environment. Isn't that our goal?

Sen. Christopher S. Bond
Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Section: METRO

CONTAMINATED ARENA IN PARK WILL BE FENCED OFF

A small area of James S. McDonnell Park in north St. Louis County will be fenced off to the public because of dioxin contamination.

The 127-acre park off Adie Road near St. Ann once held a riding arena before the land was donated to the county in 1977. Nearby residents said the arena had been sprayed by waste hauler Russell Bliss, who was responsible for other dioxin sites in eastern Missouri.

The EPA took 2,100 soil samples earlier this year and found levels higher than 1 part per billion, which is said to be the "level of concern," in the area of the arena. Much of the area, however, had been covered with fill after it became a county park, and the highest dioxin concentrations - up to 275 parts per billion - were found from 12 to 30 inches deep.

The highest levels found on the surface and accessible to the public were said to be 9.5 parts per billion. Those areas, on the edge of a low basin of the park now used as an amphitheater, will be covered with 4 inches of clean soil and sod.

Levels of 169 parts per billion also were found on a surface sample taken from a wooded ravine where work crews have disposed of brush. That area will be fenced off to limit its public access.

The EPA said it will consider several options for a long-term solution to the problem, including possible excavation of the contaminated soil for treatment.

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Thursday, March 26, 1998

Section: METRO

EPA OFFERS FOUR DIOXIN PLANS FOR ELLISVILLE DECISION ON LEMAR DRIVE COULD BE COMING IN JULY

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of The Post-Dispatch

An end is in sight for the dioxin problems on Lemar Drive in Ellisville.

The Environmental Protection Agency Wednesday said it hopes to announce its final cleanup plans in July. On Wednesday, it opened a 30-day public-comment period on the alternatives that could be used to clean up the site.

"Depending on what alternative is selected, we should be able to begin work immediately," said Bob Feild, the EPA's project manager.

The EPA lists four options for cleaning up Lemar Drive - excavate the soil and burn it at an incinerator elsewhere, excavate the soil and treat it elsewhere, excavate the soil and treat it on site, or treat the soil in place. The cost of the various options runs up to \$4.7 million.

"While the technologies are being considered, we could store the soil either on site or off site," Feild added.

Although on-site treatment is among the EPA's alternatives, Ellisville officials and residents have said they want the dioxin-contaminated soil taken away, either for incineration or some other treatment.

The contamination is centered on a long gravel driveway that runs along several lots in an area a few blocks northeast of the intersection of Manchester and Clarkson roads.

The total amount of contaminated soil is said to be 7,500 tons, or about 400 truckloads. By comparison, 265,000 tons were burned at the Times Beach incinerator before it was shut down and removed early last summer.

The EPA confirmed in July that the drive was contaminated and relocated residents of one house. Officials did some excavation then and fenced off the contaminated site.

"They dug up about a foot of my yard, refilled it and put grass on it," said Jack Tegethoff, a resident of the drive. "They still don't know what to do with all the soil, but if they say July, I guess that's what's it's going to be. My problems will be over when they pull out."

Friday, March 27, 1998

Section: NEWS

SCIENTISTS RETHINK SAFETY OF NEVADA NUCLEAR DUMP SITE CHANCE OF EARTHQUAKE MAY BE UNDERESTIMATED CRUST IS UNSTABLE, STUDY SHOWS

From News Services
WASHINGTON

Scientists may have underestimated the likelihood of earthquakes and volcanic activity near the proposed storage facility for the United States' nuclear waste, researchers said Thursday.

Writing in the journal *Science*, geologists said they found that the Earth's crust at Yucca Mountain in Nevada was moving at a higher rate than had previously been thought. This stretching could cause an increase in the magnitude and frequency of earthquakes in the region, they say.

"It means at the present time we haven't thought through the seismic and volcanic activities because it might be more than we thought," said Brian Wernicke, a professor at the California Institute of Technology who led the study.

Some officials said the new findings could further slow approval of the Yucca Mountain site for the proposed waste dump. All four U.S. senators from California and Nevada oppose the project, and suggestions that the area may be geologically unstable seem bound to fortify the opposition.

Scientists have studied the area's geological history for years in an attempt to determine how stable the region will be during the 10,000 to 100,000 years it will take for the radioactive waste to decay.

To determine how quickly the ground was expanding at Yucca Mountain, scientists placed metal rods in bedrock and used satellites to photograph movement over a six-year period.

The results indicated that the rate of expansion was about three to four times the average in the region.

However, Kevin Crowley, director of the nonprofit Board on Radioactive Waste Management, cautioned that data might not be enough to predict seismic activity.

"The short-term rates are not necessarily long-term rates," he said.

Crowley said the higher rates of expansion weren't unreasonable figures and that further research might be necessary. "It may suggest calculations done to predict rates and magnitudes of earthquakes may have to be re-evaluated," he said.

Tim Sullivan, a lead Energy Department geologist and manager with the Yucca Mountain project, said the "initial cut" on the new study is that it will have no effect on decisions about the Yucca Mountain project.

"We will be evaluating this information to provide a more definitive finding," said Sullivan. A risk assessment already has found a very low likelihood that a volcano or an earthquake would create a problem for the buried nuclear waste, Sullivan said.

That risk assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey found less motion in the Yucca Mountain area, suggesting a much smaller rate of geologic activity, Sullivan said.

Wernicke emphasized that while the findings were from a preliminary study, this did not mean they should be dismissed.

"Work needs to be done to verify our results," Wernicke said.

Situated 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, the Yucca Mountain area is the only site the Energy Department is considering for storing the nation's nuclear waste.

Sunday, March 29, 1998

Section: NEWS

ECONOMISTS, BIOLOGISTS AGREE AT MEETING GOVERNMENT BOONDOGGLES WASTE MONEY AND DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT, THEY SAY

By William Allen
Post-Dispatch Science Writer

A bevy of elite economists found common ground with biologists Friday at a conference here on the impact of humans on nature.

Among the issues they agreed on: government boondoggles waste money and destroy the environment in the United States and other countries.

The cooperative note was struck during a panel discussion at "Managing Human-Dominated Ecosystems," a four-day conference at the Missouri Botanical Garden that runs through Sunday.

The conference is a rare if not unique gathering of economists and biologists to discuss the future of the economy, the environment and how they depend on each other.

Co-sponsors are the garden, the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University and the Columbia Earth Institute of Columbia University.

Among those involved in the panel discussion was Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the Center for the Study of American Business at Washington University.

"Economists do breathe the same air and drink the same water as other people," Weidenbaum told several hundred biologists, economists and business leaders.

"We just use a different way of looking at policy issues."

Weidenbaum cited a recent study by his center showing that some government subsidies are both environmentally harmful and economically undesirable. For example, federal tax incentives increase use of fossil fuels, such as oil and gas.

"The moral is simple," he said. "We're going to have to join forces, because it's going to be an uphill battle against lots of entrenched interests."

Thomas Power, an economist with the University of Montana, referred to development projects in foreign countries that bring wealth to individual investors but do nothing for the country involved nor its residents.

"The analysis of that sort of grossly inefficient use of resources can be extremely important," Power said.

Robert Repetto, an economist with the Washington-based World Resources Institute, reinforced the boondoggle point. But the many "dumb government policies" in the United States and other countries can be changed by concerted effort.

"They can change, and they have changed," Repetto said. Among other examples, he cited recent shifts in U.S. policies involving cutting trees and building logging roads in national forests.

"Let's fix the problems while we still have time," Repetto said.

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Sunday, March 1, 1998

Section: NEWS

LOS ALAMOS IS READY TO LEAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TIES BEHIND DAYS OF FEDERAL SUBSIDIES ARE OVER FOR TOWN

By Jim McElroy
The Associated Press
LOS ALAMOS, N.M.<

More than 50 years after the nuclear age began here with the development of the bomb, the Atomic City is striving to become more than a company town tied to a nuclear weapons lab.

While Los Alamos National Laboratory still pumps in the lifeblood of high-paying jobs, the days of federal subsidies are over for the mountaintop community built by the government in secret and closed to the public until 1957.

After years of paying Los Alamos an annual \$2.6 million, or about 13 percent of the county budget, the U.S. Energy Department last year sent a final lump sum of \$17.6 million.

It also plans to turn over to the county the water system, airport and fire stations, and has given it \$5 million to create a repair and upkeep fund.

"It's time to stand on our own," said Denise Smith, a county councilor who owns two restaurants and a shopping center. "We want it to be without pain."

To become self-sufficient, Los Alamos needs to attract business to diversify its economy and broaden its tax base. It has three groceries, a department store and shops - like Atomic City Auto Parts. Still, the city relies heavily on the lab for jobs.

Diversification won't be easy. The federal government not only gave Los Alamos life but built much of its infrastructure, from streets to houses to schools. About 40 percent of the county work force works at the lab, which has 10,000 employees.

And land is an issue.

With tax-exempt federal land making up some 90 percent of the county, there is little available for sorely needed housing or commercial enterprise.

But the struggle is about more than money and land.

"It's about change, about cultural change. For a lot of people it has been hard to distinguish Los Alamos the community from Los Alamos the lab," said Paul Dickman of the Energy Department's Albuquerque office.

Los Alamos, 34 miles northwest of Santa Fe, is focusing on attracting high-tech companies that would compliment the lab.

"We have the setting, we have the schools," said Rich Kraemer, a California transplant who has lived here since 1982. "We need to be able to provide the housing for those who want to move in."

Sunday, March 1, 1998

Section: NEWS

AUTHORITIES ARE UNDER HEAT TO ENFORCE OBSCURE PROVISION OF CLEAN WATER ACT ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUE FOR SAFEGUARDS AT WATERSHEDS LAW MAY BE POWERFUL TOOL

New York Times News Service
WASHINGTON

A wave of lawsuits by environmentalists is compelling state and federal authorities to enforce a long-dormant provision of the Clean Water Act.

The suits have opened a new front in the struggle over pollution and prompted the government to make new assessments of whether water standards are being met.

In lawsuits in about half the states, environmental advocates are demanding that regulators move from controlling individual points of pollution - like factories or waste-water treatment plants - to improving the overall quality of larger watersheds.

This river-by-river, stream-by-stream approach on pollution may be a powerful legal tool for environmental advocates to influence many kinds of economic activity - from logging in national forests to spreading manure on cornfields - that were not rigidly controlled before.

In a federal court case in New York, plaintiffs are demanding that the Environmental Protection Agency force the state to set pollution limits in upstate watersheds at levels strict enough to protect New York City's drinking water. The plaintiffs are also demanding that citizens' groups be allowed to participate in setting pollution limits.

Similar lawsuits involving 13 other states are on the federal dockets, according to the EPA's count, and more suits are expected in the months ahead.

Already, federal courts have ordered the EPA to establish pollution limits in nine states - Alaska, Arizona, parts of California, Delaware, Georgia, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania and West Virginia - if the states themselves do not impose acceptable ones. All but two of those court orders were imposed last year. In only a handful of states have environmental litigants lost in the courts.

The 1972 Clean Water Act required states to issue permits telling polluters what technologies to use to keep from fouling the water at specific discharge points.

But in a provision that has routinely been disregarded, the law also told states to measure the local water quality more broadly to determine whether the system of permits was working, and to impose across-the-board limits on pollution from all sources until clean water standards were actually met.

But 25 years later, many watersheds are still polluted, often by runoff from farms, cities and enterprises that are not required to have these pollution permits. In about two dozen states, plaintiffs are seeing to force state or federal authorities to list these polluted waters accurately, and to clean them up.

Monday, March 2, 1998

Section: NEWS

GOV. BUSH IS TOP CHOICE AT MEETING OF REPUBLICANS ASHCROFT PLACES FIFTH IN A STRAW POLL OF PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS

By Tim Poor
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau
BILOXI, MISS.<

Texas Gov. George W. Bush was the presidential choice of delegates to the Southern Republican Leadership Conference, according to a straw poll released Sunday. And he didn't even attend the event.

Sen. John Ashcroft of Missouri placed fifth in the balloting.

The annual conference was an early forum for Ashcroft and other presidential hopefuls who spoke during the weekend meeting.

Even before his appearance, Ashcroft and other candidates were downplaying the significance of the vote.

"I don't think you can make much out of polls that are nearly three years before the election," he said. Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander noted that Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas won most of the GOP straw polls taken before the 1996 election but dropped out early after poor showing in the primaries.

Still, the balloting was a good showing for Bush. He outpolled his closest competitor, Steve Forbes, by 40 votes, winding up with 18 percent of the 1,106 votes cast. Former Vice President Dan Quayle was third with 12 percent, followed by Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee with 10 percent and Ashcroft with 9 percent.

Alexander and House Speaker Newt Gingrich finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in the field of 28 candidates on the ballot.

Delegates were also asked who was most likely to win the Republican presidential nomination, and Bush was the overwhelming favorite, with 31 percent of the vote. Quayle was next, with 14 percent. Five percent said they thought Ashcroft would get the nomination.

Asked who they would favor as a vice presidential nominee, delegates named Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, who spoke Saturday and was a crowd favorite. Elizabeth Dole was next with 16 percent, while Ashcroft and several others were bunched behind in the 3 to 6 percent range.

The poll was taken at a dinner Saturday night that featured speeches by Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, who took his name off the ballot.

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Section: NEWS

WILSON SAYS HE WON'T RUN FOR GOVERNOR SCHOEMEHL LOOKS AT RACE; HOLDEN ALLIES SEEK SUPPORT

By Jo Mannies

Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent

Bill Bell Jr. Of The Post-Dispatch Contributed Information For This Story.

Seven years ago, when he announced he was running for lieutenant governor, Roger Wilson declared he was just grooming himself for his real political dream: to be elected governor.

On Wednesday, Wilson announced he was dropping that dream for 2000 and perhaps for good - stunning many Missouri Democrats who had until recently viewed the two-term lieutenant governor as the party's heir apparent to Gov. Mel Carnahan.

His departure immediately touched off talk that other major Democrats might jump in: notably former St. Louis Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., who lost to Carnahan in the 1992 Democratic primary for governor.

"Obviously, I'm interested in the job since I once ran for it," said Schoemehl. He added that he got lots of encouraging calls from old supporters Wednesday afternoon.

Schoemehl, who left office in 1993, often has been paired with Wilson as two of the Missouri Democratic Party's most charismatic, colorful and at times controversial figures, with gifts for rip-roaring speeches that brought partisan crowds to their feet.

But Schoemehl, unlike Wilson, also had a raft of political enemies - who the three-term mayor agrees helped sink his gubernatorial hopes.

Observing that candidate filing for 2000 is two years away, Schoemehl said he planned to spend much of that time talking to old foes and friends to see if he has a chance. Schoemehl currently is an energy consultant and runs a printing business.

"I can't have the blacks, the police officers and the Bridgeton Air Defense still opposed to me," Schoemehl said, referring to his chief critics in 1992. "I've got to see if this makes sense."

Wilson said for him, the contest didn't make sense. He said he wanted to spare his family and his job from the painful impact of "what was looming as a full-time campaign for governor" for the next three years.

"I was pulled from my family and my job," said Wilson, 49, who is married with two children, ages 19 and 14.

Wilson, of Columbia, was a combative member of the state Senate from 1979 to

1993, chairing some top committees and often fighting with the Republican governors - notably John Ashcroft.

While observing "people will think what they want to think," Wilson insisted that his decision was not influenced by the money-raising success of his Democratic competitor, state Treasurer Bob Holden.

Even Wilson was shocked by January's campaign reports, which showed Holden with a bank balance of almost \$700,000. That was more than twice as fat as Wilson's, igniting fears among party leaders about a potentially expensive and explosive primary battle between two men generally deemed friends.

'Let the dust settle'

Wilson asserted Wednesday that it wasn't his dreams that had changed. "Politics has changed," he said, explaining that all the focus seems to be on money.

"I'm going to let the dust settle for a few months" before deciding on a political future, Wilson said.

Holden, who declined to comment Wednesday, has yet to publicly acknowledge that he's running for governor.

Even so, a number of Democratic leaders - including Rep. Richard A. Gephardt's political operation - had been privately lobbying both men for months in hopes of persuading one or the other to drop out. The aim had been to avoid a repeat of 1992's nasty primary between Schoemehl and then-Lt. Gov. Carnahan, which left some lingering wounds.

"It helps as Democrats if we have one great candidate running for governor, as opposed to a primary," said state House Speaker Steve Gaw, D-Moberly.

As soon as Wilson announced his departure, Holden's allies were on the phones Wednesday promoting the importance of swift endorsements by major Democrats for Holden. That effort appeared aimed, in part, at discouraging Schoemehl or others from challenging him.

State Republican Party spokesman Daryl Duwe said he wasn't surprised, because "Republicans are pretty pumped about Wilson dropping out. Everybody thinks Bob Holden is beatable."

Those Republicans may include Rep. James M. Talent, R-Chesterfield. Although his office declined to comment Wednesday, Talent said in an interview last month that he would look at the Missouri governor's contest once his re-election effort this year is over.

Holden, 48, is a slight, soft-spoken man with a reputation for being earnest and somewhat of a policy wonk. He's a former aide to Gephardt and comes from Carnahan's hometown of Birch Tree.

Carnahan spokesman Chris Sifford chuckled at any Democrat murmurs that Holden might be too dull to ignite voters. "They said the same thing about another candidate not too long ago."

That candidate was Carnahan in 1992.

Friday, March 6, 1998

Section: BUSINESS

GEPHARDT ALREADY COURTING LABOR SUPPORT WITH AN EYE ON THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

By Philip Dine

Open a labor publication and you just might get the impression that St. Louis' Richard A. Gephardt is running for president and hopes to elicit the support of a constituency extremely important to his bid.

Take a major industrial union like the United Auto Workers, which is strong in Missouri. A recent issue of its "Solid Fax, News for UAW Leaders" led with a speech that the U.S. House Democratic leader delivered to the 1998 Community Action Program convention.

Gephardt kicked off the CAP session with what the UAW termed "an impassioned call for union activists to keep up their fight for fair trade, affordable health care, and other progressive policies."

Gephardt was said to have stressed that "Grassroots lobbying by union members was the key to stopping President Clinton's request for 'fast track' authority to expand NAFTA . . . Republicans and their allies are so worried about the labor movement's political effectiveness that they 'want to take you out of the fight.' "

The St. Louis Democrat called on UAW delegates to fight the Paycheck Protection Act, which would make it tougher for unions to spend union dues on political issues.

The latter appeal by Gephardt is intriguing on several levels: as an effort to please unions on an issue dear to them, as a stand by Gephardt on a policy matter he cares about, and as a way for him to clear the way for the union support his candidacy would require. He needs labor's 14 million members and multimillion-dollar war chest more than does Vice President Al Gore.

A large construction union, the Laborers' International Union of North America, ran in the front of its current "Laborer" magazine a discussion of the presidential aspirations of Gephardt and Gore.

The piece on "defining political friends and enemies" speaks of a White House team that workers helped put into office, but which supports free trade bills that labor detests. "This situation brings a larger question for labor leaders looking forward to the 2000 elections and beyond," the article says. "The question: . . . does (Gore's) support of fast track preclude him from labor support?"

"There is another factor: The leader of the opposition to fast track in the House, Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., is debating a run for the Democratic nomination for president. It is fair to say that Gore . . . has been a good friend to unions in the past. But so has Gephardt."

Asked about all this Thursday, AFL-CIO spokeswoman Lane Windham said: "There's no discussion of endorsements yet, but it's obvious that Gephardt is talking

a lot about issues that are important to working people."

Three weeks ago in this space, another local member of Congress - Bill Clay - blasted the husband-wife attorney team hired by the House Education and Workforce Committee to look into the 1996 Teamsters election. Ron Carey had edged challenger James Hoffa, but the vote was tossed out because of campaign-finance violations.

Clay, ranking committee Democrat, alleged that the law partners hired by the Republican majority - Joseph diGenova and Victoria Toensing - were too biased to conduct a fair investigation. Clay demanded - and got - the right to review the attorneys' time sheets.

A few days ago, Toensing resigned from a federal law enforcement commission headed by former FBI and CIA director William Webster. Webster, a St. Louisan, also sits on a board overseeing the Teamsters union, the very union that Toensing is investigating for the House committee.

Rather than placating Clay, Toensing's move has made him even more vocal. He's asking why it took her four months to "discover" the potential conflict. And, Clay wonders why the three-page, "quite detailed" resume Toensing gave the committee failed to mention her service "on a prestigious and powerful federal commission."

GOP committee aides deny any conflict existed or that Toensing quit the board because of Clay's outspokenness. Maybe, but it's clear that Bill Clay is becoming a key player in the congressional handling of the Teamsters situation.

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Friday, March 6, 1998

Section: METRO

READY TO RUN AGAIN, CLAY RIPS GOP CONGRESS SUPPORTERS PRAISE DEMOCRAT

By Jo Mannies

Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent

Calling it "a great honor" to serve 30 years in Congress, Rep. William L. Clay today will file in Jefferson City to serve two more.

Clay, D-St. Louis, is the dean of Missouri's congressional delegation. If re-elected, he'll be the fourth most senior member of the House, Clay told a small group of supporters Thursday night.

Clay announced his re-election plans at an intimate reception and book-signing at Afrocentric Books & Cafe, 808 1/2 Olive Boulevard in University City.

Clay was signing copies of his five-year-old book, "Just Permanent Interests," which recounts the history of blacks in Congress since 1870, when they first were elected.

Among other things, those early members deserve credit for pushing through the first federal money for public education, he said,

Clay has little good to say about this year's Republican-controlled Congress, which has taken so few votes that "we've taken a leave of absence." He predicted that the Democrats can retake the House, if they promote to voters the party's vision for improving education and making health care more available to all.

"If we don't retake the House, and we lose the White House (in 2000), labor unions are history," Clay said, citing various GOP proposals that he said would kill off unions.

Herman Harris of University City brought his grandson, Dontae Caradine, 9, so the two could meet and hear the congressman for the first time. "I want my grandson to have a chance to shake his hand," Harris said.

Burton Boxerman, Creve Coeur Township Democratic committeeman, lauded Clay as "a perfect example of why term limits are a horrible thing."

Besides bashing Congress, Clay also had some terse words for the Missouri Democratic Party.

He was sharply critical of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering to avert a Democratic primary contest for governor in 2000.

Lt. Gov. Roger Wilson bowed out Wednesday, and most party leaders are expected to endorse state Treasurer Bob Holden by this weekend.

"I think it's premature" for any endorsements for 2000, Clay said.

"I think vigorous primaries are good for the party. Right now, we need to concentrate on 1998."

Sunday, March 8, 1998

Section: NEWS

2004 GROUP HIRES BOSLEY, LAW FIRM TO COURT BLACKS

By Jerry Berger

FREE AT LAST: Unhappy with community response to its planned urban land use initiatives, local do-good group St. Louis 2004 has quietly retained the services of former mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. to assuage fears among African-Americans. Said attorney Boz, of-counsel at Caldwell Hughes & Singleton: "They've (2004) actually retained the entire law firm."

SPEED COUNTS: NBC researchers were in our town several days last week gathering information on the speedy response time of St. Louis city emergency crews to the collapse of a warehouse in north city last fall.

SIGHTEMS: Why were Channel 4 GM Allen Cohen and Channel 5 weathercaster John Fuller huddled near an elevator in the Met Square Building t'other day? Were they simply discussing the weather, or had they just left Fuller's lawyer at Bryan Cave to discuss Fuller's succession to Trish Brown's throne? . . .

Actor and cookbook author Dom DeLuise spent the past two days in gourmet heaven, surrounded by provisions at a food show in Collinsville. DeLuise did cooking demonstrations and schmoozed with chefs and restaurant owners, many of whom posed for autographed Polaroids. DeLuise was one of the most popular attractions at the show, held by Sysco Food Services of St. Louis Inc., whose parent company is nation's top distributor to restaurants, hotels, hospitals and others.

BIG SPENDERS: The other morning, we overheard a couple of electricians working on rewiring this newspaper's newsroom. For half an hour, they went on and on about IRAs, 401(k) plans, mutual-fund strategies and so on. Give them some cigars and cognac, and they could have been a couple of Yuppies in Clayton, or even the schmoozers each morning at Schneithorst's, where checks are exchanged daily for penny stocks. But they brought to mind the memory of old Joe Kennedy, the family's patriarch. One day in 1929, Kennedy stopped for a shoeshine - and listened as the shoeshine boy went on and on about good buys in the stock market. Kennedy paid for the shine, went to his office and cashed out all of his stock, thereby ducking the crash that took place shortly thereafter. His reasoning: Once the shoeshine boys were in, it was time for the smart money to get out.

EL PATRON: Although most St. Louis city employees already know what their wages or salaries will be next fiscal year, those who work for city Treasurer Larry Williams are still in limbo. Last week, the aldermanic Public Employees Committee, chaired by 17th Ward Ald. Joseph Roddy, reported out the pay bills listing the titles and salaries of most city employees. However, Roddy's committee withheld the treasurer's bill because, say City Hall observers, Williams had not yet agreed to protect the jobs of some of the ward's patronage employees after June 30.

SPORTS NOTE OF SORT: The St. Louis Blues Alumni will play after the Blues-Phoenix game on March 14 at Kiel Center, with proceeds going to the Fourteen Fund. While the Phoenix Coyotes are in our town, someone should ask Keith Tkachuk who his roommates in Nagano were (then we'd know who tra shed their living quarters).

MOVERS AND GROOVERS: Diners here will have a new "1998 Update Edition"

of the popular Zagat Survey of local restaurants around Memorial Day, with corrections and deletions bringing the 1997 edition up to date. In addition, there will be comments and discussion on about 30 new restaurants. Former Post-Dispatch restaurant critic Joe Pollack and his wife, Ann Lemons Pollack, who contributes to the Lifestyle section on Saturdays, are editors. . . .

Hometown attorney David Newburger was honored in D.C. last week with the Silver Haired Congress' national humanitarian award for his work to ensure fair access to telephone technology for seniors, people with disabilities and rural residents. Newburger is a director of the Campaign f or Telecommunications Access and exec director of ConnectMissouri. . . .

STEPPING OUT: The St. Louis International Film Festival and the Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club will benefit from the Oscar Night Party at 7 p.m. March 23 at Zoe's in the CWE. There'll be dinner, champagne, Oscar balloting and door prizes with KMOX's Charles Brennan and The Riverfront Times' Ray Hartmann acting as MCs. For tix, call 361-0013.

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Sunday, March 8, 1998

Section: NEWS ANALYSIS

RADON KILLS 21,800 IN U.S. EACH YEAR, STUDY ARGUES COMBINED WITH SMOKING, THE NATURAL RADIOACTIVE GAS INCREASES CANCER RISK

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A study of radon blames the natural radioactive gas for 21,800 American lung cancer deaths a year. Among smokers, the study says, radon sharply increases the risk of cancer.

"Radon, particularly in combination with smoking, poses an important public health risk and it should be recognized as such," said Dr. Jonathan Samet, chairman of a National Research Council radon study group. He is a professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Exposure to radon at any concentration, Samet said, "carries some risk of lung cancer," and as a result, the gas "is an important public health problem."

Americans have spent an estimated \$400 million on radon testing and renovation since the gas was first linked to lung cancer in the 1980s. The research panel said about 6 percent of American homes have radon concentrations above the level at which EPA recommends corrective action.

Radon gas comes from the decay of uranium and radium in soil and rocks. Leaking from the ground, it can collect in houses or basements. When inhaled, the gas can leave alpha particles in the lungs that emit low levels of radiation over long periods of time.

The committee concluded that there was a direct connection between radon and lung cancer. The greater the radon concentration, the report said, the greater the lung cancer risk.

Based on mathematical models, the committee estimated that radon exposure played a role in 15,400 to 21,800 of the 157,400 lung cancer deaths reported in the United States in 1995. This would mean that radon exposure is second only to cigarette smoking in causing lung cancer.

The committee concluded that 2,100 to 2,900 radon-linked lung cancer deaths occur among nonsmokers each year. This means the vast majority of radon-linked diseases occurs among people who also are at risk of lung cancer from smoking, the committee said.

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Section: NEWS

ST. LOUISANS WILL GET FIRST LOOK TODAY AT 2004'S VISION PLANS INCLUDE GREENBELTS, HEALTH CARE, RACE INITIATIVE

By Dan Mihalopoulos
Of The Post-Dispatch

After overseeing hundreds of meetings during the last 18 months to talk about what should be changed and improved in the region, the civic group St. Louis 2004 is set today to announce its first plans for the region.

"We're ready for action," said JoAnn LaSala, the group's president.

Among the initiatives that 2004 Chairman John C. Danforth is expected to announce today as the first his group will be pushing are:

- * Universal health care. Low-income St. Louisans would begin signing up next year for the program. The total cost is expected to reach \$452 million in five years.
- * A greenbelt linking trails in Missouri and Illinois. A pilot greenway would cost an estimated \$25 million, but the real work is to begin next year. 2004 will ask counties to decide whether they want to join a regional park district at a total cost of \$80 million over five years.
- * A new design plan for the riverfront and downtown. The plan, which would cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million, would be the beginning of an effort to bring more vitality to the urban core's streets. 2004 wants more people to live downtown, especially in the loft district along Washington Avenue.
- * The first annual conference on race. 2004 also plans to set up a regional network to monitor and respond to hate crimes.
- * A \$775,000 endowment for three pilot "safe places" for children. Plans also call for three more safe places to open in 1999.

The announcement also should reaffirm 2004's standing support for the expansion of Lambert Field and the MetroLink light-rail system.

Meanwhile, sources say 2004 is postponing an initiative to create a land trust to redevelop blighted inner-city areas. The land trust is supposed to help developers revive large patches of abandoned properties.

2004 has scheduled its "kickoff event" for 10:30 a.m. in the lobby of General American Life Insurance Co.'s national headquarters, 700 Market Street, downtown.

2004 began with a speech more than two years ago. Banker Andrew C. Craig III, in his Man of the Year address, urged St. Louisans to improve their region before the centennial of the 1904 World's Fair.

Danforth, a former U.S. senator, has used millions of dollars from his family's

foundation and some of the region's biggest corporations to turn Craig's idea into an organization run by 15 full-time staffers.

The 2004 staff, led by LaSala, has conducted meetings across the region to form a consensus on what should be done.

"We hope people are excited by what they see," LaSala said. "We are confident that we as a community can do even better in getting people involved in designing the future we all want."

Critics, including some volunteers who took part in 2004 events, have said the group is "top-down" rather than grass-roots. Some feared that the group's agenda is being dictated by a chosen few, but LaSala said 2004 welcomes public input.

After St. Louisans hear what Danforth has to say today, she said, 2004 leaders hope that individuals or companies in the region step forward to contribute to one or more of the initiatives led by 2004.

"People will start to see a tangible difference in their lives," LaSala said.

LaSala also asked that St. Louisans share other ideas with 2004 leaders.

"If we really want to revitalize the region, the list has to be much, much longer," she said. "If you want to make something happen by 2004, put the idea together and let us know what it is."

To contact St. Louis 2004: by telephone: (314) 436-2004; by writing: 211 North Broadway, Suite 1280, One Metropolitan Square, St. Louis, Mo. 63102; via Internet: www.stlouis2004.org

2004's priorities for 1998

Here are some of the initiatives that St. Louis 2004 will begin pushing for this year:

& Crack down on gun trafficking and violent gang activities, using methods pioneered in a juvenile crime "cease-fire" program in Boston.

* Provide special group health insurance for low-income residents who lack private insurance, Medicaid or Medicare. Coverage would start next year in Missouri; a plan for Illinois would be devised later.

* Get the Missouri Legislature to repeal a state ban on "reformulated" gasoline to help improve the region's air quality.

* Set up a system to monitor, publicize and respond to hate crimes and bigotry.

* Establish six activity centers to provide children a safe place to go after school and in the summer. These would be the first in an areawide network of centers.

* Improve downtown St. Louis by creating and getting people to live in market-rate housing; upgrade the St. Louis and Illinois riverfronts; and develop an arts-loft corridor around Washington Avenue.

* Create regional park districts to oversee creation of a system of greenways and biking and walking paths to link the area's major rivers with existing parks.

- * Study how to best use existing arts facilities and whether additional ones should be created.
 - * Help residents of neighborhoods take the lead in developing their own priorities for the future.
 - * Begin several initiatives to spur new technology here, such as a seed fund for starting businesses.
 - * Set up a new business group to involve more of the region's companies in efforts to improve the community.
-

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Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Section: NEWS

2004 OUTLINES ITS PLAN FINDING THE MONEY POSES NEXT CHALLENGE

By Dan Mihalopoulos
And Mark Schlinkmann
Of The Post-Dispatch

The St. Louis 2004 civic group announced its plan Tuesday to make the St. Louis region the envy of American cities.

2004 Chairman John C. Danforth said his group's first 11 initiatives would recast St. Louis as the country's next comeback city.

"It's our turn now," Danforth said. "We will become the leading region of the 21st century because we love this place and we will accept nothing less."

But turning just the first 11 ideas into reality will require support everywhere from depressed inner-city neighborhoods to legislatures and Capitol Hill.

Not to mention money.

On Tuesday morning, Danforth outlined how 2004 intends to begin transforming a bistate region of 2.5 million people before the 1904 World's Fair centennial.

Danforth's speech highlighted 2004's "kickoff" celebration at the headquarters of General American Life Insurance Co., 700 Market Street, in downtown St. Louis.

Surrounded by dozens of area leaders who say they back the 2004 effort, Danforth spoke of creating "a great place for our children and grandchildren."

"Sometimes people ask whether we will have a celebration in 2004," Danforth said. "You bet we will. But much more important than a celebration is to have a renaissance worth celebrating."

His speech ended to the sound of high school marching bands and the release of royal blue, powder blue and white balloons.

2004 leaders also released a list of 11 projects that they say will lead to the renaissance Danforth predicted. Among the projects scheduled to begin this year:

- * Creating a development plan for the St. Louis riverfront and downtown.
- * Lobbying Missouri lawmakers to repeal a ban on reformulated gasoline, "a cleaner-burning fuel."
- * Expanding health insurance to thousands of St. Louisans who lack coverage.
- * Launching a campaign against hate crimes.
- * Forming a \$20 million fund for start-up, high-technology companies.
- * Increasing opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses.

As ambitious as these efforts seem, Danforth said 2004 eventually will stand for many more proposals.

"The agenda for St. Louis must become a list of infinite length," Danforth said. "Every person in our region and every organization in our region should make a commitment to add to this list."

2004's ideas will demand quite a sum of money, too. Some of the money needed to get started will come from Danforth's family foundation, which already pays 40 percent of the group's annual \$2.5 million operating budget.

For these ideas to have permanent impact, however, 2004 leaders eventually plan to hit up taxpayers. By that time, group members hope that the general public recognizes the benefits brought by their initiatives.

Each initiative has its own hurdles.

Some proposals - such as the plan to create an inner-city land bank - already have been slowed by opposition.

Meanwhile, the ideas that Danforth touted Tuesday apparently are ready to go now.

For instance, the Danforth Foundation has promised to contribute more than \$1 million of the \$2.25 million needed for six "safe places for kids." Three will open this year - one each in St. Louis, St. Louis County and the Metro East area. Another three are to open in 1999.

It's unclear yet, though, who would pay for what 2004 calls "recurring costs," estimated at \$500,000 a year.

JoAnn LaSala, 2004 president, said taxpayers will see how good the safe-places program is and later agree to fund it just as they pay for public schools.

Tax increases also would be needed to pay for a 200-mile regional greenway system that would cost between \$80 million and \$120 million. The tax increases would have to be approved by voters in the fall of next year or in 2000.

Advocates of the parks initiative expect to ask legislators in Jefferson City and Springfield to allow regional park districts to be formed.

Each county would be asked to enter the regional park district, but advocates of the plan say this would not nearly be tantamount to a complete merger.

Either way, the 1998 goal is more modest: raise the \$25 million needed to complete purchase of the land for the Confluence Greenway, a hiking-biking trail along both sides of the Mississippi River.

Another idea that will require legislative support is the effort to permit reformulated gasoline.

2004 activists concede that St. Louisans would have to pay a few extra cents per gallon at the pump.

Mike Right, spokesman for the Automobile Club of Missouri, said his group has concerns about pending legislation to repeal the ban in Missouri.

Some of the 2004 "ideas for change" were born years ago and were drafted into the 2004 platform.

For years, small, high-tech entrepreneurs in St. Louis have complained about the lack of venture capital and lab space available to them.

2004 recently blessed an effort led by the Regional Commerce & Growth Association to increase the amount of seed capital available.

2004's plan for 1998 also praises an effort that has been more than 10 years in the making: the Center for Emerging Technologies. Labs for the first small, yet promising high-tech businesses opened this year in midtown St. Louis.

"We'll take all the support we can get," said Richard C.D. Fleming, the RCGA's president.

Richard Mark, president and chief executive of St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis, is involved in the initiative to extend health care coverage to thousands of uninsured residents.

Mark said 2004 has brought together most of the major players from St. Louis area hospitals: "It's been an obvious catalyst."

2004's priorities for 1998

- * Hold the first annual conference of civic leaders to discuss issues of race and economic opportunity.
- * Set up a system to monitor, publicize and respond to hate crimes and bigotry.
- * Crack down on gun trafficking and violent gang activities, using methods pioneered in a juvenile crime ``cease-fire`` program in Boston.
- * Establish six activity centers to provide children a safe place to go after school and in the summer. These would be the first in an areawide network of centers.
- * Provide special group health insurance for low-income residents who lack private insurance, Medicaid or Medicare. Coverage would start next year in Missouri; Illinois' plan would be devised later.
- * Improve downtown St. Louis by creating and getting people to live in market-rate housing; upgrade the St. Louis and Illinois riverfronts; and develop an arts-loft corridor around Washington Avenue.
- * Get the Missouri Legislature to repeal a state ban on ``reformulated`` gasoline to help improve the region's air quality.
- * Help residents of neighborhoods take the lead in developing their own priorities for the future.
- * Create regional park districts to oversee creation of a system of greenways and biking and walking paths to link the area's major rivers with existing parks.

* Begin several initiatives to spur new technology here, such as a seed fund for starting businesses.

* Strengthen opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses.

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Monday, March 16, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

SUPERFUND TAX SHOULD BE RESTORED

By Dave Rosenfeld

Here is a simple test to determine your representative's commitment to a clean environment:

Suppose there is a tax on the oil and chemical industries that raises \$4 million a day to clean up the worst hazardous waste sites across the country. Suppose the tax expired two years ago, and every day, \$4 million is lost. Suppose that some members of Congress and major polluting industries argue that the tax should not be renewed until we let many polluters off the hook for cleaning up the sites and weaken cleanup standards at those sites.

Now ask your representative this: If there were a vote to reject attempts to weaken the law and simply restore the tax, how would you vote?

Approximately 85,000 known or suspected hazardous waste sites are scattered across the United States, exposing the public to highly toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury, benzene and arsenic. These dump sites are poisoning the soil, water and air in neighborhoods throughout Missouri and the nation. They are the legacy of the past use and disposal of toxic chemicals by polluters.

Chemicals found at these sites are known to cause cancer, birth defects and numerous other illnesses. The worst of these sites are called "Superfund sites." One in four Americans lives within four miles of a Superfund site. Missouri has 22 Superfund sites and more than 400 other toxic waste sites.

In 1980, in response to disasters like the toxic contamination of neighborhoods at Love Canal, N.Y., the Superfund law was passed. The core principle of the program is that polluters - not taxpayers - should pay to clean up the mess they created.

In addition to providing funding for the cleanups - and ensuring that taxpayers don't get stuck footing the bill - the polluter-pays principle creates a powerful disincentive for polluters to continue irresponsibly disposing of wastes. If the polluters know they have to pay for cleanups, they simply will not pollute as much.

At 85 percent of Superfund sites, groundwater is threatened with contamination. Groundwater is the source of drinking water for 50 percent of Americans, and more than 95 percent of rural America.

Contaminated soil is also a risk to children and others who live near Superfund sites, eating the dirt, playing on it or simply breathing in the toxic vapors it emits. For example, in the lead-mining belts of southern Missouri, people living on lead contaminated land too often have elevated blood levels and health problems associated with lead poisoning.

Because the Superfund law puts the burden on the polluters that created the messes, it has been under attack by industries since it was first passed. In addition, the program was seriously damaged in its early years by the Reagan administration EPA's combination of abuse and neglect, culminating in the infamous "sewer-gate" scandal, which led to the criminal conviction of Superfund director Rita Lavelle and the resignation of then EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch-Burford.

Angered over the squandered first years of the program, Congress strengthened the law in 1986, over the objections of polluting industries, including adopting the nation's first national toxics right-to-know law. Polluters in response kicked off a long-term strategy to discredit the entire Superfund law to weaken it the next time reauthorization rolled around.

For the past five years, the industry has argued that Superfund is a "broken" program that needs radical surgery to be "fixed." Industry-backed proposals to "reform" Superfund have been the equivalent of amputating below the neck to cure a head cold. Their proposals push an extremist dual agenda: Roll back the pollute-pays principle and weaken cleanup standards at toxic waste sites. The polluters and their insurance companies don't want to pay the cost of conducting complete and permanent cleanups. But the risks of leaving toxic contaminants in the ground are too great.

The tax on chemical and petroleum industries that pays for cleanups, the main source of funds for the Superfund, expired in December 1995. Each day the tax is not collected, \$4 million for cleaning up toxic waste sites is being lost. Polluters and their congressional allies are holding renewal of the tax hostage to their demands to "reform" the Superfund law.

The choice for the public: pay for the cleanups yourself when the money in the fund runs out, or let polluters off the hook and settle for weaker cleanups at the worst toxic waste sites in the country.

The Superfund should be strengthened, not weakened. Congress should broaden the polluter-pays principle, increase community participation and expand citizens' right to know about toxic chemicals in our communities. Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., is developing a bill to make these improvements, and restore the tax on industries to pay for cleanups.

The correct answer to the test for members of Congress is: "No rollbacks to Superfund. Protect our environment and our Health. Restore the Superfund Tax. Make the Polluters Pay."

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Sunday, February 1, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

THE HAZARDS OF TEMPORARY STORAGE

NUCLEAR WASTE

We still don't know what to do with the nuclear waste. That was the inescapable message behind the recent visit of Nevada's two Democratic senators.

Sens. Richard Bryan and Harry Reid were on a political mission. They warned anyone here who would listen that if Nevada is selected as the temporary waste storage site, tons of nuclear waste would rumble through St. Louis, and accident - dreadful and dangerous - could happen.

The numbers are enough to give anyone pause. Nearly 16,000 shipments of 77,000 metric tons of nuclear waste would pass through 43 states from 18 reactor sites. St. Louis would get roughly 5,000 shipments, or about a third, making St. Louis one of the major hubs. The waste would be shipped mostly by truck on Interstate 70 but also by rail on Union Pacific tracks through Webster Groves and Kirkwood.

The real issue isn't transportation but the selection of a temporary dump site. There is no need to establish the Nevada Test Site for interim storage. The president promised to veto a bill that would do so. But Congress may have the votes to override his veto, especially if the public fails to protest.

There is no compelling scientific reason to select a temporary site, at least according to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, an oversight group. It says that spent nuclear fuel can be safely and economically stored at the nuclear plants that produce the waste until a permanent site is chosen.

Congress has not decided what state will have the honor of becoming the permanent dump. For geological reasons, the leading candidate, Yucca Mountain in Nevada, is looking less certain. It's senseless to move nuclear waste into a temporary dump in Nevada if Nevada isn't its final destination.

There are two bad reasons for making Nevada the interim storage site. First, when all the waste is in Nevada, pressure will mount to keep it there. Second, with the waste in temporary storage, it becomes the responsibility of the government, not the utilities.

If Congress wants to do something about nuclear waste, it should find a permanent storage site.

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Monday, February 2, 1998

Section: ILLINOIS POST

LET US IN ON URBAN RENEWAL PLANNING, SAYS METRO EAST

By Brett Wilcoxson
Of The Post-Dispatch

Metro East area residents want to be on the playing field, not the sidelines, when it comes to revitalizing the St. Louis area.

That was the message delivered at two public hearings last week in the Metro East area; Monday night in Mascoutah; and Wednesday night in Collinsville.

"When you're talking about revitalizing the region, let's not just talk about St. Louis," said Ron Tedesco, of Belleville.

"St. Louis is the hub, but they need to involve the whole area."

Tedesco is referring to one of the 18 initiatives discussed at the St. Louis 2,004 community forum Wednesday night at Collinsville High School.

St. Louis 2004 is a privately financed collective of 60 civic leaders headed by former Missouri Sen. John C. Danforth.

At Wednesday night's meeting, participants listened to a short presentation by the St. Louis 2004 representatives, then broke up into groups to discuss the plan the representatives put forth.

The 30 or so people agreed for the most part that the important issues to consider were:

- * Affordable health care.
- * Revitalizing the region.
- * Providing safe after-school recreation for the region's youth.
- * Employers' dedication to education.

Issues such as gun control and response to family violence were of low priority.

Reading over the group's goals, the people were unsure of how realistic they were.

In reference to a plan to persuade employers to allow their workers to volunteer as mentors for schoolchildren, Jerry Gilman, of Edwardsville, was skeptical.

"So even when we have all these people who want to volunteer, who is going to coordinate them?" he said.

And as the 2004 representative began to offer an idea, a woman on the other side of the room supported Gilman.

"And who's to say these people are qualified," she hastily added.

"And how do we know they're not child molesters?"

"We have to know the kids will be safe."

This kind of skepticism permeated the forums, but D.D. Danforth, an associate vice president of 2004, said that although these worries were understandable, they were not valid.

"We've been working at this for more than a year," she said, referring to the 24 community forums they held last fall.

The forums were used to get the 100 ideas, which they then narrowed down to 18 for this "second round" of 22 discussions, which began Jan. 26.

"The main criteria of these plans is their do-ability."

She said this round of talks would help determine what priority each of the plans was given.

On the topic of regional health care reform, Edna Sears, of Wood River, voiced her concern and summed up the mood of the meeting.

"It's almost impossible,, it would be a gigantic undertaking," she said.

"If the president couldn't do it, how can this small group?"

Friday, February 6, 1998

Section: METRO

SEN. CLAY RETRACTS PLAN TO OUST SCHOOL BOARD HE PROPOSES A NEW SMALLER BOARD IN '99

By Colleen Carroll
Of The Post-Dispatch
JEFFERSON CITY

State Sen. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, who has pushed for a state takeover of the St. Louis Public Schools, now says he wants the St. Louis School Board to retain control of the district.

Clay told fellow members of the Senate Education Committee on Thursday about his new proposal for reform of city schools. He now wants the current School Board to run the schools until April 1999, when a new, seven-member board would assume control. That board would be elected at large, but candidates would file in seven subdistricts throughout the city and serve four-year terms.

The current board has 12 members elected at large who serve six-year terms.

Clay said his plan changed after he formed an advisory committee last month that helped him decide how St. Louis could best improve its public schools. After studying the school district, Clay said, the committee realized that a takeover was unnecessary but that school officials needed more direction. The new plan still ensures accountability and equal spending among city schools, he said.

"This addresses the heart of the problem," Clay said. He cited the three-tiered funding system that operates in city schools, by which magnet schools get the most desegregation money and integrated neighborhood schools get the least.

Clay also said guidelines in his amendment would encourage the new School Board to drastically change most city schools: "They need the majority of the schools reconstituted."

Clay's reform ideas have sparked controversy in St. Louis since he first proposed in November that Mayor Clarence Harmon take control of the schools. That proposal - by Clay and state Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe, D-St. Louis - won favor among other members of a joint interim House-Senate desegregation committee that drafted a bill in December based partly on Clay's ideas.

But the takeover plan also produced problems for Clay, who altered his proposal after he was criticized by St. Louis voters loyal to the School Board and by school officials who accused him of seeking more political influence in the city schools.

Since then, Clay convened his committee of about 20 St. Louis politicians, former School Board members, teachers and parents who persuaded him to change the plan. After several meetings last month, the group decided on the proposal Clay submitted Thursday.

Everette E. Nance, dean of the Evening College at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, served on Clay's committee. Nance said Thursday that he did not support a takeover of the schools and that Clay's advisory committee focused on helping the schools improve.

"I just don't think it's a good idea to take over a school system without giving that school system an opportunity to do what it needs to do," he said.

One advisory committee member said the group also discussed the racial aspects of a primarily white, rural legislature making decisions for a primarily black, urban school district.

"That really does get into a lot of racial issues, racial overtones," said the committee member, who asked not to be identified. Clay said Thursday that racial politics had not influenced his change of heart: "That never entered into the discussion."

Reaction to Clay's plan from the Senate Education Committee was mixed.

"Some of it's an improvement," said state Sen. Wayne Goode, D-Pasadena Hills, who agreed that the mayor should not run the schools.

But Clay's newest plan does not adequately address concerns about excessive administrative overhead, overspending or political patronage in the city schools, Goode said.

State Sen. John Russell, R-Lebanon, wants change to extend beyond school administration.

"St. Louis and Kansas City both need complete turnover," Russell said. "I don't know how to do it."

Russell said St. Louis school officials seemed to be conscious of their problems. "And they're talking a good line. But they don't ever get there."

Senate committee chairman and state Sen. Ted House, D-St. Charles, suggested the group consider splitting the St. Louis and Kansas City school districts into four districts each.

Several lawmakers expressed concern that Clay's plan to equalize school spending would in effect eliminate the city's magnet schools, which get more money per pupil than segregated or integrated neighborhood schools.

"I'm not ready to throw out magnet schools," said Goode, "because I think they've been one of the more successful parts of the whole deseg program."

Clay said he would like to see the district raise all schools to the magnet standard. But the desegregation funding bill is already proving to be a tough sell, and committee chairman House told Clay that more money was not an option.

Though the desegregation bill will give St. Louis and Kansas City \$1,000 more per student than other districts get, those payments will arrive only after the state stops making desegregation payments to the cities. If the bill passes and St. Louis settles its desegregation case, the city schools actually will lose about \$30 million in state aid. The district currently receives about \$70 million.

School officials and city parents have said that cut is too steep; some lawmakers and Gov. Mel Carnahan have said that the desegregation bill costs too much and that more cuts must be made.

House said the Senate committee would continue to discuss the bill on Tuesday, and he wants the group to vote on it Wednesday. Clay said his ad hoc committee would continue to meet and discuss the legislation and would probably make more revisions to the plan.

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Thursday, February 12, 1998

Section: NEWS

U.S. ASKS WATER SYSTEMS TO ISSUE SAFETY REPORTS

STUDY OF MISCARRIAGES LED EPA TO PROPOSE RULE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

Reuters News Service
WASHINGTON

The Clinton administration said Wednesday that it would ask all drinking water systems to send an annual safety report to consumers.

The Environmental Protection Agency took the action one day after researchers in California said a preliminary study showed that women who drink five or more glasses a day of tap water have a higher rate of miscarriage, possibly because of the chlorine used to purify water.

EPA Administrator Carol Browner said the agency's proposed rule would require drinking water reports to tell consumers practical information such as whether tap water meets EPA's safety standards, the likely sources of any contaminants and what health risks exist in systems that violate the EPA's standards.

"We are now going a step further to ensure that Americans in the 21st century have the information they need about the safety of their drinking water, without having to rely on a distant bureaucracy," President Bill Clinton said.

The rule, to be finalized later this year, would apply to all the nation's 56,000 community water systems, which supply water to about 240 million Americans. The EPA said that large water suppliers would have to mail their annual safety reports to customers and that smaller systems could post the report in a central location or publish it in a local newspaper.

"Although the nation's drinking water supply is generally safe, the new information will provide consumers with a snapshot of . . . their local drinking water supply," Browner said. "These reports will help Americans and their families, particularly those with special health needs, make informed decisions regarding their drinking water and their health."

Under the EPA rule, the first water safety reports would be given to consumers by October 1999.

The California study, which was partly funded by the EPA, found that trihalomethanes - contaminants sometimes produced when chlorine is used to kill germs in water - seemed to be responsible.

Women who had a high exposure to trihalomethanes had a miscarriage rate of 15.7 percent, compared with 9.5 percent among women with a low exposure to the chemicals, the study said.

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Monday, February 16, 1998

Section: METRO

BOND KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR THIRD TERM IN SENATE MISSOURI'S SENIOR SENATOR PLEDGES TO STRESS EDUCATION

By Jo Mannies

Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent

To the strains of the rock song "Still the One," Sen. Christopher S. Bond on Sunday offered himself as Missourians' best hope - in the past and the future - for defending their principles and pocketbooks.

"I understand your values," Bond, a Republican, told hundreds of enthusiastic supporters at a downtown rally at the Regal Riverfront hotel at the end of the state GOP's annual Lincoln Days festivities.

Bond's bunting- and banner-filled event, complete with a filmed tribute to his past, kicked off a two-day tour around the state. The trip launches his campaign for a third term in the Senate.

Accompanied by his teen-age son and fellow Republicans, Bond is laying out at each stop his congressional blueprint for putting voters' values into effect.

At the heart of that message is Bond's belief that the nation's booming economy masks the public's concerns about the future - for their children and for the country.

"Kids can't learn to read in school, but they can get guns there," Bond said Sunday, igniting applause. "Sometimes we wonder if our government isn't hurting us more than it's helping us."

He promised to:

- * Combat youth violence with prevention and punishment.
- * Make schools safer and better but cut red tape on federal education money to local school districts and expand some education programs.
- * Cut taxes and curb the powers of the Internal Revenue Service.
- * Improve Missouri highways by snaring a larger share of the gasoline-tax dollars that Missourians send to Washington.
- * Earmark more federal money for anti-drug efforts. Missouri's standing as a leader in the production of illegal methamphetamines "poses a real danger to all of us."
- * Fight to ban cloning of humans - "human beings should not be created for experiments or spare parts."

Bond also pledged his opposition to a controversial abortion procedure that critics call "partial-birth abortion" because the fetus is partly delivered before its skull is collapsed.

Bond's declaration "Character counts!" ignited Sunday's crowd.

"You can trust his integrity, his ethics," said supporter Cathy Gansman of Jefferson County.

Activists picket

About a dozen environmental activists picketed outside the hotel to protest what they said was Bond's weak record on environmental issues.

Bond's likely Democratic challenger, Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, also fired off faxes Sunday challenging Bond's record - in particular, various votes in Congress against some education spending.

Bond, who has cited recent pro-environment awards, said his promises accurately reflect his aims and actions. As for Nixon, Bond said, "I don't know what he stands for."

Bond said his underlying theme is clear: "Fighting for Missouri's Children."

Education, he said, can make or break a child's future.

For example, while calling for tougher penalties for juvenile offenders, Bond also asserted that more action is needed to teach youngsters the educational skills necessary for productive lives.

Police and social-service workers tell him repeatedly that most young law-breakers can't read. "Illiteracy is the single most common denominator," Bond said.

Part of the solution, he continued, is an expansion of the preschool "Parents As Teachers" program, which Bond helped to found.

Son joins campaign

Besides stances, Sunday's rally was full of symbolism. Bond, who is divorced, promoted the presence of his 17-year-old son, Sam, as evidence of his youthful following.

Wearing a campaign sweat shirt, Sam Bond was greeted with cheers as he signed up as the 1,998th volunteer in the Bond Brigade - a group with members in each of Missouri's 114 counties.

Also symbolically significant was an enthusiastic endorsement from Rep. Jim Talent, R-Chesterfield, who is close to state GOP conservatives - some of whom consider Bond too moderate.

Bond, 58, who served two terms as Missouri governor, is to be accompanied today by the state's leading conservative Republican and another former governor, Sen. John Ashcroft. Ashcroft, a presidential hopeful who flew in from Iowa, said Saturday that his support of Bond - the state's senior senator - is firm.

"My sole priority in 1998 is to remain the junior senator from Missouri," Ashcroft added.

Friday, January 2, 1998

Section: EDITORIAL

MAYOR POSTS SIGNS OF HOPE

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Mayor Clarence Harmon, in his trademark fedora, posted bright orange signs on a run-down, vacant city building. The signs identified the building's owner, address and phone number and urged neighbors to contact the owner if they're concerned about the building.

The mayor meant to teach a valuable lesson in accountability. He wanted to invite us to look beyond our own doorstep and to make a difference in our communities by acting like a community.

The lesson may have backfired - big time. The ownership of the building on which Mr. Harmon posted his bill is at best murky. The owner may not be a doctor in Ladue as Mr. Harmon believed. The slum property owner just may be the city itself - a city with too many decayed buildings and a Dickensian record-keeping system, a city with some explaining to do. How it can mount such a high-profile campaign when its records are in such disarray?

But no matter who owns them, empty, dilapidated buildings are black holes in many city neighborhoods. They suck in the drug dealers and users, the petty and not-so-petty criminals, the vandals with their cans of spray paint and bottles of booze and, sooner or later, the rest of the block. They are both a symbol and sign of hopelessness and decay so strong that hope can barely escape their gravitational pull.

The city has an obligation to deal with these buildings to prevent them and their surroundings from sinking into decay. That means vigilant code enforcement, vigorous conservation area programs, strong neighborhood stabilization programs and - when all else fails - the demolition of properties too far gone to save.

The message in the mayor's gesture is this: This crumbling hulk belongs to somebody who has let it go to pot, somebody who would scream bloody murder if this wreck were next to his home. Mr. Harmon, the city's chief elected official, would protest an eyesore next to his home, regardless of who owned it.

Property owners must know that owning property is more than a financial investment for personal gain; it carries with it a responsibility to those who live around the investment, and who share a stake in the health of the neighborhood.

The city must be meticulous and scrupulous in verifying the accuracy of any information posted, which is a matter of public record. By the same token, former property owners have a responsibility to let the city know if they no longer own property, lest they be unfairly targeted by this campaign. Absolutely, neighbors should express their concerns about a derelict building to the derelict property owner. But by listing home phone numbers, property owners have a legitimate fear of harassing calls at 3 a.m.

Done well, the mayor's signs will do more than just point the finger of blame: They will encourage more responsible stewardship and help rebuild our neighborhoods. And if property owners have a problem with this, they know where to call: Mayor Clarence Harmon at 622-3201.

Publication Details

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Sunday, January 4, 1998

Section: METRO

SEN. CLAY STANDS FIRM ON VOIDING CITY BOARD TELLS PARENTS THAT SCHOOLS PANEL SHOULD BE DISBANDED

By Victor Volland
Of The Post-Dispatch

State Sen. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, is sticking to his guns on abolishing the present St. Louis School Board.

"I'm certainly not interested in keeping the 12-member board," Clay said at an informal meeting Saturday with members of the Parents Assembly, a support group for city schools.

"That's the system that's gotten us in the present shape, allowing the quality of education to go down. Why should we try to salvage it?" Clay told the assembly's government affairs committee meeting at a member's home in the Central West End.

"Let's not forget the origins of this case: Liddell vs. the State of Missouri et al.," Clay added, referring to the 1972 landmark suit that resulted in court-ordered desegregation in city and St. Louis County schools.

"That et al. included the St. Louis School District and its board, which were mandated to equalize education for all their children and still have not done so. I'm speaking for those plaintiffs and the 41,000 students who deserve a quality education."

Susan Turk, who chaired the meeting, and other parents agreed that decisive action was needed to stem ongoing problems like declining test scores, high dropout rates and rapid teacher turnover.

"But we want to determine our own destiny," Turk said. "We don't want Jefferson City doing it for us." The assembly strongly opposes overturning the present board-superintendent system.

Legislation to be introduced in the upcoming session would replace the current school board of 12 members, elected districtwide, with one of seven members elected from subdistricts. The bill also would replace the superintendent with a chief executive appointed by the mayor.

The assembly, composed of representatives from each of the city's 108 schools, was created a year ago by incoming Superintendent Cleveland Hammonds Jr. to advise him on reforms he planned. But Turk insisted the assembly was no rubber stamp.

"We agree with the superintendent on some things and disagree on others," she said.

Publication Details

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Sunday, January 4, 1998

Section: NEWS ANALYSIS

MAYOR IS RIGHT: EMPTY EYESORES HURT OUR CITY

By Gregory Freeman

Property rites

Have you ever lived next door to a dilapidated house or building?

I have. Twice in my life I've endured having an abandoned building next door. It wasn't a lot of fun. In addition to being general eyesores, dilapidated buildings are magnets for dumping, for graffiti and for trouble in general. Bad guys find them to be convenient places for things like drug buys or gun sales. Empty liquor bottles are often left on and around the property.

No matter how nice the neighborhoods, the dilapidated, abandoned buildings always brought them down.

So I was one of those who cheered last week when Mayor Clarence Harmon kicked off an effort to crack down on derelict buildings, especially those that have frustrated city officials who've had trouble getting owners to improve their property. City officials posted orange 17-inch-by-22-inch signs on the properties that listed the owners' names, addresses and phone numbers. The goal? Improving the quality of life for city residents.

To some extent, the mayor's efforts backfired. Some of the owners' names were wrong, and at least one of the properties targeted was owned by the city. As mayoral spokesman John Boul said, the city "stubbed our toes" on that one.

That doesn't mean the problem is any less important. There are 5,582 privately owned vacant properties throughout the city. In addition, the city owns 2,615 vacant properties. The city seized many of those units after owners failed to pay taxes.

In many cases, the owners of dilapidated buildings live nowhere near them and have no idea how their property hurts those who live nearby.

It would be wrong to assume that all vacant property owners are bad folks. People own run-down property for various reasons. Some can't afford to make the necessary improvements. Some have inherited the property but have no real plans for it. Some argue that repairing their properties is fruitless; that they'll become run-down again in short order.

But some vacant property owners are speculators, who have bought property in hopes that it will be worth a good deal of money when the neighborhood rebounds. "It's fine if they want to make a buck," Boul said. "But they can't just let the buildings go to pot, waiting for that day to come."

Some owners of vacant property surely think they're being unfairly targeted by the mayor. They are concerned about having their names, addresses and telephone numbers listed on the orange posters. It's no fun to get calls from people asking you to fix up your property. But it's no picnic to live near such property, either.

Every owner of abandoned property won't be given the orange-poster treatment this year. The worst offenders are the ones who will first hear from the city. "These will be owners who have been contacted repeatedly by the city but who haven't responded," Boul said. "It should be no surprise to them when their buildings are targeted."

Boul said Harmon is hoping that the process creates a ripple effect. "We suspect that this process will help some property owners learn how to pick up a telephone," Boul said. "Rather than waiting for us to target their buildings, we're hoping the owners will contact us so we can see what can be done about their properties."

Meanwhile, despite the brouhaha over the improperly targeted buildings, the mayor's office has received lots of calls from aldermen and city dwellers offering the names of additional vacant buildings.

"We haven't gotten one call from anyone saying 'Why are you picking on poor innocent property owners who are just trying to make a buck?'"

As someone who's lived in a couple of neighborhoods with derelict buildings, I'm not at all surprised.

Saturday, January 17, 1998

Section: NEWS

ST. LOUIS COMPTROLLER SAYS TAX INCREASE PACKAGE IS TOO 'BLOATED'

By Mark Schlinkmann
Regional Political Correspondent

* Darlene Green had supported the bond plan, but she backed off after the Board of Alderman delayed a vote Friday.

St. Louis Comptroller Darlene Green said Friday that she wants to reduce a proposed \$113 million bond issue package and property tax increase for public safety improvements.

Green, in a prepared statement, called the measure "bloated and simply too big." She said it would be especially burdensome on senior citizens with fixed incomes and families with children.

Green had previously joined Mayor Clarence Harmon and Aldermanic President Francis Slay in supporting the package for the April 7 election ballot.

She backed off several hours after Slay delayed a vote on the bond plan at Friday's weekly meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

Slay said he had lined up at least the 15 votes normally needed to win passage on the 29-member board. However, he said he had been unable to secure the two-thirds backing needed to accelerate the bill by the Jan. 27 deadline to qualify for the ballot.

Slay said he expected to be able to achieve that by the board's meeting next Friday.

The money would be used to construct and renovate firehouses, buy fire and police equipment, overhaul police headquarters and court buildings, raze abandoned buildings and install a new emergency siren system.

The tax to pay off the bonds would total 39 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation. City officials have estimated that the net effect would be an extra tax of \$48 a year for a family with a home valued at \$65,000 and vehicles worth \$15,000.

Green said her office's analysts will seek to propose ways to reduce the tax to 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

That's the level voters approved with an earlier public safety bond issue in 1986.

In other action Friday, aldermen:

- Passed, 19-7, a bill setting up a new, \$200,000 citywide fund to help St. Louis neighborhoods get alleys repaved or repaired.
- Property owners along a city block could apply for money from the fund to pay a third of the cost of repairing or replacing their alley.
- Another third would come from a general capital-improvements fund allotted now to each ward. The final third would come from the property owners, although participation would be voluntary.
- Voted 22-4 to give preliminary approval to allocating \$1 million to help avoid layoffs at St. Louis Development Corp. - the city's main economic development agency.

The bill would shift \$300,000 from a convention and tourism fund, \$235,000 from a Port Authority wharf fund and \$500,000 from a fund for port projects.

Monday, January 19, 1998

Section: NORTH POST

'BAD' STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN CLOUT, FOCUS, EFFECTIVENESS 'AIR DEFENSE' GROUP VOWS TO HANG TOUGH SAVING BRIDGETON IS STILL THE GOAL

By Margaret Gillerman
Of The Post-Dispatch

In its heyday, the Bridgeton Air Defense inspired songs, frazzled the nerves of St. Louis mayors and powerful members of Congress and was partly responsible, some say, for delaying the \$2.6 billion expansion of Lambert Field.

Hoping to save the Bridgeton neighborhoods where they lived, BAD's crackerjack public relations practitioners spewed out slogans over a telephone hotline and in polished press releases.

They were a special pain to former St. Louis Mayor Vincent Schoemehl Jr. They burned him in effigy, dogged him at campaign stops and sent "political truth squads" to follow him around. They called him the Mullah of Market Street.

In one stunt, the group rented an airplane to fly a banner over a University of Missouri football game. Even a country songwriter, Nick Nixon, composed an anthem for the group, called "Don't Run the Runway Over Me."

But clever antics have taken a back seat during Bridgeton's bumpiest ride yet. With the federal government nearing a decision on the expansion plan, BAD's mission is becoming increasingly urgent.

The airport's expansion last month cleared its next-to-the-last governmental hurdle. The Federal Aviation Administration is expected to announce its final decision in March.

Some folks in Bridgeton are resigned to moving away. But other residents, Bridgeton's municipal government and the Bridgeton Air Defense plan to keep up the fight.

"The fight is just beginning," said Mayor Conrad Bowers, who works with the group. He said the real battle would begin in court on the day the federal government approved the plan. Bridgeton intends to file suit that day and seek an injunction to block the airport from buying houses. Bridgeton will fight the expansion on zoning and environmental issues and has enlisted the help of a high-profile law firm based in Washington.

Airport officials have said that they will begin buying houses in earnest as soon as the FAA record of decision on the W-1W expansion plan is released. They also contend that no group of residents has been able to block an expansion once the FAA record of decision has been published. They say expansion is necessary for the good of the region, and they pledge to deal fairly with Bridgeton in buying houses, a claim that irks many in Bridgeton.

Bowers responds, "We will fight to the bitter end, but we won't be bitter." He complains that the airport is trying to "shoehorn" in a runway where it doesn't fit.

A newer wrinkle in the fight is that people in other cities are joining the opposition. A St. Charles group, for example, paid for full-page ads in newspapers last week to voice dismay on the airport's expansion, as well as current noise levels.

"W-1W will destroy Bridgeton, but now, many others realize W-1W will destroy the quality of life in a much larger area," Bowers said.

U.S. Rep. Jim Talent, a Republican from Chesterfield, also has spoken out against W-1W.

Rowan Raftery, a long-time member of the Bridgeton Air Defense, says that the group has successfully staved off the expansion for a decade and will persevere. The group says that many residents will fight the destruction of about 2,000 houses and 75 businesses as well as churches and schools. The expansion would wipe out almost one-third of Bridgeton and take down the major institutions that have shaped the municipality for many generations, including a popular Catholic school and many small neighborhood businesses, Raftery said.

Raftery says the group wants to "educate the community outside Bridgeton and get out the true story of what's going to happen to Bridgeton."

The airport expansion, he says, "would completely destroy Bridgeton. We'll be like all those communities on the east side of the airport that are completely destroyed. Those were once bustling communities."

Some residents feel beaten down and are ready to be bought out; some subdivisions already are dotted with empty lots. But others in the area say they intend to stay - and win.

"We're going to be here," said Thomas Fehrenbacher, an officer of BAD and a member of the City Council. "There aren't going to be any bulldozers. We're going to do whatever it takes to stop this thing. We are under siege, and we're going to save our city."

Some of the wind left the Air Defense's sails when two of its main organizers, Jack Klobnak and Jack Taylor, left town. Klobnak moved to Wildwood after selling his house for the expansion. Taylor took a new job and moved, with his family, to Las Vegas. For years, they helped BAD engage in its own brand of political guerrilla warfare.

It all began in the fall of 1989, shortly after St. Louis, which owns the airport, said that it was looking at four options for new runways headed into Bridgeton. The group hired a lawyer, began raising money, organized a large grass-roots system of opposition and worked closely with municipal officials.

An early rallying cry played on the Regional Commerce & Growth Association's long-time theme, "Sold on St. Louis." BAD's version was: "We've Been Sold Out by St. Louis."

The group set up a hotline, which sounded like this the first day: "You have not reached a wrong number. You have reached a B-A-D number." Over the years, the hotline featured everything from satiric Christmas carols to criticisms of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The hotline message also counted the days that Bridgeton had been "held hostage" by the airport authority.

This week, callers to the hotline can hear Bowers reading an ad from a group in St. Charles County opposed to airport expansion. The hotline number is 298-0777.

At one group picnic at the Carrollton Club, then Lt. Gov. and gubernatorial candidate Mel Carnahan showed up. The late Robert Hyland, civic leader and KMOX radio general manager, often worked with the group. Former U.S. Rep. Jack Buechner also raised questions about expansion.

As recently as Aug. 25, BAD held a picnic that drew about 100 people plus Rep. Talent, the congressman now fighting W-I-W. The picnic grounds were decorated with caricatures of Airport Director Leonard Griggs Jr.

Even now, some Bridgeton residents and group members are taking their case to a new form of media: the Internet.

Resident Tracy Dedert offered this statement through e-mail: "It's a scary, scary thought that in the United States of America, the city of St. Louis, an authority that we in Bridgeton (and other small municipalities) have no control over . . . can come into our city and say, 'We are tearing down your homes, businesses, churches and schools.' "

Publication Details

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Thursday, January 22, 1998

Section: METRO

NRC CALLS CLINTON PLANT IN ILLINOIS ONE OF NATION'S WORST NUCLEAR SITES

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Wednesday that the Clinton nuclear power plant, owned by Illinois Power Co., is one of the worst nuclear facilities in the country. Illinois Power is the major supplier of electricity to the Metro East area, and the Clinton plant is supposed to provide 25 percent of the utility's power. The plant has been closed since September 1996.

The Clinton plant has been identified as having problems "that warrant increased NRC attention until the licensee demonstrates a period of improved performance," the agency said Wednesday.

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Friday, January 23, 1998

Section: BUSINESS

MALLINCKRODT IS SELLING ITS CHEMICAL UNIT DECISION WILL CUT ALL TIES TO ITS ORIGINAL BUSINESS FOCUS HEALTH CARE, PRODUCTS

By Judith Vandewater
Of The Post-Dispatch

Mallinckrodt Inc. said Thursday that its industrial specialty chemical business is for sale. And St. Louisans may never think of the company in the old way again.

"People in St. Louis still think of Mallinckrodt as a chemical company," said Peter Faur, a Mallinckrodt spokesman. "This is the clearest indication yet that we are a health care and medical products company." Respiratory care products produce about \$1.1 billion of Mallinckrodt's annual sales, medical imaging products produce sales of about \$800 million and specialty pharmaceuticals \$400 million.

Mallinckrodt significantly expanded its health care business in August by paying \$1.9 billion to buy Nellcor Puritan Bennett. A year earlier, in August 1996, Mallinckrodt started to remake itself into a health products company when it sold its Tastemaker flavors joint venture and its animal health business.

The specialty chemical group now on the block makes catalysts, laboratory and microelectronic chemicals and paint additives at plants in Phillipsburg, N.J.; Paris, Ky.; Allentown and Erie, Pa.; and near Houston. The group has 1,400 employees worldwide, few of whom are based in St. Louis.

The specialty chemical division produced sales of \$335 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30. C. Ray Holman, chairman and chief executive of Mallinckrodt, said in an announcement that the business is viable and profitable.

Faur said the businesses could be split by product line and sold to several buyers. Mallinckrodt hopes to complete the transaction by June 30. Proceeds will be used to pay off debt. Faur said that Mallinckrodt's debt ratio rose to between 65 percent and 67 percent because of the Nellcor acquisition and that the company is attempting to reduce it to normal levels, between 35 percent and 50 percent.

Publication Details

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Friday, January 23, 1998

Section: METRO

2004 GROUP RELEASES ITS LIST OF TOP PRIORITIES

By Mark Schlinkmann
Regional Political Correspondent

Health coverage for the uninsured, a regional trail system and downtown revitalization are among 18 initial priorities recommended by leaders of St. Louis 2004.

The list was voted on at a closed meeting of about 60 committee leaders Tuesday but wasn't released until a news conference Thursday morning.

The list will next be taken up at 22 public forums scattered across the metropolitan area beginning Monday. Reaction at the forums will help determine 2004's initial action plan, to be announced March 10.

Former Sen. John C. Danforth, who is chairman of the privately funded civic-improvement group, said other ideas would be considered for future years.

"These are some things we could get working on in 1998 and would make St. Louis better," Danforth said.

Overall, the 18 initial priorities would cost at least \$584 million in private and public money.

Mark Hayes, a 2004 vice president, said the health plan would cover residents of the Missouri side of the metropolitan area who lack private insurance but don't qualify for Medicaid and Medicare.

The plan would be financed partly through a redirection of federal aid that already goes to area hospitals. Some people would have to pay a fee, with the amount depending on their income.

Missouri state officials have been working with hospital systems here to devise such a plan, which could cost \$452 million over five years.

The regional trail and greenway system would cost \$80 million over five years, much of that to pay for land acquisition.

The system would be overseen by new regional park districts - one in Missouri and one in Illinois. The districts would work together and probably be funded by tax or fee increases needing voter approval.

The trails would be for hiking, bicycling and other activities along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Pathways for similar activities would be created to link the rivers to existing parks across the area.

The chairman of 2004's parks task force - Post-Dispatch publisher Nicholas G. Penniman IV - said the system would not take over existing city and county parks. But the new districts could help raise money for capital improvements in the existing parks.

Approval of the Missouri and Illinois legislatures would be needed to allow the districts to be set up.

Then voters in St. Louis and the region's 11 counties would have to approve their area's inclusion and any tax or fee increase proposed to finance the district.

The group's plans for downtown revitalization would include development of market-rate housing and a loft-arts district. 2004 members would work with Mayor Clarence Harmon's Downtown Now initiative and other groups.

Children are the focus of several ideas. One, expected to be funded by the federal government, is aimed at reducing the youth murder rate by cracking down on gun trafficking and gang activity.

Another is designed eventually to ensure that every child in the area has a safe place to go after school, on weekends and during summer vacation. The project calls for working with churches, schools, recreation groups and private agencies.

Public forums

Monday:

6-8 p.m., Warren County R3 High School, 803 Pickney, Warrenton.

7-9 p.m., St John United Church of Christ, 55 West Church Street, Mascoutah.

Tuesday:

7-9 p.m., Jersey County Courthouse, 201 West Pearl Street, Jerseyville.

7-9 p.m., Florissant Civic Center theater, 1 Civic Center Drive, Florissant.

Wednesday:

7-9 p.m., Collinsville High School, 2201 South Morrison, Collinsville.

7-9 p.m., St. Peters City Hall, 1 St. Peters Center Boulevard, St. Peters.

Thursday:

7-9 p.m., Rickman Auditorium, Fox School District, 745 Jeffco Boulevard, Arnold.

7-9 p.m., Columbia High School, 100 Parkview Drive, Columbia, Ill.

Monday, Feb. 2:

6-8 p.m., Troy Buchanan High School, 1190 Old Cap-Au-Gris Road, Troy, Mo.

7-9 p.m., St. Charles County Courthouse, 300 North 2nd Street, St. Charles.

Tuesday, Feb. 3:

7-9 p.m., Marquette High School, 2351 Clarkson Road, Clarkson Valley.

7-9 p.m., Affton High School, 8309 Mackenzie Road, Affton.

Wednesday, Feb. 4:

7-9 p.m., Alton High School, 2200 College Avenue, Alton.

7-9 p.m., Hillsboro High School, 12 Hawk Drive, Hillsboro.

Thursday, Feb. 5:

6-8 p.m., Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville East St. Louis Center, 411 East Broadway, East St. Louis.

7-9 p.m., Tandy Recreation Center, 4206 Kennerly Avenue, St. Louis.

Saturday, Feb. 7:

1-3 p.m., Salvation Army Temple Corps, 2740 Arsenal Street, St. Louis (multi-lingual forum).

Monday, Feb. 9:

6-8 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis.

7-9 p.m., Germantown Elementary School, 401 Walnut, Germantown.

Wednesday, Feb. 11:

7-9 p.m., Nottingham Middle School, 4915 Donovan Avenue, St. Louis.

Thursday, Feb. 12:

6-8 p.m., St. Louis Symphony School, 560 Trinity Avenue, University City.

6-8 p.m., Washington High School, 600 Blue Jay Drive, Washington, Mo.

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Saturday, January 24, 1998

Section: BUSINESS

NUCLEAR AGENCY FINDS 8 POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS AT MALLINCKRODT PLANT

By Judith VandeWater
Of The Post-Dispatch

A team of Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors found eight possible violations of oversight and safety procedures during a special inspection of Mallinckrodt Medical Inc.'s nuclear medicine plant in Maryland Heights.

At a public meeting Friday, NRC staff members described the findings of six federal investigators who spent the week of Jan. 12 at the plant.

The team evaluated Mallinckrodt's radiation protection, transportation and distribution operations. The NRC will issue a report and hold an open meeting on Mallinckrodt's corrective actions.

The NRC said Mallinckrodt's safety procedures were flawed. Cynthia D. Pederson, an NRC official, told Mallinckrodt's representatives that inspectors identified areas where the company's monitoring and review was "not robust." The investigation could lead to a fine or a sanction.

Mallinckrodt paid a \$55,000 NRC fine last year for three safety violations. In May, an employee's thumb was overexposed to radiation. The thumb gave off 290 rems of radiation, well above the annual exposure limit of 50 rems for the hand of an occupational worker. The NRC said the exposure did not endanger the worker's health.

Mallinckrodt also was penalized for shipping two medical devices in July that gave off too much surface radiation. A similar shipping violation occurred in December 1996; the NRC considered the July incidents repeat violations.

On Dec. 18, a contract employee in a low-level radiation area at the Maryland Heights plant left the plant without using a hand-held radiation monitor. When he returned, he triggered an exposure alarm because he had radioactive materials on his shoes. The NRC said the worker was not in danger.

Roy W. Brown of Mallinckrodt said that after the most recent exposure, the plant installed portal monitors to check radiation levels of employees when they leave low-level radiation areas.

Publication Details

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Sunday, January 25, 1998

Section: METRO

AIRPORT EXPANSION WOULD UPROOT SIX SCHOOLS

RUNWAY PLAN MAY DISPLACE 1,700 NORTH COUNTY STUDENTS

TEACHERS, STAFF WAIT AND WONDER

By Carolyn Bower
Of The Post-Dispatch

With the installation of soundproof material in schools near Lambert Field, airplanes became easier to ignore in recent years, except on playgrounds.

But when a runway is coming through your back yard, the planes are harder to disregard. And uncertainty has settled like fog over 1,700 students at six schools in north St. Louis County.

Last month the Federal Aviation Administration recommended an airport expansion plan that would put a new runway 9,000 feet west of the current field. The FAA is expected to make a final decision about the \$2.23 billion plan in the next few months; some have said by March.

If the FAA gives final approval, six schools would be displaced: Carrollton Oaks and Carrollton elementary schools in the Pattonville School District, St. Mary's and St. Lawrence schools in Bridgeton and Berkeley High School and an alternative school, early education program and adult education program in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. The expansion also would displace many surrounding homes, churches and businesses. More than 5,680 people, or about a third of the population of Bridgeton, would have to move.

But no one seems to be able to say when that would happen. And the uncertainty concerns educators.

"This is very difficult for children," said Peggy Grigg, principal at Carrollton Elementary School in Bridgeton, west of the airport.

Grigg was a principal in Valley Park when that area flooded more than four years ago. She witnessed the unsettling impact on families and children. She expects airport expansion to have a similar effect.

"Children need a great deal of structure in their lives," Grigg said. "They need to count on people being there, people taking care of them. Schools are a part of the structure of their lives."

Pattonville officials have met with some members of the community to discuss what to do if the airport expansion goes through. A meeting with parents on the issue is scheduled for April 30. Complicating the planning is uncertainty about whether the desegregation program eventually will be scaled back.

Hugh Kinney, superintendent of the district, said: "We have an opportunity with these challenges to make good things happen for the district. My hope is that it will happen in a timely manner. The hardest part is not knowing."

The proposed airport expansion plan would put a runway in the front yard of Carrollton Oaks Elementary School and would affect the homes of about a fourth of the students at Carrollton Oaks as well as a number of the staff members. The school is behind Bridgeton City Hall, west of the airport. Like Carrollton, the school has a new gym and updated computers, including several in each classroom.

Jim Schwab, principal at the school, said: "Our district has done a lot to make the schools the best they can be. They are quiet and clean. It is a shame to see such a wonderful school go."

At the dinner table and in school classrooms, students have begun to talk about what airport expansion would do to their school.

Marty Hornberger said her first-graders say things such as, "My mom says we have to move somewhere because the airport may take our house, and we may not be able to go to this school."

Matt DeWitt, 10, a fifth-grader, said: "I don't want to move. I've lived in this community for six years. I go to St. Lawrence Martyr Church. I live close to my school. I play in the common ground. I swim in a neighborhood pool. Expansion of the airport might make travel easier for people like my grandma, but I don't really like it."

Matt's family is remodeling their house, and he jokes that his parents are making it nice for the airport to tear down.

Schwab said parents and teachers want a decision made on airport expansion so they can get on with their lives. Teachers want to know about their jobs.

"It's the human element I'm interested in," Schwab said. "Physical plants can be bought and built again."

"Although we go on and do the best job we can educating students, a dark cloud hangs over our heads. We would like to know what's going to happen and when it will happen. Then we can start making plans."

Already some people have moved from the neighborhood near the school. Others have had their homes bought out and are renting them until it's time to move.

The same thing has begun to happen among some families whose students attend St. Mary's School, east of Carrollton Oaks behind the Henry VIII Hotel.

A couple years ago the school had 200 students. Now enrollment has dropped to 65 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Not all left because of the airport, but expansion is one concern for people who live in the area, said Bob Stieferman, the principal. The school, which is more than 100 years old, has had to let several teachers go.

"`Will we be open next year?' is always the question parents ask," Stieferman said. "We can't say definitely. All we can say is this talk about airport expansion has gone on for 10 years and we still plan to be open and proceed as usual."

But people want stability for their children. And St. Mary's lies right in the path of the proposed runway. So does St. Mary's Catholic Church, a rectory and a former convent where some Franciscan sisters live.

Stieferman said younger students are unable to understand what could happen. Older students think because the discussion has gone on so long that it won't happen.

West of St. Mary's and Carrollton Oaks is St. Lawrence The Martyr School, with 224 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Enrollment increased this year by about 20, said principal Mary Beth Chik. Although the school is named in the federal environmental impact study of the airport expansion, the school has gotten no formal notification that it would be affected, Chik said.

"As far as we are concerned, we are open and going to make this a growing, viable school," she said.

Officials in the Ferguson-Florissant School District have expected that airport expansion would affect Berkeley High School and nearby school buildings. The district's Caroline Student Support Center serves 135 students enrolled in an alternative high school, 15 middle school students, six children in elementary grades, 80 early childhood education pupils and 60 people in adult basic education classes. The START Disabled Adults program, which is not affiliated with the school district, has operated for 15 years out of a former school building near Berkeley High School. That program offers education, job and computer training to about 20 adults and has about 20 staff members.

Ferguson-Florissant committees have begun to study the possibility of a new high school and needs in other buildings in the district.

Superintendent Stan Scheer of the district said, "A buyout could be a benefit if the numbers are right in what is provided to us to pay for the facilities. "The hardest thing about all this is being put in a position where we don't know for sure what will happen."

Scheer said it takes about three to three and a half years to plan and build a new school. "If a final decision is made by March, we could live with that in terms of our planning," he said.

Berkeley High School

Address: 8710 Walter Ave.

District: Ferguson-Florissant

Enrollment: 375

Staff: 65

Age of building: Over 40 years

Caroline Support Center

Address: 6038 Caroline Ave.

District: Ferguson-Florissant

Enrollment: 296

Staff: 31

Age of building: About 50 years

St. Mary's School

Address: 4601 Long Road

District: Catholic school

Enrollment: 65

Staff: 15

Age of building: Over 100 years

Carrollton Oaks School

Address: 4385 Holmford Dr.

District: Pattonville

Enrollment: 360

Staff: 40

Age of building: About 30 years

Carrollton School

Address: 3936 Celburne Lane

District: Pattonville

Enrollment: 377

Staff: 45

Age of building: About 30 years

St. Lawrence School

Address: 4329 DuPage

District: Catholic school

Enrollment: 224

Staff: 20

Age of building: About 30 years

Sunday, January 25, 1998

Section: METRO

HARMON CALLS FOR A HEALTHY URBAN CORE AREA LEADERS DISCUSS GROWTH

By Tommy Robertson
Of The Post-Dispatch

It wasn't exactly a regional summit on urban sprawl in far west St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

But participants at a conference Saturday at St. Charles County Community College thought that it would help set the framework for an escalating debate.

St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon gave the "city perspective" on the move of residents, jobs and tax revenues from the urban core to outlying areas.

He said "sustaining current growth patterns will have detrimental effects on our region."

"We must examine ways to preserve diverse living environments we currently offer while promoting the health of the entire region," he said.

"Our entire region can only be prosperous if the core is healthy."

St. Peters Mayor Tom Brown said, however, that leaders in St. Charles County have some big concerns of their own.

Among them is the potential impact on their area of noise from the westward expansion of Lambert Field, which is owned by the city of St. Louis.

And he said they're worried about opposition to the Page Avenue extension over the Missouri River into their county.

As for urban sprawl, Brown said that's really an issue of "urban choice."

"We've built roads, and we've built sewer lines, and we didn't build those before the people came," he said.

"They came out here because of a very stable economy, affordable homes, low crime rate and good schools."

Larry Mooney, executive assistant to St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall, said regional leaders had to get past parochialism.

Mayor John Marx of Town and Country said the issues were too complex to be solved just by local governments.

Federal and state officials also need to be involved, he said.

"When you get that synergy among the leaders that do have the broader constituencies, where they don't have to think parochially and they can apply the larger bucket of money that the state has or the federal government has - that's how you solve these problems."

Saturday's meeting was at the request of St. Charles Mayor Bob Moeller.

Among other participants were the mayors of Bridgeton, Crestwood, Olivette in St. Louis County and Wentzville in St. Charles County; two St. Charles County Council members; and a St. Charles City Council member.

Also taking part were some municipal staffers and other representatives.

Crestwood Mayor James Brasfield said such meetings establish a better atmosphere for dealing with problems.

"If you have disputes - and we're all going to have disputes - its easier to resolve those disputes if you've had prior dealings and worked together," he said.

Sunday, January 25, 1998

Section: NEWS ANALYSIS

TAILORING HIS LEGACY AFTER A CONGRESSIONAL CAREER SPANNING FOUR DECADES AND SIX PRESIDENTS, BILL CLAY PREPARES TO PASS ON HIS POWER TO A NEW GENERATION

By Tim Poor
Post-Dispatch Washington Correspondent

Today we begin a series about St. Louisans whose lives have helped shape our city and our times. Some of our subjects are famous; others vaguely familiar; a few known only to their family and friends. They're rich, poor and middle class; of different colors and varying sensibilities. They've known their ups and downs. Their common ground is St. Louis and a willingness to share their stories with you. You'll find one of these profiles each month through September in the Post-Dispatch.

Bill Clay is behind the wheel of his black Lincoln, heading north on Interstate 95. Alongside is Carol, his wife of 40 years. They are returning from a brief vacation in Hilton Head, S.C., one of their favorite getaways. It is a beautiful April day.

Clay is not a smooth driver. From time to time his foot jabs the accelerator, making for a jerky ride that one of his young grandsons calls "bunny-hopping." The nervous, rabbit-like energy still fills him in this, his 65th year. In a couple of weeks, he'll be 66, and soon it will be time to retire. He talks about retirement often now, says he's looking forward to it. A few months ago, he told Carol this would be the year. She is skeptical.

The Clays are driving back to their home in Silver Spring, Md., just north of Washington. The area has been their home for nearly three decades, ever since voters in St. Louis elected Clay to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first of 15 terms. William Lacy Clay, Congressman. It still sounds sweet.

He raised some hell in Washington, all right. Helped found the black caucus. Demanded - and got - a meeting with Nixon. Loyal to labor, women's groups. Liberal to the core, not the goddamned phony, socially-liberal-but-economically-conservative pretenders of the 80s and 90s, but liberal like it used to be, when you didn't have to be ashamed. In your face, Jack, and you better not forget it, hahaa. Always remembering his people, the Negroes, the black people, the African-Americans who sent him to Washington - and who kept him there.

Staying on top of Democratic politics in St. Louis and Missouri, where he built and exercised a power unrivaled in recent times. "Bill Clay is the most powerful single individual politician in Missouri," says Vince Schoemehl, the former mayor of St. Louis.

Staying in control. And having plenty of fun along the way.

There's not much talk of politics as the Carolina countryside rolls by. Carol and Bill - she calls him "Billy" - talk about their family, their friends. They switch seats every hundred miles, and soon it will be time for Clay to give up the wheel.

Clay's hair is graying a bit and thinning now. He wears wire-rim glasses that frame his intense, brown eyes, eyes like a boxer dog's. There's a touch of gray in his bushy mustache, too, framing the broad, flashing smile. His smooth, light chocolate-brown face has filled out into a comfortable roundness, and though he's suffered the fleshiness of age, he's still trim.

Growing Up

He was a clean-shaven, skinny kid when Carol met him. That was in 1951, when his family moved across the street on Minerva Avenue in St. Louis. She was 15 then, impressed by the attractive young man with bounding energy who held down two jobs while working his way through college.

"I knew he wanted something," she says.

One thing he wanted was to get out of the downtown tenements where he grew up, just a few blocks away from what is now the city's new domed stadium. He was the fourth of seven children, born April 30, 1931, in the living room of the four-room apartment on Eighth Street that had no plumbing, no hot water. In the summer, they'd take baths in the public bathhouses nearby. In the winter, they'd put up a sheet in the kitchen and heat water on the stove. Each tenement clustered 10 or 11 families. The neighborhood was an ethnic stew of Italians, Irish, Polish and Negroes, each living in buildings with their own.

His father, Irving, was a welder across the Mississippi River in Granite City. He didn't make a lot of money, but

enough to keep his wife and children clothed and fed during the Depression, better than a lot of families. He read the papers every day - a quiet man, not a heavy disciplinarian. But when he spoke, they listened.

"You've got to stick together. Remember, you're a family," he'd say. "Respect everybody, and expect them to respect you."

Irving didn't talk much politics. Like many black people of his generation in the 1940s, he was a Republican. Clay's mother, Luella, was a hard worker who kept the home clean and open to everyone. Always smiling, never an unkind word for anyone.

Their second apartment, at 11th and Carr streets, was across from a playground. Like most everything else in those days, it was segregated. White kids on one side, black kids on the other with a dividing line right down the middle. White tennis court was clay, black tennis court was gravel. White wading pool was new, black pool was an old pit filled with a fire hose.

Those pools sure were important to white folks. Sometimes, Clay and his friends would rush into the white pool, and the white kids would jump out, screaming. When the black kids saw the police call box flashing, they ran out and were back in their own pool by the time the cops arrived.

The Clays were a Catholic family. They attended St. Nicholas Church faithfully. Later, when he got a car, Irving kept a statue of St. Christopher on the dash. The older kids went to public schools. But the priest saw something in young Billy and encouraged his parents to send him to the church school - all Negro, of course. Cost a little bit of money, but they did it.

The nuns would let the kids out of school to watch the Cardinals play at Sportsman's Park if they brought back a scorecard to show they'd been to the game. Billy went every day, one of the knothole gang, out in the left field corner, next to the bleachers. One section for black kids, another for white.

On Sundays, sometimes he and his friends would get malteds after church and buy a 25-cent, all-day pass to ride the streetcar south, all the way, to the end of the line. It seemed like forever. Or he'd go to the movies at one of the dozen black theaters. Not the first-run movies, of course. They'd have to wait a couple of years for those.

The Clay household was always open to friends and neighbors. After the war, the Clays were the first family in the area to have a telephone, and later, a television. Neighbors would come over to get messages. If it was mealtime, Luella insisted they sit down and eat. Fish on Friday (Billy's favorite: salmon croquettes), chili on Saturday, chicken on Sunday.

Billy Clay was smart, aggressive, focused and organized, even then. When he was 12, he got a job at Good Luck Dry Goods, a clothing store downtown. It paid \$5 a week, pretty good money for a kid. He started a little wood business with his younger brother, Joe. He learned to sew and eventually did alterations for the shop. Kept his things neat. Saved his pennies in coffee cans.

And he was mischievous, the nuns' worst nightmare. Once he sewed a peanut butter sandwich into a schoolmate's pocket.

Clay did well in school, and was admitted to St. Louis University. He was one of only a few black students at the university in 1949. He majored in political science.

He continued to work and, along with his older brother, Irving, helped his parents buy their first home in 1951. Uptown! On 5146 Minerva Avenue, an integrated, working-class neighborhood of brick homes a couple of miles west of the downtown tenements.

The Johnsons lived across the street. One of their daughters, Carol Ann, caught young Bill's eye. He followed her to the playgrounds; to the ice cream shop. Their first date was the Ice Capades at The Arena. Sometimes, they'd go swimming - in Springfield, Ill., about two hours away, where there was a beach where blacks could swim.

Raising Hell

Although he was a student and entitled to a draft deferment, Clay got draft notices every year, every damn year he was in college. Had to go down in person to the draft board to show him his grades. Resented it. As soon as he graduated, the notice came from the Army: "You will report on July 20, 1953." A truce had been declared in the Korean War, but no one knew if it would last.

Clay reported for duty at Fort Leonard Wood in central Missouri. He was sent to clerical school, then assigned to assist the base chaplain. That ended when the chaplain found out he was tending bar at the officer's club in the evening.

On a trip home, he proposed to Carol.

"I want to marry you," he said. She agreed, and continued to live with her parents while he was at the base.

Clay was transferred to Fort McClellan, in Anniston, Ala., where he and Carol lived in public housing. John Miller, another black soldier there at the time, remembers Clay as "Mr. Personality. He'd go around, shaking

hands with everybody." A great storyteller.

Carol tried making the salmon croquettes her husband liked so much as a child, but they never tasted quite the same as his mother's. He called Luella, asked her about it. She wanted to know how Carol was making them. "Well, first, she opens the can of salmon," Clay began.

"Well, that's the problem right there," Luella said. Told him she always used canned mackerel - "Who can afford salmon?"

It was at Fort McClellan that Clay decided he would no longer tolerate the segregation he had lived with all of his short life.

In May 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that school segregation was unconstitutional. President Harry Truman had ordered the military desegregated, but in 1950s Alabama, the message had not come through. Black soldiers could get their hair cut only on Saturdays, when a black barber came on the base. And the swimming pool was reserved for whites only.

Clay wrote to Ebony magazine, detailing the situation. It was the first time Carol knew how strongly he felt. Then he led a group of black soldiers to the barber shop and sat. Then he and Carol took a group of kids from the housing complex and leaped into the pool. Just like in the wading pool in St. Louis, all the white people scrambled out.

Clay was transferred back to Fort Leonard Wood, where he finished his military career, then returned to St. Louis. His first child, Vickie, was born on Oct. 5, 1954, and soon after two others arrived: William Lacy Clay Jr. and Michelle.

He got a job with the government mapping agency, but soon quit to work for the bus company, which paid more. He wasn't much of a driver. Had trouble backing up. Got lost a few times. One day, he decided he'd had enough. He left the bus and passengers on Delmar Boulevard, walked home and told the bus company where they could find their bus.

Got a job selling insurance. He was a debit man, going door to door selling and collecting. He was pretty good at it, was promoted to manager. Got to know the area.

It was in the evenings when Clay found his true passion: Organizing black people to protest their exclusion from the American mainstream. He joined the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and formed a youth council.

Unlike his elders, however, Clay wasn't about to tolerate the slow gains that black people were making. He and his followers picketed at restaurants that refused to serve blacks. They held sit-ins. They pressured businesses to hire blacks. They got some jobs for Negroes, and a lot of publicity. And they annoyed the black leadership.

A sympathetic Jewish women's group wanted to help the youth council raise money. Offered to bring a folksinger in and split the proceeds. Fine, Clay said. The folksinger turned out to be Pete Seeger, whose socialist leanings moved the NAACP to revoke the youth group's charter. Said it'd been infiltrated by communists.

So Clay took his group to another, newer, younger organization - the Congress of Racial Equality, CORE. He continued his militant activities and his running feud with the established black leadership in St. Louis.

He was a fiery speaker.

"There's nothing wrong with St. Louis that couldn't be cured by drowning all black politicians over 30!" he said during one speech. Oh, he was fiery, all right.

He was talking about Fred Weathers and Jordan Chambers, the two powerful black committeemen who controlled what government jobs blacks got. Important jobs, good jobs. But Clay was thinking bigger. To hell with the gains you've made, we're playing for big gains now ... total acceptance in this society! We're talking about jobs across the board! And we're going to disrupt this town!

Alderman Clay

By the late 1950s, African-Americans had migrated in a narrow corridor west of downtown. They now made up a majority of voters in some previously all-white wards, including Clay's. He decided to run for alderman, one of four black candidates opposing the white incumbent in 1959.

His campaign manager was Norman Seay, a soft-spoken young teacher who had organized CORE in St. Louis. Seay smiles when he recalls that first campaign.

"He was a vigorous and exciting campaigner - a tough campaigner. He would attack an issue or an individual re-lent-less-ly. He would tear into you and do it with a high degree of finesse. He was able to excite the audience. He could easily get them on his side and get them to do basically what he wanted."

Together, they created the underpinnings of an organization, one that would serve Clay for the rest of his career. They set up committees, areas of responsibility, put people in charge, gave 'em titles. Broke down the ward

block by block. On each block, they found a person who was the center of influence. The woman who fixes hair in her basement, maybe somebody who sits on his porch day and night and gives advice to people. They had meetings at their houses.

Carol had never seen him work so hard. She was excited about the campaign, but fretted about how a loss would affect her 27-year-old husband. She needn't have worried.

He won, won big - William Lacy Clay, alderman.

Once in office, he began to get requests for favors. Can you get my son a job? Clay scrounged around and found people who could do the favors. Found out who did what, who knew whom. The bread and butter of politics.

Clay did much of his schmoozing in a tavern he owned, the "Glow Worm" at Kingshighway and Vernon. There were fluorescent worms painted on the walls - Haha! Carol would tend to the Glow Worm during the day. After school, the kids would go to the bar and stay in a back room, where they were supposed to do their homework. Mom took them home when it got dark. They didn't have the tavern long, though. "A businessman, you are not," Carol told him.

He continued his noisy crusade for civil rights, helping to pass the city's first laws forbidding discrimination in public accommodations and jobs. And he kept up his battle to push businesses to hire more blacks. He got re-elected to the Board of Aldermen.

In 1963, Clay sent a survey to all the big companies in the area, asking them how many Negroes they employed. He wrote that he was asking on behalf of Mayor Raymond Tucker. That wasn't true, but the companies bought it and responded. The result was "Anatomy of an Economic Murder," a report by Clay that detailed the pitifully small number of blacks working for the city's biggest employers.

Clay and many others in CORF negotiated successfully with a number of the companies. They'd meet, tell the bosses why it was in their best interest to hire Negroes, appeal to their consciences - with the implicit threat of boycotts or picketing if they refused. Many companies agreed.

"MORE FIRMS TRY TO HIRE NEGROES FOR OTHER THAN MENIAL TASKS," blared a headline in the Post-Dispatch.

One business that refused the hiring demands was the Jefferson Bank and Trust Co., which had no black employees in white-collar jobs. That really irritated the activists, because the bank, at Jefferson and Washington avenues, was right in the middle of the black community.

The bank got a court order barring pickets from interfering with bank business. Clay and the others weren't going to let that stop them. They planned their action for Aug. 30, 1963, two days after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and thousands of followers were to march on Washington.

It was a typical August afternoon, that Friday when they went to the bank. Steamy. Hot. Hundreds of people stood outside the doors. Holding signs. "JOBS" read the placards. And it seemed there were almost as many police as demonstrators.

Things went pretty smoothly until workers across the street left for the day and went to the bank to cash their paychecks. Demonstrators tried to keep them out, then some followed them in. Some were arrested there. Clay, Seay and 17 others were picked up later, charged with violating the court order.

That winter, they were sentenced. Clay got one of the longest - 270 days. He and the others were in and out of jail and the city workhouse over the next few years, as his contempt-of-court citation was appealed.

The judge wanted him to apologize. He refused.

Carol brought the children to the jail. People were demonstrating outside. It was dark, and they couldn't see their dad. "Talk to your daddy!" Carol would tell the kids, and they did.

"Hi, baby!" they heard him call back.

Meanwhile, demonstrations at the bank continued with huge publicity, banner front-page headlines in both St. Louis newspapers. They also attracted a few pickets in opposition. One carried a sign: "18 NEGROES HIRED BY CITY BANKS - WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?"

Pearlie Evans, a young activist and graduate student at Washington University, was there. She remembers one gathering outside the bank when Lacy, age 7, lost his balance and fell as the crowd surged. He was lying on the parking lot, bawling his head off.

"You're not supposed to be hollering like that, boy!" she scolded him. Carol rushed over and picked him up. He stopped crying.

Later, Lacy visited his father at the workhouse, a new building that housed minor offenders. He remembers his father showing him around, introducing him to some inmates and the warden.

Clay had served 112 days by the time he was released for good.

The demonstrators at the Jefferson Bank were black and white. But much of the white business establishment hated what Clay was doing. For blacks, the struggle was about jobs and rights. To many white leaders, it smelled like little more than a shakedown. But after seven months of protests, some 1,000 companies in the area agreed to an equal employment program. And Clay's political reputation was secured.

Meanwhile, black St. Louisans were beginning a slow migration into previously all-white suburbs.

"NEGRO FAMILIES HAVE MOVED INTO 10 CITIES IN THE COUNTY" the newspaper announced.

As his career in local politics blossomed, Clay developed a theme that would be his trademark. It was also a useful phrase to remember for anyone he dealt with. It was a variation of a passage from a speech given in 1848 in the British House of Commons by Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston.

"We have no permanent friends and no permanent enemies," Clay would say. "Just permanent interests."

More than a few were beginning to suspect that chief among those interests was Bill Clay himself.

One of the first to find that out was Norman Seay, who had managed Clay's first campaign for alderman and spent time with him in jail. Clay had returned the favor by orchestrating Seay's election to be committeeman of the 26th Ward.

It wasn't long before Clay realized that the real power in city politics lay with the committeemen. It was the committeemen who controlled the patronage jobs and who voted to endorse citywide and statewide candidates. It was a job much better suited to Clay, who preferred to run things from behind the scenes.

So in August 1964, Clay ran against Seay - and won, ending Seay's political career and securing Clay's power base with a post he would hold for the next 20 years. It was a bitter campaign, but the bitterness didn't last for long. The strain evaporated, and the two are now close friends. Seay chuckles when he thinks about it.

"Politics was not my cup of tea," he says.

Clay was still giving his fiery speeches, but he wasn't talking about drowning black leaders over 30 anymore. He had grabbed some power for himself - and he was 32.

In the mid-1960s, Clay began to forge an alliance with labor unions that would be a cornerstone of his public career. The Pipefitters Union, under fire from the federal government, hired him to recruit black members. Clay saw the connection between civil rights and union organizing: "We are going to have to antagonize the business community," he would say.

The Clays moved to a three-story brick home on Clemens Place in the city's west end. The kids thought it was huge! In most ways, their lives were little different from those of other middle-class St. Louisans. Vickie, Michelle and Lacy played in the steel pool their father bought. Summer evenings, they'd have barbecues in the backyard, with Sam Cook, Sarah Vaughn, Charlie Parker or Frank Sinatra tunes playing. Sunday was car-washing day, when Clay would scrub his Rambler station wagon.

When the kids were small, they had dogs, German shepherds and a beagle named Happy, Kelly and Ginger. Later, no more pets. "Anything that doesn't have a Social Security number can't live in my house," Clay decreed.

Bill and Carol didn't go to church much any more, but they sent their kids. They went to parochial schools, too.

The Clay household was always full of people, usually gathered in the kitchen. The kids would listen as their dad talked about strategy, how to break through the color barrier. Often, a look would come over him. Intense. The kids knew what it meant: This is serious and you'd better listen. Usually the lesson would be preceded by a little bit of history.

They loved to travel. Once they took the kids out of school, piled them in their new Impala and drove to California, then Mexico. Saw Disneyland, the redwood forests, everything. It was a trip they would never forget. The next year, they went to see the Beatles at Busch Stadium. But they didn't go in - no one can remember why. Instead they stood outside in the rain, listening. Michelle wore her white go-go boots.

Clay took the kids along on campaigns. They felt the adrenaline, the excitement as they helped put up yard signs. They'd listen to his speeches and think: "He's getting that look again." Lacy seemed more interested in the politics and often went along to the night meetings.

Maybe he just wanted more time with his father, who often wasn't around to play catch. Once, Lacy told his mother he never wanted to go into politics. Why? she asked. "Because your dad's never home."

Congressman Clay

On March 5, 1968, KMOX radio reported that U.S. Rep. Frank M. Karsten, who had represented Missouri's First District for 22 years, would retire. Clay called the radio station to confirm the report, and immediately announced he was a candidate. Ready, and willing and on my way! He went back to his office and started calling people. Committeemen. Labor leaders.

He didn't call Carol. She found out elsewhere, and was none too happy.

Now that was a campaign! Gwen Giles, a longtime Clay friend, managed it. Pearlle Evans ran the phone bank. They called voters. Some said, "Is he black?" and then hung up when Pearlle said yes.

They organized all the wards. Carol and the kids helped, of course. Michelle was there every day, stuffing envelopes, making signs, loading cars. The Pipefitters provided much of the money.

On election night, the returns rolled in and Clay won. First black congressman from Missouri. Ever! "The name of the game is power," he said. He would have some more, now.

Clay was sworn in Jan. 2, 1969. His whole family made the trip to Washington - his mom and dad took the train - and stayed at the Sheraton Hotel at the crest of a hill on Connecticut Avenue.

That day was cold, bitter cold. The Clays rode to Capitol Hill to his office in the Longworth House office building. Everyone oohed and ahed. The kids thought the corridors went on forever.

Then, everyone went through the tunnel to the Capitol for the swearing-in. Vickie, 14, Lacy, 12, and Michelle, 10, stood on the House floor with their father. The girls wore dresses. Lacy wore a suit, shiny black shoes and white shirt with clip-on tie. And questions! They wanted to know about it all. Carol watched from the gallery.

It was a proud moment, exhilarating, a little bit frightening. They met Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, an icon for Clay and other aspiring black politicians. Speaker John McCormick swore them in. "Raise your right hand," he said. They all did, including the kids. When it was over, everyone clapped.

Up in the gallery, Carol thought: "We've come a long way."

There were two other new black members, Shirley Chisholm of New York and Louis Stokes of Ohio, making a total of nine, the most ever at one time. All sensed they were a part of history. They weren't just representing their districts, but black people all over America.

Clay reminded Stokes of his brother, Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes. Fiery. A consummate politician. Louis Stokes was a civil rights lawyer, not much of a firebrand. But the two felt an electricity between them that day and soon became best friends.

Early in his first term Clay and a group of other congressmen were invited to visit the ranch of Lyndon Johnson, who had decided not to run for re-election that year. They had a good time with Johnson. That night, as they were flying a military plane back to Washington, Clay remarked that when he arrived, he would be getting on a plane to return to St. Louis. The head of the delegation told the pilot to make an unscheduled landing at Scott Air Force Base, across the river from St. Louis near Belleville. As Clay got off the plane around midnight, he was greeted by an officer and a limousine, which took him to his home on Clemens Place.

"That's when I knew this was an important job," he says.

Clay rented a small, \$250-a-month apartment near Capitol Hill, but soon told Carol to look for a house. She found one, a two-story home in suburban Silver Spring, Md., just outside Washington. Moving from St. Louis was tough, especially for the children. They cried as they watched the van load up the furniture from their home on Clemens Place.

When the family got to Washington, Bill and Carol drove the kids to their new home. They began driving through parts of Washington that had been burned out in the riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. They drove out, and out. As they turned onto their new street, Lacy looked at his new neighbors and suddenly flashed: This is a white neighborhood! Their house was modest but impressive, a step up for sure from Clemens Place. It would be a stretch, but they could afford the \$389 monthly mortgage.

As they began their rookie year in Congress, Clay, Stokes and Chisholm realized that the black members could increase their clout if they acted together. Later, they went to Adam Clayton Powell and asked him to convene them as a group. But Powell, under a cloud involving his finances, had been stripped of his committee chairmanship and wasn't interested.

Rep. Charles Diggs of Michigan, had convened a group of black House members, the Democratic Select Committee. But in 1970, Clay insisted on a different name. We're going to be talking about the business of black people, he said. We've got to end this foolishness. And the Congressional Black Caucus was born.

Clay would never hold office in the caucus. He preferred to pull the strings behind the scenes. He wasn't too good at making nice; at compromise. He has a quick temper - and a long memory. "Tactful I am not," he would say.

They made a lot of noise early on. Press conferences. Railed against the new president, Richard Nixon, who met with them, finally, in 1971. Opposed the war in Vietnam.

And Clay still gave those fiery speeches. In one, he called Vice President Spiro Agnew "an intellectual sadist who experiences intellectual orgasms by attacking, humiliating and kicking the oppressed."

Congress and the Supreme Court had already abolished most of the legal barriers to equality, but there was

plenty left to do. Both he and Stokes got seats on the Education and Labor committee, Powell's committee. Jobs and schools. They could make a difference there.

He passed his first piece of legislation. It provided for the government to deduct city earnings taxes from the paychecks of federal workers.

Despite the high visibility Clay got early on, he was hampered - as all young members were - by the seniority system, which vested the most power in the committee chairman, many of whom were long-serving Southern Democrats.

Clay's real power remained in St. Louis, and he kept a strong hand in city politics. In 1972, he hired Pearlle Evans to run his district office. Some in the district - men, mostly - didn't want to have to go through this young woman to get to Clay. They'd learn.

Kingmaker

Clay formed an alliance with Sorkis Webbe, a South Side Democratic power, along with Leroy Tyus of the North Side. They brought in John Bass, a big, unassuming and mild-mannered man who had been the drum major in a well-known marching band and held several posts in the city schools. Told him he could be the city's first black mayor some day. They persuaded Mayor Al Cervantes to appoint Bass director of welfare.

Two years later, at Clay's urging, Bass ran for comptroller, the city's chief fiscal officer. Clay told him it would be a good trial for his mayoral bid. Clay masterminded the campaign, and Bass won when two white candidates split the vote. But when Bass came up for re-election in 1977, he lost to a candidate from the South Side.

Clay and Pearlle were furious. They believed the South Side wards had reneged on their pledges to support Bass. So Clay made a decision: He would run for Mayor as a write-in candidate with Bass a write-in for comptroller. They got their organization going, distributed ball point pens.

you'll have to move back to St. Louis."

While Clay and Bass carried eight of the city's 10 black wards, they didn't win. But the message got through to the city's Democratic party: Do n't take our votes for granted.

It would be the only election Clay ever lost.

Later, when Gwen Giles resigned her state senate seat, Clay asked Bass if he would be interested in taking it. Sure, Bass said, and went to Jefferson City, keeping an eye on the Legislature there for Clay, who wanted to make sure he wasn't redistricted out of a job.

Meanwhile, Clay continued to win re-election to Congress. He beat a string of opponents, few of them of particularly high political caliber. Each, however got the endorsement of the Globe-Democrat, the city's conservative morning newspaper whose editorials opposing Clay were as vitriolic as Clay himself.

When running for re-election, Clay continued to make the speeches that the Globe-Democrat and its publisher, G. Duncan Bauman, hated, but which his constituents loved.

Carol didn't like all the yelling. "Why are you screaming and getting so emotional?" she would say. "You can get the same point across in a softer tone. ... You don't have to scream and holler like that."

But that was Clay's style. He liked it. And, as Pearlle says, his fire had a practical benefit, too. "We had to find a way to get poor people to vote."

On one summer night in 1972, a large crowd gathered in the backyard of Fred Weathers, the aging black power with whom Clay had feuded but with whom he had since reconciled. Hundreds of people were there on the well-lit lawn, and hundreds more could hear the speakers from the sound system that blared into the neighborhood. Among the crowd was a young man who was just getting his start in ward politics, Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr.

Clay gave a rousing speech, talking about the civil rights struggle. The climax:

"If Duncan Bauman and the white business leaders in St. Louis can determine who represents black people in Congress, then there is a nigger in the woodpile!"

The place erupted. Schoemehl was impressed. And Clay won again.

But Clay's opponents weren't about to give up. Through much of the 1970s, Clay was under investigation. The Globe Democrat sent investigative reporters out to nail him. Nixon put him on his enemies' list, and Nixon's Justice Department sniffed around. The Wall Street Journal reported that the government had reimbursed Clay for travel expenses he hadn't incurred.

The probes yielded one conviction: Michael McPherson, Clay's top aide. McPherson pleaded guilty to having paychecks sent to an "employee" in California, a relative who returned the proceeds to McPherson. Clay wasn't implicated. He paid back the government \$1,869 in expenses he couldn't verify, collected another \$2,500 when

he found expenses he hadn't put in for. Others associated with Clay did go down, stung by federal prosecutors and federal juries. Webbe, the Pipefitters. Never Clay.

Now, he brags about how he's been cleared by attorneys general from three different administrations. But he resented the investigations, the implications that he was a crook.

Michelle looks at it like this: "He's never done anything to embarrass his family."

Clay's larger family was the African-American community, and he was theirs. When one opponent accused him of ignoring his largely white constituency in the suburbs, Clay didn't flinch. "I have no intentions or pretensions of representing all the people," he said.

When Clay returned to St. Louis, he usually stayed at Webbe's Mayfair Hotel downtown. There, aspiring politicians paid calls to ask for his support. One was Vince Schoemehl, the young man who had been so impressed by Clay's speech, now an alderman and running for mayor.

Clay endorsed Schoemehl who won in 1981, the first of three terms as mayor.

Another aspiring politician impressed by Clay's rhetoric was Freeman Bosley Jr., the 27-year-old namesake of another alderman. Bosley was a lawyer, and wanted to run for clerk of the circuit court, a position that controlled some 200 jobs. He went to Clay for an endorsement.

Young Bosley entered Clay's hotel suite with his father. He was nervous, but confident. Told him about the race, how he could win. Had a lot of young people ready to charge the gate. It was time to make a move.

Clay turned him down. He'd made a deal with the South Side to support their candidate for clerk in return for a pledge of support for his candidate for license collector. Clay offered him some ward support if he'd run for license collector instead.

Bosley thought: "He sees us doing what he did." He understood Clay's position. Like Fred Weathers and Jordan Chambers before him, Clay was trying to preserve the political relationships he'd developed.

But Bosley refused to accede to Clay and kept running. He won the Democratic primary, tantamount to victory in the overwhelmingly Democratic city. As he celebrated his victory at his headquarters that night, there was a stir in the crowd. Clay had come to congratulate him.

For Bosley, it was a great moment. Icing on the cake.

Although he had won, Bosley got few votes on the predominantly white south side of the city. He recalls visiting Red Villa, the colorful, cigar-chomping South Side veteran alderman. He asked Villa to take him around to events on the South Side, try to build some support. Villa said, oh no, don't come down here, these people see you're black, they'll never vote for you. Bosley was hurt, disappointed.

He went to see Clay and told him what happened. Clay said Villa was right. Don't go down there. Stay here with us.

"That's St. Louis," Bosley says.

A decade later, he would be elected the city's first black mayor, then defeated for re-election in another race in which he received few white votes.

When Bosley took charge of the clerk's office, he found quite a bit of incompetence among the patronage workers. A couple of the older workers didn't seem to be doing any work at all. Bosley wanted to fire them, but they were jobs that Clay, still a committeeman, had controlled. So he went to the Mayfair to tell Clay.

Clay looked at him. The look.

"You know what?" he began. "You young people are really something. Now you've gotten into this office and you look around and you want to make some changes, and so now all you want to do is fire two old people. Well, let me tell you something: these two people have been the backbone of our ward organization." He went on to detail their accomplishments, his voice rising, his indignation spilling out.

"But now you want to fire 'em. Well, you're the circuit clerk! If you want to fire 'em, you go ahead and fire 'em!" And then he told Bosley to get out.

Bosley left with a heavy heart. He didn't fire the workers, who retired of their own accord not long after Bosley imposed more stringent work requirements.

"I learned a lot from that," Bosley said. "To be a little more tolerant, deliberate, and respectful, too. That was a good lesson for me."

Lacy's Dad

Back in Silver Spring, Clay's children had grown. Vickie was married with a child of her own. Michelle was

finishing college. Lacy had graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in government and had just started law school.

Lacy is gregarious, not so quick to anger as his father. He loves to laugh. His high cheekbones and broad smile favor his mother, but he's got the eyes - mischievous, twinkling - of his father.

One Saturday morning in August of 1983, Lacy and his father sat at the kitchen table. They talked a lot of politics in those sessions. Lacy was doorkeeper at the House and knew most all the members. After a bit, as Lacy recalls, Clay said he had a problem. Nat Rivers, a state representative from north St. Louis and a Clay ally, had decided to retire. "I don't have anybody to run for that office," Clay said.

Lacy thought for a moment.

"Well, I can do that," he said.

Clay looked shocked. "You would run? You'd move back to St. Louis?"

"Sure," replied his son. Dad was energized. He called Gwen Giles, asked if she thought Lacy could win. You bet, she replied.

Clay ran his son's campaign, showed him the ropes. Helped him get over his fear of public speaking, helped with his platform. Lined up support from the committeemen, who would select Rivers' successor until an election could be held. "Will you be with my son?" he asked. No one refused. Told the mayor: "You will have a fund-raiser at your house for my son." The mayor did.

Lacy got the nomination, and later won the election. Another Clay career in politics was under way.

In St. Louis, Schoemehl was elected to a second term as mayor, with Clay's support. But in 1986, Schoemehl's allies, irate at Bosley's victory, lined up a slate to challenge incumbents allied with Clay, targeting even John Bass and Lacy Clay. They didn't challenge the man directly, though. They weren't stupid.

Clay flew back to St. Louis and convened a meeting. All the top black leaders were there. This was war, Clay said, and they better get to work. They did work, and they beat Schoemehl's candidates across the board. Beat 'em badly.

One day in 1991, Lacy got a call from his father, who told him: "Let's get ready, you're running for the Senate." Clay had offered Bass a \$100,000-a-year job as the chief of staff of one of Clay's subcommittees, and Bass accepted, leaving his Missouri senate seat vacant. Bill and Lacy lined up the committeemen as before, and young Clay moved another rung up the ladder. There wasn't much doubt about what father and son wanted the next rung to be.

The next year, Clay got his revenge on Schoemehl, who was running for governor. Some labor leaders and other Democrats threw their weight behind Schoemehl, in the primary, but they neglected to ask Clay. "They said, 'You'll take him,'" Clay recalls. "I said, 'We'll take him, and we'll shove him up your ass!' And that's what we did."

Clay backed Schoemehl's Democratic opponent Mel Carnahan, who crushed the St. Louis mayor, cutting short his political career.

Outsider Again

By 1993, Clay was enjoying his third decade in the House. Five presidents had come and gone, and a sixth was entering office. While he hadn't achieved the sweeping influence held by the chairmen of major committees or House leaders, he was a force to be reckoned with, especially on matters involving labor or civil service employees.

He fought relentlessly for repeal of the Hatch Act, the law that barred political activity by government employees. He won passage of a bill to bar companies from replacing striking workers, though the measure failed in the Senate. He led the fight for the Family and Medical Leave Act, the first bill signed by President Bill Clinton.

In 1994, it seemed, his time was about to come. William D. Ford of Michigan, the longtime Democratic chairman of the Education and Labor committee was retiring, and Clay was in line to succeed him as chairman. It was a powerful post, handling all legislation having to do with the billions of government dollars spent on schools as well as federal rules governing the workplace. And it was the position that had been held by one of Clay's heroes, Adam Clayton Powell.

Jobs and schools. He'd be in control.

He'd have to give up his chairmanship of the House Post Office Committee. He'd had his portrait painted. It would hang in the committee room when he left.

Clay was in St. Louis election night, Nov. 8, 1994, racking up another easy win. But as he watched the nationwide returns coming in, something was wrong. Many Democratic House candidates were losing. How

could this be happening?

Loss after loss piled up, so many that by the end of the evening, the Democrats had lost control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years. Clay watched, and saw the power - so close - slip away.

Pearlie Evans was getting madder and madder as the night went on. Clay told her to calm down, think things through.

"What does this mean?" Pearlie said.

"IT MEANS I AM NOT GOING TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE GODDAMNED COMMITTEE!" Clay barked.

They met glum supporters at his headquarters. Clay, calmer now, told 'em they'd done a good job. Tried to soothe 'em. Pearlie couldn't understand why Clay wasn't more visibly upset.

"That's politics, Pearlie, you win some and you lose some," he said. "We have to accept this... I don't like it any more than you, but we lost."

Clay called Carol in Washington. Explained what it meant. Everything was gone. He let loose with a few obscenities, then regained his composure. "I guess we didn't do our homework and they did," he said. "They worked harder."

Everything was gone. Not only did Clay lose the chair of the Education and Labor Committee, he lost the one committee he did chair - the Post Office committee, abolished by the Republicans. And they cut off funding for caucuses, including the Congressional Black Caucus.

It's been a frustrating three years for Clay and the Democrats since the Republicans took over. For Clay, more than many, it's tough not to be in control. So he's been playing again a role he knows well, the fiery opposition, railing about the Republican proposals, successfully fighting school vouchers, helping win the battle to increase the minimum wage. For more than many, it's a role he is accustomed to. He's in the minority - again.

That doesn't mean he's without influence. Far from it. Especially on matters involving organized labor, his support remains crucial.

That's why, on a recent morning, two men in dark suits were waiting in the reception area of Clay's office in the Rayburn office building, across the street from the Capitol.

Clay arrived around 9:30 and ushered them into his spacious office. As most first-time visitors do, they remark on the wall filled with tribal masks from Africa and elsewhere. The second thing they notice is the window behind Clay's desk, which frames a dramatic view of the Capitol across the street. Clay settles in behind his desk, the Capitol dome looming behind him.

One of the men is Fred Rooney, 71-year-old former congressman from Pennsylvania, now a lobbyist who furnishes access to his former colleagues. His hands shake slightly as they grasp the wooden arms of his leather chair. He introduces his client, a vice president of Amtrak, and says the federally subsidized rail service is "hanging on by the skin of our teeth."

The Amtrak executive explains that its appropriations bill will be coming up soon, and wants Clay's support. "We want to make sure this is on your radar screen." He says labor is opposing the bill, which explains his visit.

Clay says he'll look into it, but he's not much disposed to disagree with unions, which need all the support they can muster. "These Republicans, they want to kill organized labor," he says. After the meeting, Clay is off to a hearing the Education Committee is holding two floors below on a proposal for charter schools that Clay opposes.

At the hearing, Clay shares a chuckle with his fellow panelists, showing them a story in Roll Call, a Capitol Hill weekly newspaper. The story details his recent clashes with Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, a Democrat running for the Senate.

Clay had written to President Clinton, asking him not to attend a fund-raiser for Nixon because of Nixon's proposal to end the St. Louis school desegregation plan, and the letter was causing a political furor in the state. Eventually, Nixon would pull his proposal, and Clinton would attend the fund-raiser.

The hearing begins, but before long, a buzzer sounds, signaling a vote on the House floor. Clay walks briskly with his colleagues to a "members only" elevator in the corridor and takes it down to the subway. They squeeze into a little tram and ride over to the Capitol.

The conversation in Clay's car is a playful, clubby familiarity of men.

"Heyyyy, nice to see ya."

"Where'd you get that necktie?"

"Hey, Bill, you still giving your attorney general hell? That was beautiful!"

Clay beams.

They pop out of the tram and head en masse for the escalator, then take an elevator to the second floor. Clay has no idea what he will be voting on. Some members carry pagers so aides can brief them, but not Clay, who doesn't care to be in constant touch with his staff. "They think everything is important," he says.

Clay enters the chamber, finds out the vote is on a rule governing consideration of a transportation bill. He punches a button to vote and exits. Back to the elevator, escalator, tram, elevator and hearing room. Almost as soon as he returns, another buzzer sounds. There's another vote, and Clay returns.

It's a routine Clay has followed for 29 years. And it's getting old.

Lunch is in the members' dining room. Clay has a pork chop and asks for cornbread. He rejects an offer from a guest to pick up the tab, citing the recently approved gift ban, which he opposed. He recalled that during one lunch in the dining room, labor leaders gave him checks for \$9,000 for his campaign but then couldn't buy him lunch.

"That's how ridiculous it is," he says.

When he returns to his office, he's told a reporter had called, asking whether he would give up his cost-of-living increase, as some other members had done.

Clay guffaws. "Tell 'em I'm going to invest it in my grandchildren's future," he says.

From the time he began to work at the Good Luck Dry Goods as a teen-ager, Clay has saved money. He still keeps change in coffee cans. "He can tell you what a penny will be worth 10 years from now," Carol says.

He's accumulated a lot of those pennies over the years. His most recent financial disclosure statement showed that at the end of 1996, he held assets valued anywhere between \$200,000 and \$1.3 million. That doesn't include his home, for which he paid \$415,000. He reported a mortgage of \$100,000 to \$250,000.

When he does retire, Clay will collect an annual pension that will approach three-fourths of his current annual salary of \$136,000.

The Clays bought their current home in 1994, when they moved to a new house in the far reaches of Montgomery County, Md., on property that not long ago was farmland. A handsome white brick ranch, it sits on 1.6 acres that back up to a nature preserve. From the outside, it is deceptively modest. Inside, it goes on forever. Plenty of room for the kids and grandchildren to stay, with a TV in nearly every room, it seems. Tennis court, swimming pool, basketball court in the back. Very nice.

Downstairs is the party room. The Clays still love to entertain. Well stocked bar, good collection of wine. They have friends and family over often, and Clay regales them all with his stories - stories of the past. And jokes! He keeps a file of jokes, indexed. Keeps everybody laughing.

He's a movie buff, too. Has a closet full of movies on tape, each numbered with its own label that Clay has printed on his computer. There's a notebook with the movies listed in alphabetical order along with its number. Clay's now in the process of retaping them all. The new videotapes are better quality, he says. He likes westerns and crime movies the best. His favorite western: "Shane." Crime: "The Godfather."

There's a sewing room, with a machine Carol bought him years ago. He still does all the family's sewing, using the skills he learned as a teen-ager.

And the files! Drawer after drawer of newspaper clippings, speeches, photographs. Each meticulously labeled and filed, ranging from "St. Louis Public Officials," to "Racism in the White House." Much of the material is background for books Clay has written or plans to write. He's already published two, "To Kill Or Not To Kill," about the death penalty; and "Just Permanent Interests," about black Americans in Congress.

Elder Statesman

Despite his occasional forays into Missouri politics, Clay has largely tired of the local bickering. He doesn't return to St. Louis every weekend like he used to. He comes in for speeches, for events, for the inevitable awards that begin to mount as a politician prepares to leave the stage.

When he's not receiving visitors at the downtown hotels where he stays, he spends a day in his district headquarters. It is a suite of offices in a modest building at the corner of Delmar and Union boulevards, a busy intersection, but one where most of the traffic is going somewhere else. There are few pedestrians, and the neighborhood, like much of the city portion of Clay's district, is inhabited by brick buildings, many vacant, that have seen better days.

Visitors are buzzed in to the offices. Clay holds forth in Pearlie's office, whose walls are jammed with photographs from battles past and present.

On this Saturday morning, Clay is dressed casually in gray slacks, a blue pullover, and black slip-on shoes. He

twists his foot as he listens to visitors seated with him around a conference table. His hand is on his chin, his long fingers idly stroking his face, his other arm draped over the back of the chair, ready to receive his visitors.

Today, he hears from a St. Louis University official who wants to build support for the sale of its hospital, which the Archdiocese opposes. The meeting gives Clay the opportunity to recall the history of Homer G. Phillips hospital, the city's hospital for blacks, which opened in 1937.

"It should have opened before that, but the goddamned white officials stole the money," Clay says, referring to a hospital bond issue whose proceeds were spent on other things.

Next, he meets with two St. Louisans who want to turn the old Post Office downtown into a baseball museum. He hears from the mayor of a suburban municipality who is gingerly seeking his support for a possible run against Nixon in the Democratic primary. And he greets a young man who got a college scholarship from a fund Clay created and who is now running his own business.

Freeman Bosley Sr., alderman and father of the former mayor walks in to the office. A colorful, longtime figure in St. Louis who had been at odds with Clay from time to time. His white hair sets off his dark skin, and he's dressed to the nines in a dark blue pinstripe suit and gold cufflinks. He speaks in a breathless staccato, an aging steam engine with plenty of steam left.

His first order of business is to gain Clay's support for a federally funded museum in his ward. Clay suggests he talk to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to see if there's any money available.

Then, Bosley wants to talk some politics.

"The political structure in this city, particularly among black elected officials, is just going to hell in a handbasket," he says. "They're almost like mailmen - everybody takes his own route."

Clay chuckles at the description.

Since his son was defeated for mayor, Bosley said, the black community lost its local unifying force.

"They're all going off in different directions. ...The only person who can pull that back together is you ... I mean you have organized it and put it together as long as I can remember ... And we're going to have to do something to pull 'em together. I don't see anybody down there now that's going to demand that kind of respect," he says of City Hall.

Times have changed, Clay replies. In the old days, you'd have four or five guys who ran black politics. You could dictate. People knew if you challenged those guys, they'd come after you. It's not like that anymore. Unity is harder, in part because of the gains. Nobody has that kind of influence anymore.

City politics is still divided on racial lines. Just yesterday, Bosley says, not a single white alderman supported a resolution backing Clay's letter to President Clinton on the Nixon fund-raiser, Bosley said. And even some black aldermen were reluctant to support Clay wholeheartedly.

"I know, I got two of 'em coming in here this afternoon," Clay says. He explains he doesn't have time to unify the fractious leadership. "You need to talk to your son," he says. Young Bosley can raise money, a modern-day requirement for political muscle.

The elder Bosley sighs. Freeman Jr. just didn't get it.

"I said, 'Son, you got to rule with fear,'" he said. But his son was too accommodating. Clay understands. His own son, Lacy, is the same way sometimes.

Clay recalls the old days, the coalition with Webbe. "They carried their end of the bargain. But you got these guys now ... this new crop of guys..." Clay looks off. "No way."

Parting pleasantries are exchanged, and Bosley leaves.

Now it was time to talk to the young aldermen who hadn't signed a letter to Clinton from black elected officials backing Clay in the Jay Nixon affair. First to enter was Miguel "Mike" Mitchell, a boyish, bespectacled, 42-year old black man who is wearing a yellow and blue exercise outfit. He is nervous, and calls Clay "sir." Clay doesn't say much. Mitchell remembers reading about Clay in a book on black city politics.

He plays the student, asking Professor Clay how blacks should respond to the backlash against affirmative action.

Clay smiles, only slightly.

"That's exactly what I called you two here to talk about," he says, as the second alderman, Mike McMillan, enters. He's also young, wearing a tan suit. Clay escorts a reporter out the door and closes it. It is 12:57.

At 1:07, there is a burst of loud, sustained laughter from the office.

At 1:08, the laughter stops.

Twenty minutes later, the two leave quietly.

"I was just talking to them about leadership," that's all, Clay says. "What I think they need to do in terms of developing respect in the community. ... I have a great deal of hope for them. Unity is an important part ... I have to try to identify those coming behind me and encourage them to do certain things."

Pearlie is more specific.

"We're trying to get 'em not to be cowards," she says. "What do you believe in? What do you stand for? They haven't known pain. They haven't known the sting of segregation. They can't feel what we know. We live with what we know. They don't understand."

Weary of the small-potatoes bickering in his district and relegated to a lesser role in Washington, retirement is looking better and better these days. Maybe it's time for new blood. Maybe it's time for Lacy. William Lacy Clay Jr., Congressman. It sure sounds sweet.

But there are a lot of others who have been waiting for their chance at Congress when Clay steps down. Even some allies of Lacy aren't sure he's ready. Others don't think he'll ever be ready. Sometimes, Clay gets frustrated with his son. He tells Carol, "Lacy won't listen to me."

She says: "Do you remember when you were Lacy's age and somebody tried to tell you something? You do not want a child to always agree with you. You have enough people agreeing with you."

He doesn't like that, but he thinks about it.

Maybe he was thinking about it last spring, as he and Carol drove north from South Carolina. Lacy. Retirement. The chairmanship of that goddamned committee, the power he could almost taste.

Carol was taking a turn at the helm of the Lincoln when Clay, who had been staring out the window, said: "Remember when you told me to tell you first whatever I was going to do?" And he told her he had decided not to retire, not yet.

"What made you change your mind?" she said.

"It's just not the right time," he replied.

A few minutes later, they pulled over and Clay returned to the wheel. Soon, he was driving again, jabbing his foot to the floor, driving again, on his way home.

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Section: METRO

METRO EAST FEELS OUT OF THE 2004 LOOP RESIDENTS DEMAND TIGHTER PARTNERSHIP WITH REST OF REGION COOPERATION IS STRESSED AT MEETING

By Robert Steyer
Of The Post-Dispatch

Amid appeals for a regional partnership of many communities, people in the Metro East say they believe they are decidedly junior partners.

That theme emerged Monday night in Mascoutah as area residents met to discuss proposals for regional cooperation.

The proposals were developed by St. Louis 2004, a privately financed group of 60 civic leaders chaired by former Missouri Sen. John C. Danforth.

Despite interest in many of the proposals, a number of people in the crowd of about 60 said Illinois is not getting full recognition.

"Everything is called St. Louis 2004," said Tim Paeltz of Millstadt. "That makes people think we are not involved. Why not call it 'Gateway 2004?'"

Others at the meeting suggested that communities east of the Mississippi fail to market themselves well enough to attract visitors and tourists from the other side of the river.

"It's really a blessing for us to have St. Louis near us," said Charles Graul, the mayor of Mascoutah.

"I don't know why people think the bridges across the Mississippi River are 50 miles wide. There's no reciprocal agreement. They are not coming over here."

But the president of St. Louis 2004 said the group's plan for regional cooperation was carefully prepared to bring together all of the communities in Missouri and Illinois.

"We share the Arch, we share the air quality, we share the economy," said JoAnn LaSala, who spoke to the group at the St. John United Church of Christ in Mascoutah.

"We want to know how we can put all of our shoulders to the same wheel," said LaSala, noting that the new logo for her group doesn't use the name St. Louis - only the year 2004 and a representation of the Gateway Arch.

"Change has to start with the neighborhoods," she added. "We are too divided as a region."

Percy McKinney, the St. Clair County assessor, said this meeting and similar meetings are "the start of breaking down those barriers."

The meeting in Mascoutah, and another Monday night meeting in Warrenton, began a series of 22 forums throughout the metropolitan area through mid-February.

Residents are being asked to comment on a series of proposals offered by civic leaders to improve services and the quality of life on both sides of the Mississippi River.

The proposals were made public on Thursday.

St. Louis 2004 will evaluate public responses and present an initial plan by March 10 that would address issues as diverse as health care, environmental protection, crime prevention and parks and recreation.

Some of the preliminary proposals, such as the creation of regional park districts, would require approval by the Missouri and Illinois legislatures.

Others, such as downtown St. Louis improvements, would require augmentation of efforts started by the city.

The St. Louis 2004 group said its initial group of 18 priorities would cost at least \$584 million in private and public money. The proposals include:

- * Providing health coverage for the uninsured.
- * Developing a system to monitor, publicize and respond to hate crimes and bigotry.
- * Setting up a plan for early detection and prevention of family violence.

* Upgrading the St. Louis and Illinois riverfronts.

LaSala said the group is working on an education initiative, focusing primarily on early childhood education, that will be made public later this year.

"We want to know what you think is missing," LaSala said. "We will keep working on the issues."

Public forums

Today:

* 7-9 p.m., Jersey County Courthouse, 201 West Pearl Street, Jerseyville.

* 7-9 pm., Florissant Civic Center theater, 1 Civic Center Drive, Florissant.

Wednesday:

* 7-9 p.m., Collinsville High School, 2201 South Morrison, Collinsville.

* 7-9 p.m., St. Peters City Hall, 1 St. Peters Centre Boulevard, St. Peters.

Thursday:

* 7-9 p.m., Rickman Auditorium, Fox School District, 745 Jeffco Boulevard, Arnold.

* 7-9 p.m., Columbia High School, 100 Parkview Drive, Columbia, Ill.

Monday:

* 6-8 p.m., Troy Buchanan High School, 1190 Old Cap-Au-Gris Road, Troy, Mo.

* 7-9 p.m., St. Charles County Courthouse, 300 North 2nd Street, St. Charles.

Feb. 3:

* 7-9 p.m., Marquette High School, 2351 Clarkson Road, Clarkson Valley.

* 7-9 p.m., Affton High School, 8309 Mackenzie Road, Affton.

Feb. 4:

* 7-9 p.m., Alton High School, 2200 College Avenue, Alton.

* 7-9 p.m., Hillsboro High School, 12 Hawk Drive, Hillsboro.

Feb. 5:

* 6-8 p.m., Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville East St. Louis Center, 411 East Broadway, East St. Louis.

* 7-9 p.m., Tandy Recreation Center, 4206 Kennerly Avenue, St. Louis.

Feb. 7:

* 1-3 p.m., Salvation Army Temple Corps, 2740 Arsenal Street, St. Louis (multilingual forum).

Feb. 9:

* 6-8 p.m., Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis.

* 7-9 p.m., Germantown Elementary School, 401 Walnut, Germantown.

Feb. 11:

* 7-9 p.m., Nottingham Middle School, 4915 Donovan Avenue, St. Louis.

Feb. 12:

* 6-8 p.m., St. Louis Symphony School, 560 Trinity Avenue, University City.

* 6-8 p.m., Washington High School, 600 Blue Jay Drive, Washington, Mo.

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Section: BUSINESS

MALLINCKRODT INC. LOSES \$4.7 MILLION IN QUARTER

Mallinckrodt Inc. said Tuesday that it lost \$4.7 million, or 7 cents a share, in the quarter that ended Dec. 31. The loss was caused by charges related to Mallinckrodt's acquisition of Nellcor Puritan Bennett, a medical-equipment firm.

The acquisition-related charges totaled \$39.3 million.

Mallinckrodt also had a \$10.2 million after-tax gain on the sale of two chemical product lines.

The company said its core healthcare segment had operating earnings of \$64.7 million in the quarter, down 5 percent. Mallinckrodt's specialty chemical business reported operating earnings of \$8.6 million, up 43 percent.

The health-care segment includes imaging agents used for medical tests, specialty pharmaceuticals and respiratory care. Mallinckrodt said it is pleased with results at Nellcor, which it bought in August.

The deal boosted fiscal second-quarter sales by 45 percent to \$656.2 million.

Results from the year-earlier quarter included \$4.4 million in earnings from flavors and veterinary products, two businesses that Mallinckrodt has sold.

MEMC loses \$3.5 million

MEMC Electronic Materials Inc. announced that it lost \$3.5 million in the fourth quarter and \$6.7 million for all of 1997. In 1996, it lost \$5.7 million in the fourth quarter but earned \$101.6 million for the year.

The company said its gross profit margin improved to 11.5 percent from 6.7 percent the previous year. Marketing expenses were down, while research and development expenses were up.

MEMC is the world's second-largest maker of silicon wafers, the building material for computer chips. In the last year it has suffered as prices for chips have fallen.

Ludger H. Viefhues, chief executive, said the financial crisis in Asia had caused MEMC's customers to exercise "additional caution."

D&K sees improvement

D&K Healthcare Resources Inc. said Tuesday that its financial condition is at the strongest level in its history and that it expects improved results over the next six months.

The company earned \$712,000, or 20 cents a share, in the quarter that ended Dec. 31.

Sales rose 6 percent in the quarter, the first full period since the company ended its relationship with a large regional chain that had accounted for between 17 and 20 percent of sales.

The company said its "significant improvements in gross profits and operating income" in the second quarter are due to its increasingly diversified customer base, higher penetration of profitable generic pharmaceutical sales and changes in buying strategies. D&K is a regional drug distributor.

Saturday, January 31, 1998

Section: NEWS

TODAY IS THE DAY FOR THE U.S. TO COLLECT NUCLEAR POWER WASTE, AND THE U.S. ISN'T READY TO DO IT

Reuters News Service
WASHINGTON<

* The industry says the lack of a repository means the federal government will run up a tab that could amount to billions of dollars.

The government this weekend will start running up a tab that could reach into the billions of dollars in damages to utilities that contracted to have the Energy Department remove radioactive waste from nuclear power plants.

Sixteen years ago Congress passed a bill that said the Energy Department would start moving the dangerous waste from power plants across the country to a central repository on Jan. 31, 1998. But now the department has no plans to move the waste and no repository to receive it.

"Once default has occurred and damages are happening, the Energy Department every day is effectively running up a tab for Congress," said Mike McCarthy, administrator of the nuclear power industry's Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition.

Utilities are expected to file a spate of suits next week, claiming damages for their costs of storing the wastes on site and for breach of contract.

The radioactive spent fuel now stored at power plants would fill a football field to a depth of nine feet, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry's lobbying arm. The waste remains dangerous for tens of thousands of years.

Utilities have said total damages could exceed \$50 billion if the accumulation of waste forces them to decommission nuclear plants ahead of schedule. By the end of this year, 27 plants say, they will run out of room to stash the waste.

Nuclear utility opponents say such damage estimates are greatly exaggerated. They said the industry was using the weekend's deadline to try to scare Congress and the White House into a wrong move.

"That is a deadline in the minds of people, it's something that has been generated by the nuclear power industry," said Sen. Harry Reid, whose state - Nevada - is the only spot being considered for the radioactive waste dump.

Reid, a Democrat, and other Nevadans are fighting the nuclear industry's push to put a temporary dump for the waste at the site in Nevada once used for testing nuclear weapons. Another Nevada site, Yucca Mountain, is the only spot being considered for the permanent underground storage.

Publication Details

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1997 •

Activist Is Quitting Cleanup Committee

By Theresa Tighe
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Environmental activist Kay Drey says she will resign today from the committee overseeing the cleanup of radioactive waste at several sites in St. Louis and St. Louis County.

Drey, of University City, said she was quitting because she is concerned that U.S. Department of Energy contractors on Monday will begin digging up radioactively contaminated soil within 5 feet of Coldwater Creek, just north of Lambert Field. The creek runs through heavily populated North County to the Missouri River.

Drey wanted to wait for groundwater studies or to install pipes to freeze the soil into a barrier to keep contaminated ground water and soil from getting into the creek.

Steve McCracken, the Energy Department official overseeing the cleanup, said the soil freezing technology was an unnecessary. Contractors will stop digging if they hit ground water, he said.

At a committee meeting Wednesday, three members — including Drey — voted "no" on the Energy Department plans, while four members and the chairman supported those plans.

Drey, who began the public crusade to get the waste cleaned up 19 years ago, said she will continue to monitor the shipment of nuclear waste through St. Louis.

McCracken said, "It's unfortunate she has chosen to resign, she has brought a lot to the work over the years."

Congress Plans To Switch Agency In Charge Of Waste Cleanup Here

By Kristen Ostendorf

Post Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Congress is about to transfer responsibility for cleaning up a mountain of radioactive waste in the St. Louis area from the Energy Department to the Corps of Engineers.

A House-Senate conference committee approved the change last week, just as the Energy Department began preparations to remove the waste. Although the action will not become final until ratified by both houses, agreement in conference is usually tantamount to passage.

Several area officials were concerned by the action. They noted it took nine years of negotiations with the Department of Energy to agree to the cleanup, which could cost \$600 million.

Not only might there be a further delay for the cleanup, but also future funding may be in jeopardy, said Richard Cunningham, chairman of the St. Louis oversight committee for the

cleanup.

Jan Brown, a lobbyist in Washington for St. Louis and Lambert Field, said, "I'm assuming that we're reinventing the wheel."

The 900,000 cubic yards of contaminated earth is left over from the development of the first atomic bombs during World War II. Heaped up, the earth would be about a fourth the size of the Great Pyramid of Egypt.

In the St. Louis area, three large sites would be affected: those next to the airport, a site north of downtown and a site in north St. Louis County.

Steve McCracken, site manager for the cleanup, said he was surprised at the switch but intended to continue the work during the transition.

Under the Energy Department's schedule, the cleanup would be completed sometime around 2002 to 2004.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., pushed to make the switch to the Corps of Engineers. He told the con-

ference committee that the Energy Department's program has been a low priority and that the cleanups were taking too long.

Missouri's senators, Christopher S. Bond and John Ashcroft, both Republicans, asked the conference committee to keep the cleanup program under the Energy Department.

But Bond said Thursday that he would work with the new situation rather than pick a fight on the Senate floor. Bond said corps officials had assured him "the corps will work with the community and all of the stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition of the program."

On Monday, the Energy Department started work on removing about 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the 22-acre site near Lambert Field. The area is being cleared to create a buffer zone between the rest of the contamination and Coldwater Creek, which runs along the edge of the site.

Radioactive cleanup

DOE begins project but likely will lose responsibility

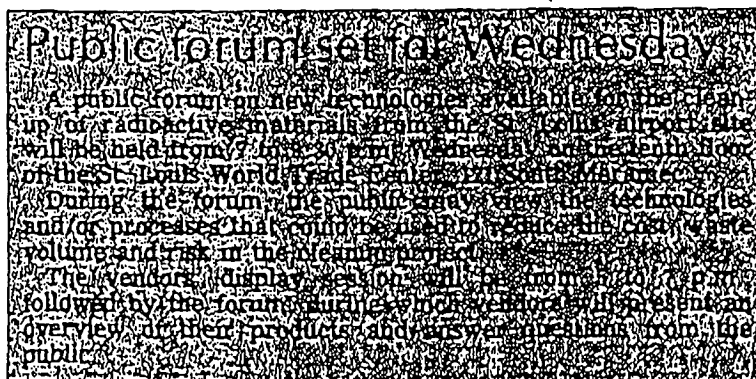
By Barbara Ponder
Staff writer

North County and Washington, D.C., seem worlds apart, but those worlds seemed headed on a collision course last week.

In unincorporated North County, the Department of Energy (DOE) began the first phase of its plan to remove radioactive material from the 22-acre airport site.

In Washington, D.C., discussions continued over whether to transfer authority for such cleanup efforts from the DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Richard Cavanagh, St. Louis County's director of health administration, heads a 12-person committee overseeing the DOE's cleanup efforts. The committee consists of representatives from environmental



groups and St. Louis county and city.

Cavanagh believes the transfer is nearly a done deal.

"We're concerned it could cause a delay in implementing current and future plans for the cleanup," Cavanagh said. "The Corps is very capable but they're going to be starting at square one."

Kristin Young from the office of U.S. Rep. Jim Talent, R-2nd Dist., expects confirmation of the transfer early next week.

"We've been hustling to ensure the site keeps moving forward . . ." Young said. "We've received assurances from the Corps that they're going to make sure it doesn't

affect the cleanup adversely."

Young said the Corps has a good track record in conducting such remediation projects in cooperation with the community.

However, Talent's office has not received a commitment the Corps will direct the cleanup from its St. Louis office and not from another location, Young said.

The airport site, situated adjacent to McDonnell Boulevard, is one of several sites in North County and St. Louis city contaminated with waste remaining from the development of the atomic bomb in World War II and research during the Cold War.

The first phase of the project to clean up the 22-acre site entails removing contaminated material, such as dirt, to an

See CLEANUP, Page 2A

Cleanup

Continued from Page 1A

out-of-state disposal site.

Steve McCracken, the DOE's site manager, said the DOE would support the Corps during the transfer, if enacted.

"It (the cleanup) will continue to get done," McCracken said. "I think the momentum is there. The community is still going to be behind the work and they'll keep it moving."

Not everyone was happy to see the cleanup begin last week.

"I think they're rushing into this project and digging at the most vulnerable part of this 22-acre site, near Coldwater Creek Water," said Kay Drey, a member of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "They're going to be digging five feet from the creek. It's not very far and every bit of dirt is contaminated."

"Our view on beginning where we are is because it gives us a wider, cleaner buffer zone between the creek and the rest of the area to be excavated,"

Public forum set for Wednesday

A public forum on new technologies available for the cleanup of radioactive materials from the St. Louis airport site will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday on the tenth floor of the St. Louis World Trade Center, 121 South Meramec.

During the forum, the public may view the technologies and/or processes that could be used to reduce the cost, waste volume and risk in the cleanup project.

The vendors' display session will be from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by the forum, during which vendors will present an overview of their products and answer questions from the public.

McCracken said.

Drey, of University City, resigned from the oversight committee Sept. 18, citing concerns about the project.

Drey said the DOE should have explored new technologies, such as a frozen soil barrier to protect the creek during excavation, before beginning the project.

The DOE is considering the use of new technologies. A public meeting displaying some of that technology is planned for Wednesday. (See box for details.)

Cavanagh stands by the over-

sight committee's approval of phase one, which will remove 5,000 cubic yards of soil or about the same amount as would be dug out to build six home foundations. Phase 1 will be completed in about five weeks.

A dry summer and extremely low groundwater levels make it an ideal time to begin the project, Cavanagh said.

"As a resident who lives along Coldwater Creek, I am quite concerned with whether I think it will save the creek from further contamination," Cavanagh said. "By doing this there will be more soil out."

North County Journal, Oct. 5, 1997

NEWS

Army engineers take on soil cleanup

By Chris Lesniak
Correspondent

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will assume responsibility for removing radioactive soil from the Coldwater Creek site, but this shouldn't slow the cleanup process.

It was the message from U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officials at a public forum Wednesday at the St. Louis County Government Center in Clayton. Few residents attended the session.

"We need to fold the corps into the decision-making process," said Steve McCracken, DOE site manager.

The previous week's announcement of congressional budget authority shifting from

"The question is, will the local people accept a solution that places clean soil back on the site? That's the most economical solution."

Mike Mann
President of ART Inc.

DOE to the Corps of Engineers in the cleanup project confirmed recent rumors of the Corps assuming responsibility for it.

The current phase of the cleanup is the selection of bids for a demonstration of the technology needed to remove the contamination material. Three firms will receive a combined \$5 million.

The purpose of Wednesday's public hearing was to let com-

peting bidders pitch their cleanup methods to the public.

But while nine vendors set up displays previewing the latest in radioactive soil-cleaning technology, few residents attended.

"Probably about four or five true citizens (showed up)," DOE spokeswoman Mary Ann Crate said.

One of them was University City resident Dr. Neville Rapp, a pathology specialist and Sier-

ra Club member.

"I'm optimistic they will investigate the possible technologies and hope they can find a way to get it cleaned up at the lowest cost possible," Rapp said.

One of the vendors at the meeting was Mike Mann, president of ART Inc., a firm that has experience in similar industry cleanups.

"The question is, will the local people accept a solution that places clean soil back on the site? That's the most economical solution," Mann said.

Mann said of resident interest, "If the local people get involved it can be really tremendous. The question is, 'Is the interest there?'"

MISSOURI

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Lawmakers To Scrutinize Cleanup Changes

As the federal government prepares to transfer responsibility for cleaning up radioactive waste in St. Louis to the Corps of Engineers from the Department of Energy, some members of Congress will be watching.

Rep. Jim Talent, R-Chesterfield, along with Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., are forming a congressional group to oversee the transfer of cleanup responsibilities at 46 radioactive sites around the country.

Talent said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the change would not affect progress at the three large sites in St. Louis, which contain a total of about 900,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. He said the situation should be watched closely.

The St. Louis contamination is the legacy of the development of the first atomic bombs. The Department of Energy was responsible for cleaning up the sites. However, Congress last month decided to transfer responsibility to the Corps of Engineers.

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

MISSOURI CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED WITH DOE PLANS for its new office in St. Louis. In a March 5 letter to Under Secretary Thomas Grumbly, the state's senators and three representatives said they are "concerned about the pace and direction of the new St. Louis office," which was recently established to oversee the cleanup of radioactive waste on more than 100 area properties left from Cold War uranium refining activities.

The lawmakers said they were not happy to learn that DOE may staff the new office with employees from its Oak Ridge Operations Office, an action they said may divert funds from actual cleanup activities. In order to ensure strict accountability for cleanup projects, they said, "an effective site manager in St. Louis with Senior Executive Service authority [is] necessary to make major cleanup decisions and manage ongoing activities on a full-time basis."

The congressmen complained that the Oak Ridge Operations Office, which has been responsible for the cleanup, has not involved stakeholders at an early state in the development of a 10-year spending plan and other planning activities.

DOE has earmarked \$23 million this year for cleanup of St. Louis sites.

The letter was signed by Republican Sens. Christopher Bond and John Ashcroft, Democratic Reps. Richard Gephardt and William Clay, and Republican Rep. James Talent.

The following clipping is not about FUSRAP but is included because it provides relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Harmon Bounces Bosley

Support From South Side Puts Ex-Chief On Top For Mayor; Green Renominated

By Tim O'Neil, Carolyn Tuft and Lance Williams
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Former Police Chief Clarence Harmon defeated Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. Tuesday night with a surprisingly strong performance in St. Louis' bruising Democratic mayoral primary.

According to complete but unofficial returns, Harmon won with 56,894 votes, or 56.4 percent. Bosley had 43,150, or 42.8 percent, and Bill Haas, who last week said he no longer was campaigning, had 0.7 percent of the vote.

Harmon declared himself the victor about 10 p.m. before a giddy crowd inside Carpenters Hall, 1401 Hampton Avenue. He noted that Bosley outspent him throughout the six-month campaign, including the big final month.

"This is a clear message that the smart money and conventional wisdom aren't worth a plugged nickel," Harmon said. "What's important is all of you. You have made it clear that the power of the people is an awesome thing."

When he mentioned Bosley's name, a few supporters booed. "This is a time of healing, folks," he said. "I know that people who supported Mayor Bosley care deeply about this community. I welcome their support, and together we can seek a better St. Louis."

Before he walked up to the stage, he was asked for his first priority. "I'm going to mend all the broken fences," he said.

Bosley partisans, meeting at a party at Teamsters Plaza that was notable for loud music and serious faces, held onto hope that the last votes to be counted were from the North Side wards. Those wards gave the mayor his strongest support.

"It's going to take a lot of healing to put this city back together. I am hoping that people will be able to do that."

Mayor Bosley

Bosley conceded about 10:30 p.m., opening his concession speech by shouting to his supporters, "I love you!" He told them he was proud to have served the city with them.

When he offered congratulations to Harmon, there were loud boos. "It's going to take a lot of healing to put this city back together," Bosley said. "I am hoping that people will be able to do that."

In the Democratic primary for comptroller, Comptroller Darlene Green easily won renomination with 67.1 percent of the vote over former City Assessor Dennis Hill. In the Republican primary, Jay Dearing

See MAYOR, Page 9

Mayoral Primary Results

100% of the vote counted

DEMOCRATS

CLARENCE HARMON
56,894 56%

FREEMAN BOSLEY JR.
43,150 43%

BILL HAAS
750 1%

REPUBLICANS

JAY DEARING
508 38%

TOM BRAFORD
478 35%

JIM RAPP
362 27%

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Jay Dearing wins the Republican mayoral primary....
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Democrat April Ford Griffin wins a five-way race for alderman....
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■ Up Next: Marit

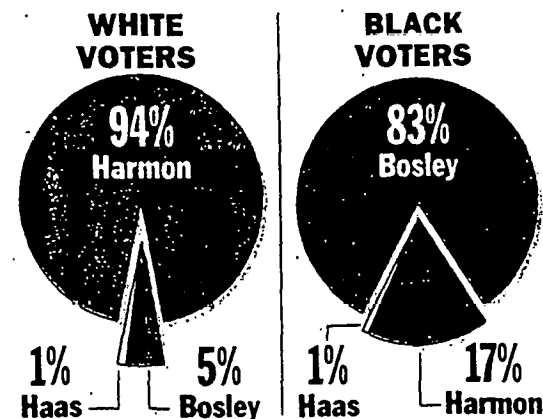
Clark says she's up to the challenge....
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■ Bill McClellan:

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Exit Poll Results

Based on interviews with 701 voters from 20 precincts



Due to rounding, some figures do not total 100%

More exit polling results on Page 11A

Mayor

From page one

won the nomination for mayor and former Deputy Comptroller Z. Dwight Billingsly won the nomination for comptroller by 23 votes.

City voters also picked candidates for 15 of the 28 wards. The general election will be April 1. Harmon will face the GOP nominee and Alderman Marit Clark, who says she will file petitions today to be on the April 1 ballot as an independent.

An Election Day poll conducted for the Post-Dispatch at 20 precincts Tuesday morning showed that Harmon got 86 percent of an unusually heavy vote cast in the South Side, 65 percent in the central corridor and 15 percent on the North Side. Citywide, the poll projected a 57 percent Harmon victory.

In 1993, when Bosley won the Democratic primary on his way to becoming the city's first black mayor, he got 52 percent of the vote in the central corridor, an integrated area known as politically liberal.

Bosley, 42, and Harmon, 57, were more than political adversaries; they became bitter rivals. Harmon, who was the city's first black police chief, resigned in November 1995 after a long-running battle with a hostile St. Louis Police Board majority that included Bosley, who sits on that board as part of his duties as mayor.

The core of Harmon's campaign was that Bosley's administration was rife with cronyism and corruption and that a Harmon administration would restore the city's sense of self-respect. Bosley said he has helped the city's neighborhoods, increased participation for black-owned businesses and appointed a more racially diverse Cabinet than any previous mayor.

Four years ago, Bosley ran on a racial-harmony theme that used as its symbol the black-and-white keys of a piano. In the final weeks, Bosley had concentrated his public efforts in winning big within his predominantly black North Side base. He also ran hard-edged ads that alleged wrongdoing by Harmon's two sons, who are police officers.

On Tuesday, Bosley toured polling places with Reps. William L. Clay, D-St. Louis, and Maxine Waters, D-Calif., a native St. Louisan who represents part of Los Angeles.

The post-election parties Tuesday night reflected the racial breakdown of the two candidates' support. Most of Harmon's supporters were whites, and most of Bosley's were blacks. Harmon had the enthusiastic backing of the St. Louis Police Officers Association and Firefighters Local 73.

Those two organizations helped organize a strong turnout on the South Side, where antipathy against Bosley already ran deep.

Heavy Voting Citywide

Turnout was heavy throughout the city — about 50 percent of the city's 204,000 voters took part. Election board officials said the turnout was heaviest on the South Side and in the central corridor.

The high turnout was the result of the mayoral primary's high profile, energetic campaign organizations and near-perfect weather for a late winter day. Sunshine, light breeze and afternoon temperatures that reached the low 60s greatly reduced nature as a factor.

At Carpenters Hall, Don Strate, a former president of the Police Officers Association, said that Harmon "has a lot of integrity. He's an honest man, he's a gentleman. There's a lot of respect here for the guy."

Jeanette Culpepper, head of Families Advocating Safe Streets, said she was impressed by Harmon after one of her sons was murdered. "It was the way he treated me with respect," she said. "He supported me and attended our first vigil."

At Teamsters Plaza, the Rev. Earl Nance Jr., a former member of the St. Louis School Board, said "a lot of healing has to take place. It's going to take a lot to get this back."

Clay said he didn't know whether Harmon could mend the tension with many of the city's black residents. "It depends on whether or not he can lead, you see," Clay said. "You can't lead just half the town and think you're going to be successful."

Comedian Dick Gregory was philosophical.

"Fire trucks will not go slower to a fire under a new administration," Gregory said. "If you had chlorine in your water before the election, there's going to be chlorine in your water after the election."

The defeat was Bosley's first. He has held public office downtown since 1983; after he was elected circuit clerk.

He said he planned to relax a few days and then work to start the proposed northside shopping center. He said he may run for office again. "I like politics," Bosley said.

There were problems at some polling places that had little to do with identification cards.

In the 5th Ward, site of another lively aldermanic contest, voters and campaign workers were frustrated outside the Patrick Henry School, 1220 North 10th Street, just north of downtown. The reports were that two poll workers had taken too long for lunch. That created a long line of increasingly angry voters.

"This is the kind of travesty of justice that happens in these poor, black neighborhoods," said Antoine Johnson, 27, who said he had been waiting in line for more than an hour.

Johnson estimated that 60 people had given up and left while he waited.

Bill Bryan and Lorraine Kee of the Post-Dispatch staff contributed information for this story.

Remove Nuclear Waste — Carefully

At last, the federal government, in the person of Thomas P. Grumbly of the Energy Department, has promised to remove the area's low-level nuclear waste left over from the production of the first atomic bomb. The waste is scattered among sites near Lambert Field, a Mallinckrodt plant north of downtown and along Latty Avenue in Hazelwood. With some caveats, it's the right answer.

For 50 years, 850,000 cubic yards of such waste — enough to fill Busch Stadium — has remained in the area. Reluctant to deal with the problem, Washington long dragged its feet. Just two years ago, the Energy Department wanted to build a storage bunker north of Lambert Field to contain the waste there. No one in the area thought that was a good idea. Storing nuclear waste near high concentrations of people has never made sense.

Responding to opposition, the department came back with the recommendation that a group of citizens meet to suggest what to do. Last week, its 39 members heard Mr. Grumbly accept their recommendation to move the waste out of the area.

That's good. Still, two problems remain: Where should it go and how will it get there?

Thus far, the Energy Department has sent most low-level waste to Envirocare in Clive, Utah. Soon, though, there will be other sites that can receive such waste. This issue should not be confused with the more vexing problem of what to do with much hotter radioactive waste, for which Washington hasn't yet found a site, though it still wants to sell Nevada on a facility at Yucca Mountain. So there will be a place to send the region's low-level waste, though precisely where isn't settled yet.

The tougher problem is how to transport it. Area residents are rightly appalled by — and opposed to — the idea of shipping high-level nuclear waste through the city or its near suburbs. They should be similarly concerned about inflicting on some western neighbor the same problem with low-level material. The region's waste should only travel along routes that avoid population centers and under the strictest safeguards. Otherwise, solving our old problems might only create new ones for others.

Under Plan, Material To Be Disposed Of At Location Out Of State

Timeline

1942: Mallinckrodt Chemical Works begins refining uranium at its downtown St. Louis plant as part of Manhattan Project to build first atomic bomb.

1946: Nearly 22 acres at St. Louis airport condemned as storage area for waste and residue from Mallinckrodt plant.

1957: Mallinckrodt stops processing uranium at downtown plant. Production transferred to Weldon Spring.

1966-1969: Hauling of waste from airport site to Latty Avenue contaminates land along route.

January 1994: Department of Energy proposes building bunker north of Lambert to store waste.

March 1994: In an about-face, Energy Department says it will pursue shipment of St. Louis radioactive waste out of state instead of building bunker.

Dec. 5, 1996: Energy Department announces its pledge to move the radioactive waste out of St. Louis by 2004.

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Radioactive waste left in St. Louis from the making of the first atomic bombs will be removed within eight years and shipped out of state, a top federal official pledged here Thursday.

Thomas P. Grumbly, undersecretary of the Department of Energy, told a citizens task force he agreed with its recommendation that the waste plaguing the area for more than 50 years be moved out of Missouri.

"It's my objective that we have these sites cleaned up by 2004 — in time for the centennial of the World's Fair," Grumbly said. "While eight years is a long time in most people's lives, it's a short time in the wake of what's gone on here."

Grumbly estimated it would cost between \$250 million to \$600 million to excavate up to 850,000 cubic yards of waste — enough to fill Busch Stadium — and haul it by truck and train to an out-of-state disposal site.

The waste is stored at sites around the St. Louis area, including several areas north and west of Lambert Field, a Mallinckrodt plant north of downtown St. Louis and along Latty Avenue in Hazelwood.

Grumbly renewed the pledge he made on a visit here two years ago.

Radioactive Waste Leaving Town

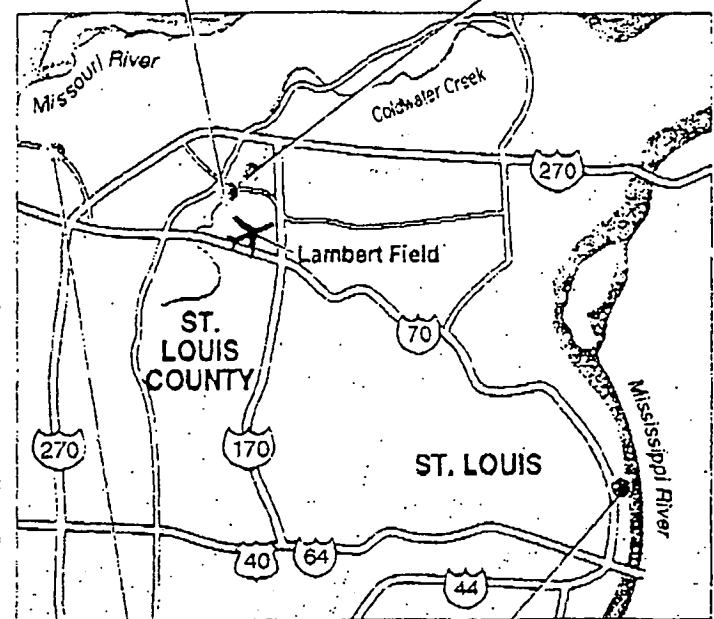
Total waste volume at contaminated properties to be cleaned up by the Department of Energy.

Airport Sites

340,000 cubic yards. Radium, thorium and uranium by-products

Latty Avenue Site

211,000 cubic yards. Radium, thorium and uranium by-products



West Lake Landfill

48,000 cubic yards. Radium, thorium and uranium by products

Mallinckrodt Site

246,000 cubic yards. Residues from uranium ore processing

Post-Dispatch map

Residents have been dealing with waste concerns for years ... 15

At that time, the Energy Department was leaning toward building a bunker near Lambert Field to hold the waste — a plan citizens and local officials opposed.

"There will never be — at least

on my watch — a bunker in the St. Louis area to contain nuclear wastes," Grumbly said.

When he first rejected the bunker proposal, Grumbly also called

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1996 •

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Waste

From page one

for the creation of a local task force to decide how to clean up the waste. He met with its 39 members Thursday at the Clayton Community Center and announced he had accepted most of their recommendations.

The task force members joined Rep. James Talent, R-Chesterfield, St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. and St. Louis County Supervisor George R. "Buzz" Westfall in praising Grumbly for listening to the community's concerns.

"St. Louis was here when America needed us in World War II," Westfall said. "Now, the federal government is stepping up to the plate and finally solving the problem."

Kay Drey, a task force member and anti-nuclear activist from University City, said she was more optimistic of a cleanup "than I've been in the 18 years I've been working on this."

Gov. Mel Carnahan, who met with Grumbly earlier in the day, visited Washington this year to lobby President Bill Clinton's administration on behalf of the St. Louis cleanup.

David Shorr, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, credited Grumbly with breaking the logjam.

"We've had a great deal of patience to date," Shorr said. "Now, it's time to get it done."

So far, the Energy Department has removed and shipped some 30,000 cubic yards to Envirocare in Clive, Utah. An official of that firm was at the community center Thursday and said it charged from \$150 to \$200 per cubic yard to accept low-level wastes like those in St. Louis.

But Grumbly pointed out that Envirocare no longer was the only commercial facility licensed to accept radioactive wastes. "The price is going down as there's beginning to be more competition out there," he said.

The cleanup's price tag could drop as low as \$250 million, Grumbly said, especially if a decision is made to clean up some of the sites for light industrial use rather than the more stringent residential use.

haggling.

Grumbly also announced that:

- He wanted a formal record of decision — the final plan for cleaning up the St. Louis sites — signed by Sept. 30.

- The Energy Department will provide staffing by Feb. 1 for a St. Louis office to oversee the cleanup.

- A new task force composed of area leaders and citizens could be set up to decide how the cleanup should proceed.

- The Energy Department has agreed to spend \$1.3 million to decide how to clean up radioactive contamination at the West Lake landfill at 13570 St. Charles Rock Road in Bridgeton. It is the first time the department has accepted responsibility for the site.

Under the task force proposal, contaminated areas at the Mallinckrodt plant north of the downtown business district would be cleaned for commercial, industrial or recreational use, as would the West Lake land-

fill. An area near the plant, on the Riverfront Trail, already has been cleaned to those standards.

Also under the task force proposal, the more stringent, unrestricted cleanup standard would be used for a site near the airport where wastes were stored; at the nearby Berkeley recreational fields; at Coldwater Creek, which flows through the area and was contaminated by erosion; and at the area on Latty where waste also was stored.

Sandy Delcours, who lives in the Willow Creek subdivision near Florissant, brought photos to the Clayton Community Center for Grumbly's visit. They showed neighborhood children playing in Coldwater Creek.

"Here's one of some of the kids fishing in the creek," she said. "Everybody wants it cleaned up. I guess we deserve this attention after 50 years."

Bill Lambrecht of the Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau contributed information for this article.

The undersecretary said he wanted to see more data on ground water before deciding how thoroughly to clean up two of the sites — one near the airport and the other on Latty.

Grumbly said the current annual budget for cleaning up the St. Louis sites was \$23 million — up from \$8 million in 1993 — and predicted that figure would double by 1998.

The Energy Department's plan could be affected by political winds in Washington. It will be critical, proponents said, to have a new energy secretary who supports the proposal.

Now that Hazel O'Leary has resigned the job, the two candidates most often mentioned are Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., and former Sen. Tim Wirth, D-Colo., who now is undersecretary of state for global affairs. Of the two, Wirth has the strongest pro-environment credentials.

Talent said it would take monitoring by the regional delegation in Congress to make sure the government lives up to its plan. And even with close attention, "the bottom can always fall out" during budget

The following clipping is not about FUSRAP but is included because it provides relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1996

Judge Dismisses Suit On Airport Expansion

Lambert Plan Has Yet To Gain FAA Approval

By Mei-Ling Hopgood
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit aiming to block Lambert Field's expansion plan proposal, known as W-1W, saying it was too soon to hear the case because the plan has not been approved.

In April, Bridgeton sued St. Louis, which owns the airport, to stop W-1W. The expansion plan would take out about 2,000 homes to put a new runway through the southeastern part of Bridgeton. Bridgeton officials argue the airport authority did not seek proper zoning approval from Bridgeton.

Judge Joan M. Berger of Missouri's 22nd Circuit Court dismissed Bridgeton's request for an injunction on the plan Tuesday. She said the court would not hear the case because W-1W still was awaiting approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers said Thursday that the city would refile the lawsuit after the FAA made its decision.

"We were ready to have the court act now," Bowers said. "If they want

to wait, so be it."

Meanwhile, the FAA has extended the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the expansion plans. The FAA does a draft and a final impact study on expansion plans before it decides which to approve or reject.

The comment period on the draft will last through Jan. 17 because the FAA revised and updated the list of references it used to compile the document.

Officials from the FAA continue to receive thousands of comments since a public hearing in October and want to ensure people have the chance to respond, said FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Burgen.

The updated list will be added to copies of the impact statement, which are available for review in city halls and libraries in the St. Louis area.

Additional comments on the draft may be sent to: Moira Keane, Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division, ACE-615B, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64106-2808.

2004: A NUKE ODYSSEY

The Department of Energy finally promises to clean up the St. Louis area's long-neglected radioactive waste over the next eight years, but leaves many questions unanswered.

BY C.D. STELZER

It took more than 50 years, but last week the federal government finally pledged to clean up the St. Louis area's long-neglected radioactive waste sites by 2004.

Undersecretary of Energy Thomas P. Grumbly made the historic announcement last Thursday at the Clayton Community Center. The 850,000 cubic yards of radioactive waste — located at scores of sites around the area — are a byproduct of nuclear-weapon manufacturing dating back to World War II. Those attending Grumbly's speech included public officials and members of a citizens' task force who submitted recommendations to the Department of Energy (DOE) in September.

Grumbly drew applause when he announced, "There will never be a bunker in the St. Louis area — at least on my watch." The applause echoed the results of a 1990 nonbinding referendum in which city and county voters overwhelmingly disapproved of any plan to permanently store the nuclear waste here.

One result of that public outcry has been bipartisan political support for disposing of the waste outside the area. Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Talent and Democratic St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. and County Executive George "Buzz" Westfall all attended last week's meeting to show support for the DOE's commitment to ship the waste as soon as possible. Some 28,000 cubic yards of contaminated materials from 21 sites have already been sent to a low-level-radioactive-waste dump in Utah. Moreover, Congress allocated an additional \$23 million to continue the cleanup in 1997.

But the fate of the remaining nuclear waste is still very much a matter of speculation. "There are some serious issues that remain," says Talent, after the meeting. "It's promising, but I don't want to pretend that it's all worked out, that it's to everybody's satisfaction."

The congressman's reservations may be understated.

One sticking point in completing the project appears to be the 22-acre airport site — the largest in the area. In his speech, Grumbly emphasized that the DOE remains unconvinced of the need to clean up the airport site to the unrestricted-use level recommended by the local task force, the Sierra Club and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Grumbly "just doesn't feel that a site at the end of a runway needs to be cleaned up the same way you would a residential site," says Talent. "It's a legitimate point, but I don't think that the DOE has looked adequately at the effect on the groundwater. The (waste) is sitting on an aquifer."

Leaving any of the radioactive material at the site would risk further contamination of underground and surface water. But earlier this year, a report by a DOE-appointed panel of geologists declared that the water would not miraculously migrate off the site, and, therefore, it would be safe to leave the waste in place. Two of the six panel members — including one from the DNR — took exception to the findings, however. On Thursday, Grumbly suggested that another hydro-geological study be conducted in the next three months to determine what level of safety would be required.

"We all feel like it needs to be cleaned up so it won't continue impacting Coldwater Creek," says environmentalist Kay Drey, a member of the citizens' task force. The creek is on the long list of remediation sites, which also includes haul routes, a former athletic field in Berkeley, a landfill in Bridgeton, and parts of the Mallinckrodt chemical plant on North Broadway, where uranium was first purified in 1942.

The DOE, according to Grumbly, would like the entire mess tidied up within eight years, an optimistic goal given the bureaucratic impediments. Aside from the DOE's lead role, the DNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are mandated by Superfund law to oversee and approve the project. Grumbly, nevertheless, expects a formal record of decision (ROD) for the cleanup by the end of the current fiscal year, next Sept. 30. That gives the DOE a little more than nine months to work out a myriad of details.

One of those details is prefaced by a dollar sign and has a lot of zeros behind it. "We have no money to do this," says Drey. The environmentalist points out that the \$23 million earmarked for the cleanup this year represents a significant increase in past funding for the project, but is still only a fraction of what will be needed to complete the job. The uncertainty over future funding is not expected to abate so long as the

Clinton administration and the Republican-led Congress try to out-hack each other in deficit reduction. Or, as Grumbly puts it, "We're in a very competitive budget environment." The effect of the imminent departure of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary is also unknown.

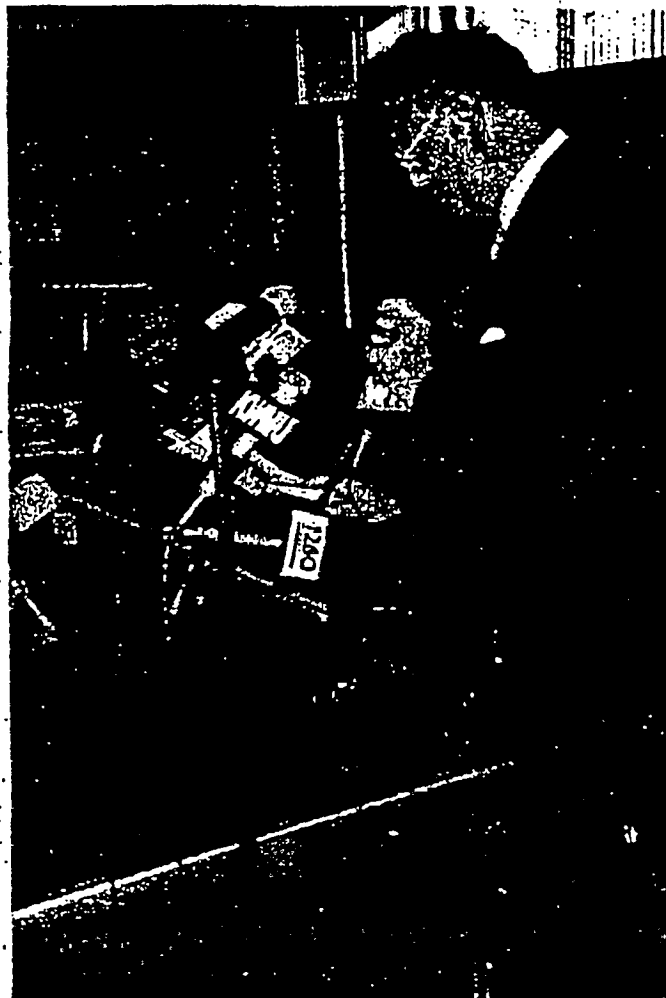
As recently as July, the DOE estimated that removal and off-site storage of the waste would cost \$778 million. A revised estimate cited last week ranges from \$250 to \$600 million. The wide difference in the bottom line hinges on, among other things, the choice of technology and the level of cleanup specified in the yet-to-be-completed ROD. Contracted to carry out the cleanup is Bachtel National Inc., a subsidiary of the giant engineering corporation. Potential local subcontractors that are queuing up include Sverdrup Environmental, the National Center of Environmental Information and Technology, Clean Earth Technologies and R.M. Wester and Associates.

Despite the expertise and available alternative technologies, Grumbly gave little indication Thursday that the DOE is seriously considering anything more than digging the irradiated dirt up and hauling it away. If the DOE chooses to clean up the airport site to less stringent levels than recommended locally, it will save money. But the legal and ethical question then becomes whether the scaled-back remedy is protective of human health and the environment.

For many Westerners, who will likely be on the receiving end, there is nothing ethical about any of this. The probable final destination for St. Louis' radioactive waste seems to be either Utah or Washington state. The Envirocare low-level-radioactive-waste depository in Clive, Utah, has already received some St. Louis shipments. In 1993, before any of the St. Louis waste arrived, state inspectors found Envirocare in violation of a dozen safety regulations.

But the questionable Utah facility now

has competition. Last year, the Washington state Department of Health granted low-level-radioactive-dump license to Dawn Mining Co. in Ford, Wash. The majority of Dawn Mining is owned by Denver's Newmont Mining Co., the largest mineral extractor in North America. Rather than pay for filling a 28-acre, 7-foot-deep uranium-tailings pond on the Dawn property, Newmont wants to charge the government \$5 a cubic foot to accept



Undersecretary of Energy Thomas P. Grumbly

low-level radioactive waste. Although the DOE hasn't agreed to the proposal yet, representatives of Dawn Mining have tried to solicit the support of the St. Louis citizens' task force as far back as November 1995.

The Spokane Indian tribe and Dawn Watch, an environmental group, are opposed to shipping the St. Louis waste to their community. "Our position is the site is still an unacceptable location for a commercial waste dump," says Esther Holme, a member of Dawn Watch. "(We) have been advocating that the site be cleaned using clean fill at the company's expense. The tailings pond is located near a tributary of the Columbia River and threatens nearby Indian fish hatchery.

The following clipping is not about FUSRAP but is included because it provides relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Harmon First On City Ballot

23 Other Hopefuls File For Comptroller, Aldermanic Races

By Carolyn Tuft

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Former Police Chief Clarence Harmon Jr. led a procession Monday of 24 candidates for St. Louis mayor, comptroller and aldermanic races who signed up on the first day of filing for the city primary on March 4.

Harmon is running as a Democratic candidate for mayor. Neither Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. nor Bill Haas, both announced candidates, filed Monday.

Filing at the Board of Elections, 208 South Tucker Boulevard, closes Jan. 3 for the primary. The general election is April 1.

Harmon said he kept a volunteer in line at the election board since Oct. 21 to allow him to be the first to file, which will assure his name the

first place on the ballot. Some politicians believe that being first on the ballot will win them votes because unsure voters will mark the first name. Harmon said his persistence showed how serious he is about being the city's next mayor.

"It was an important step to make to be first on the ballot because it represents my earnestness in my mayoral effort," Harmon said from his campaign headquarters Monday evening.

At the election board, Harmon answered a question by a radio reporter about whether he believed Bosley's administration was "inept, incompetent or corrupt."

Harmon answered: "I said, 'I regard him as at least inept. As to the issue of corruptness,

See PRIMARY, Page 2

Primary

From page one

well, that is a legal interpretation that I am not prepared to make. The record of this administration is replete with a track record of not knowing what to do and not supplying competent people to do it. Because of that, they always seem to be in hot water."

In a prepared statement on City Hall letterhead, Bosley fired back at Harmon. He said Harmon had already broken his campaign promise not to launch a negative campaign.

"It's sad that just seconds after my opponent became an official candidate, he broke his first campaign promise by launching a negative attack. The voters don't want that kind of campaign," Bosley's statement said.

The statement was prepared by Bosley's newest aide, Steve Engelhardt, who worked as a campaign consultant for Comptroller Darlene Green's August and November campaigns. Bosley did not state why he did not file Monday.

The third possible primary candidate, Haas, said he did not file because he could not afford the \$974

filing fee. He said he believed he would be second to file and the mayor would wait until the end to get what political insiders claim is the second best place on the ballot.

"This is first time in history that I want to be a middle candidate," Haas said. "It's symbolic of my pledge to bring this city together between the Bosley supporters and the Harmon supporters."

Jim Rapp was the only Republican candidate to file for mayor.

Meanwhile, former St. Louis Assessor Dennis Hill was first to file as a Democratic candidate for comptroller. Green did not file Monday. She must run for a four-year term. On Aug. 6, Green won the race against Alderman James Shrewsbury, D-16th Ward, to fill the unexpired term of former Comptroller Virvus Jones, who left office last year after pleading guilty to federal tax fraud charges.

Joseph Schwan filed as a Republican candidate for comptroller.

In aldermanic races, six incumbents will face opposition in the primary by Democratic challengers.

Also, Alderman Mary Ross, D-5th Ward, is not expected to run for reelection. Three Democratic candidates — April Ford Griffin, Loretta Hall and Joseph Simmons — filed for the post.

Hazardous Waste Cleanups Along Roadside

By Monte Reel
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Cleanup began quietly this month at three hazardous waste sites along Hazelwood Boulevard. No futuristic robots; no workers dressed like astronauts.

"It's not as high-tech and sexy as some remediation efforts you might see at other ... sites because [the waste] is not considered as risky," said Sarah Snyder, community relations coordinator at the St. Louis site. She is with the U.S. Department of Energy's Formerly Utilized Sites for Remedial Action Program.

That program has excavated radioactive material from 12 other properties in Hazelwood and at the downtown Mallinckrodt

Chemical Works plant in the past two years.

The contamination of the Hazelwood Boulevard sites is a product of the early days of the nuclear age. From 1942 to 1957, Mallinckrodt processed uranium, the main source of nuclear fuel, as part of a government-sponsored effort to develop nuclear weapons. In 1966, a private company, Continental Mining and Milling, bought the residues that Mallinckrodt had stored north of Lambert Field. When Continental trucked the residue to another storage site in Hazelwood, some of the radioactive material blew out of the trucks and onto the roadside.

The three roadside sites, which run in front of industrial areas near Frost Avenue, are marked by plastic fencing and orange

barrels. The plastic lining that stops the radioactive soil from spreading is the only hint that the excavation is more than routine ditch-digging. The workers are required to wear work boots, hard hats, protective eyeglasses and shirts with sleeves — not the full "moon suits" required on more dangerous excavations.

Chuck Jenkins, community relations specialist for the DOE's cleanup program, said people could walk along the roadside without fear of contamination. Hazards would arise only if a person had direct contact with the soil for a period of several years.

"Someone would have to be exposed to it for long periods of time, and when I say 'exposed to it,' I mean inhaling or eating the

dirt," Jenkins said.

Such exposure could result in cancer, according to David Adler, DOE's site manager for St. Louis. No health problems have been linked directly to the St. Louis area sites, but the state health department investigated two years ago potential connections to several leukemia deaths in north St. Louis County. A state report said officials found no proof the contamination contributed to the deaths.

Adler estimates "hundreds" of cubic yards of soil at the three sites will be excavated and shipped to Envirocare, a licensed disposal facility in Clive, Utah. Sally Price, chairwoman of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force, said the current cleanup process,

See CLEANUP, Page 6

Cleanup

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which comes with a \$1.1 million price tag; fell in line with recommendations the task force made to the DOE on Sept. 24.

"The cleanup provides relief to residents and property owners," Price said.

But John Steuby, who owns property on one of the sites, said the radioactivity had caused no problems for him during his 10 years of ownership.

"I haven't heard one person say anything detrimental about the land because of nuclear waste," Steuby said. "Frankly, I think [the cleanup] is a waste of money."

The following clipping is not about FUSRAP but is included because it provides relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

EDITORIALS

Choices For Congress

All but one of the incumbents from congressional districts in and near St. Louis deserve re-election Nov. 5.

The exception is Republican Rep. James M. Talent of Chesterfield, who stands too far to the right on most of the important issues. The *Post-Dispatch* recommends that in the 2nd District, voters return the seat to Democrat Joan Kelly Horn of Ladue.

A *National Journal* rating of Mr. Talent's voting record put him among the 28 most conservative Republicans in Congress. Though Mr. Talent's political views are sincerely held, the regrettable fact is that he helped write a welfare bill that was even more punitive than the one Congress enacted. Moreover, he supported the extreme Republican proposals for cutting back on environmental protection; he opposed gun control and the crime bill that put more police on the streets; he favored the Republican plan for extracting \$270 billion in savings from Medicare; and he favors a constitutional amendment to permit the states to bar abortion.

Ms. Horn, by contrast, had a progressive record in her one term in Congress, from 1991-93. She helped sponsor the Family Medical Leave Act, supported the Brady gun control bill and worked hard on district problems from MetroLink to Trans World Airlines.

In the 1st District, William L. Clay, the senior member of the Missouri congressional delegation, has a strong record in support of workers' rights. He led the successful House efforts that led to passage of the minimum wage bill, Family Medical Leave Act and a revision of the Hatch Act to give federal employees the right to participate in politics. By contrast, Mr. Clay's opponent, Daniel F. O'Sullivan Jr. of Richmond Heights, is untested in politics and inexperienced in government.

That same experience gap exists in the 3rd District where House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt is the clear choice over novice Deborah Lynn "Debbie" Wheelahan of Lemay. Mr. Gephardt is a good consensus builder and has a progressive record dating back to his days as a "Young Turk" on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. In the current Congress he has worked effectively to revive the Democratic minority.

In another political era, Kenny Hulshof of Columbia, the Republican candidate in the 9th District, might have been a moderate Republican in the Danforth-Bond mold. And to his credit, Mr. Hulshof criticizes congressional Republicans for shutting down the government and for anti-environmental excesses. But ask him why he should be elected instead of Harold Volkmer of Hannibal, and his answer is that he is more conservative than the conservative Democrat; he favors the balanced budget and term limits amendments and more spending on the military.

During the early days of the 104th Congress, when many liberal Democrats were paralyzed into inaction, Mr. Volkmer was an eloquent critic of the excesses of the Republican majority. Harold Volk-

mer is an important voice in the Congress and should be returned.

In the 8th District in southeast Missouri, the principal contenders are Democrat Emily Firebaugh of Farmington and Jo Ann Emerson of Cape Girardeau, who are seeking the seat of Mrs. Emerson's late husband, Bill Emerson. Ms. Firebaugh, a tree farmer and former small town newspaper publisher, has lived her whole life in the district; by contrast, Ms. Emerson grew up in a suburb of Washington and has spent much of her career working there for business interests seeking to influence Congress.

Ms. Firebaugh supports abortion rights, but she is no liberal Democrat. Like her district, she supports term limits and opposes gun control bills. Two important differences between the candidates: Ms. Firebaugh supported the minimum wage increase, while Ms. Emerson says she did not have a position. Ms. Firebaugh opposed the \$270 billion in Medicare budget savings; Ms. Emerson supported the Republican budget. Emily Firebaugh is more in touch with the district and deserves election.

A complication in the race is that there will be two elections on Election Day — one in which Ms. Emerson is running as a Republican to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, the other in which Ms. Emerson is the independent candidate to fill the full term in the next Congress. The Republican candidate in the latter election, Richard Kline, is an extremist distraction.

Two of the races in Illinois present voters with easy choices. Neither Rep. Glenn Poshard of Cartersville in the 19th District nor Rep. Jerry F. Costello of Belleville in the 12th has serious opposition.

Mr. Poshard, who styles himself as a conservative Blue Dog Democrat and promises to retire after his next term, faces Republican Brent Winters, who didn't respond to questions from the *Post-Dispatch*. In his public appearances, Mr. Winters focuses his extremely conservative candidacy on gun issues, even though Mr. Poshard says he is a strong supporter of the rights of gun owners.

Similarly, Mr. Costello's most objectionable votes in Congress have been against gun control, but his obscure Republican opponent, Shapley R. Hunter, stresses the rights of gun owners in his campaign.

The race to fill Mr. Durbin's seat in the 20th District is extremely close and features two able candidates from Collinsville — Democrat Jay C. Hoffman, a state representative, and Republican John M. Shimkus, Madison County treasurer. Mr. Shimkus, who has won respect as treasurer of a Democratic county, is an attractive candidate. But he signs on to the Contract With America down to the last period.

Mr. Hoffman has his weaknesses. Some of his anti-crime proposals in the Illinois House have seemed shallow and politically calculated. But his supportive positions on student loans, Medicare, health care and bread-and-butter economic issues make Jay C. Hoffman the better candidate.

Mother enhanced cleanup task force

Barbara Ponder
Staff writer

In 1985 Sally Price's son, Tommy, then 9, found Coldwater Creek a really nifty place to play.

However, Tommy's joy was short lived. His mother soon learned through a newspaper article that Coldwater Creek contained radioactive contamination.

"I was working as a nurse with radiation therapy patients," Price said. "I was familiar with the dangers and

began to ask a lot of questions."

Today, Price — a registered nurse, wife and mother of three — is still asking questions.

Price serves as chairperson of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force. The task force, formed in August 1994 at the direction of the Department of Energy, recently submitted its recommendations for the cleanup of Coldwater Creek and other radioactive sites in North St. Louis County and St. Louis City.

The task force expects to participate in a DOE video conference regarding their recommendations in the near future. At that time, it will be determined if, and in what capacity, the task force should continue to serve.

Nationally, Price has served on the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program subcommittee of the Environmental Management Advisory Board since 1994. The subcommittee advises the DOE on cleanup standards and other issues concerning contaminat-

ed sites.

Price has also attended DOE's National Stakeholder Conference, which is designed to involve from citizens DEO activities.

"Sally Price is really amazing — for never having done anything like this before, she has remarkable leadership skills and excellent judgment," said Kay Drey, who has known Price for over 15 years.

Drey approached Price ab-

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Price

Continued from Page 1A

chairing the task force after the original chair — Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan, then county health department director — left in connection with a job change.

"For one thing she's really eloquent and she has a very strong commitment to having a safe environment for families and people on this planet," Drey said of Price's selection. She added that the task force felt it important the chair be a private citizen.

The task force is comprised of 24 participants including municipal officials, utility companies, environmental groups and other interested parties.

Both Drey and Tom Binz, another task force member, agreed that Price's patience, persistence and knowledge helped move a sometimes divided task force to reach consensus in its recommendations concerning cleanup standards at each of the sites.

The recommendations were delivered to the DEO on Sept. 25.

Price said she is not an activist but a "problem solver."

"I had a concern for the community. As a result of my health background, I understood (the danger)," Price said.

Price admits that becoming involved in a community issue can be frustrating.

Her early efforts consisted of writing to the DOE. Although Price said they always replied to her inquiries, letter writing seemed insufficient to solve the



Price

problem.

"What you need is a process... this problem here never had a process until the task force," Price said. "The process of the task force allowed for a lot of people to get together and communicate."

To others interested in becoming involved in a community concern, Price has a little advice.

"Keep probing and keep interested," Price said. "You'll find a way to be active in an issue."

Price said her efforts to combat hazardous waste have increased her children's environmental awareness. However, environmental concerns sometimes take a back seat with them.

"At this point, we're learning to drive and not get speeding tickets, and going to football games," Price said.

Plan Would Exile Nuclear Bomb Waste

By Mark Schlinkmann
Regional Political Correspondent

Much — but not all — of the radioactive waste at about 90 sites around St. Louis would be shipped to remote areas in other states under a plan expected to be submitted soon to the U.S. Energy Department.

The plan has been developed over two years by a local committee formed at the request of the energy department. The waste is from uranium processing for development of the atomic bomb.

The draft was distributed to committee

Panel Wants To Send It To Other States

members at a meeting Tuesday at the Hazelwood Civic Center East. The group will meet again on Aug. 27 to consider changes, then hold a public hearing next month, before sending the plan to Washington.

David Adler, who heads the St. Louis area cleanup effort, said his agency would give serious consideration to the committee's recommendation, but it's uncertain Cong-

ress will approve funding.

Adler said the plan would cost \$600 million to \$700 million — more than \$100 million above the cost of a proposed permanent storage bunker at Lambert Field. Several years ago, the energy department championed the bunker, but it shelved that idea because of community opposition.

Congress' willingness to pay for shipping

that amount of waste out of Missouri "is untested," Adler said.

A draft version of the plan calls for the most detailed cleanup to occur at interim storage sites at Lambert Field and on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood; at old ball fields in Berkeley across McDonnell Boulevard from the airport site; at 78 other sites in Berkeley and Hazelwood; and along Coldwater Creek, which flows near the airport site.

Richard Cavanagh, one of St. Louis County government's representatives on the

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Waste

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committee, said the plan calls for those properties to be excavated and cleaned up for unrestricted use. Many are close to residences, he said.

The contaminated soil would be taken to public or commercial sites — probably in Utah, Nevada, Washington state and Tennessee, a com-

mittee spokesman said.

The plan recommends a less drastic cleanup in the industrial area along the north St. Louis riverfront at and around the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works plant, where the uranium was processed.

That would be cleaned up to industrial and commercial use standards, where contamination would be reduced significantly but not eliminated.

The less drastic cleanup also would be recommended for the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton and for an area

along the St. Louis levee being developed for a recreational trail.

Committee chairwoman Sally Price said members believe that they can convince the federal government to finance the plan over 10 years or so.

After all, she said, the expensive bunker idea "evidently was something that was realistic" in federal officials' eyes.

She added that the plan being considered by her committee would be less expensive than complete excavation of all sites.

City Urged To Fight For North Runway

By Linda F. Jarrett
Special to the Post-Dispatch

Former Bridgeton city councilman Bill Otto is encouraging Bridgeton to continue the fight for its proposal to expand Lambert Field by adding a runway to the north.

Bridgeton's plan would add an east-west runway north of Lambert from Interstate 170 to McDonnell Douglas Corp. The plan, which has a total cost of about \$970 million and would use airport property, also calls for building another terminal. Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers has said the plan would spare the 1,500 houses targeted in Bridgeton under another proposal, which would extend a new runway westward into Bridgeton.

That plan, endorsed by Lambert Field and St. Louis, would put a third east-west runway west of the airport

Mayor: Plan Would Use Airport Land, Spare Houses

and displace 5,000 Bridgeton residents and scores of businesses. The proposed cost of \$1.78 billion is double that of Bridgeton's plan, but Lambert has said that plan does not provide enough capacity for the future.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association, of which Otto is president, and the Airline Pilots As-

sociation oppose the westward expansion.

"Our concern is we won't have anything done," Otto told the council. "We need a runway and we would like to see Bridgeton go to the forefront with this plan."

In an interview, Otto said that airport officials had said they "need an all-weather runway, but where they have it laid out, technically by our rules, we can't use it the way they want. We can only land in one direction and depart in one direction, so we're spending millions on a runway we can only use half the time."

Aviation rules require a 3,400-foot separation between runways for simultaneous operation of two runways in bad weather.

Otto said that although Bridgeton's plan separated runways by 2,500 feet, "technology seems to be on the way to allow us to run simultaneous traffic in the worst weather conditions on runways separated by 2,500 feet."

Otto said the airport was at capacity now and Bridgeton's plan could be completed in three years but the westward expansion would require seven years.

"By the time they go through the courts and level the ground, we'll be beyond capacity," he said. "We won't allow the airport to get to an unsafe condition. We [controllers] will hold airplanes on the ground and tell others not to land."

"We would like to see Bridgeton go to the forefront with this plan."

BILL OTTO,
former city councilman

Airport site top priority for radioactive cleanup

By Barbara Fonder
Staff writer

The Manhattan Project hastened the end of World War II by providing the United States with the atomic bomb.

But the project left areas of St. Louis, particularly in North County, contaminated with radioactive waste.

Now after two years of studying those contaminated areas, the St. Louis Remediation Task Force has completed a draft report concerning cleanup priorities and strategies. Members will meet in September to finalize the report for forwarding to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The Task Force has reached a consensus on a comprehensive cleanup plan designed to address the radioactive wastes which have burdened the St. Louis area for far too long," said Sally Price, the task force chairman. "The group has worked diligently during the past two years to develop these recommendations, and I look forward to a

successful outcome of its efforts."

A resolution passed by the task force at its Aug. 20 meeting recommends the Department of Energy begin in the upcoming fiscal year, which begins in October, to test microwave technology (see related story) in cleaning up the St. Louis airport site.

The task force — composed of 24 participants including municipal officials, utility companies and environmental groups — has ranked the airport site as its top priority. The 21.7-acre tract of land is adjacent to the northern edge of Lambert International Airport between McDonnell Boulevard and Banshee Road. It is one of five groups of properties contaminated by radioactive waste generated by the Manhattan Project.

The other sites are: the airport site vicinity properties, which lie along routes used to transport waste to the airport site; Latty Avenue vicinity properties, where some airport-site waste was moved; the

West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, where "clean-fill dirt" was actually 8,700 tons of barium sulfate dispersed in 39,000 tons of topsoil; and the St. Louis downtown site, near the McKinley Bridge.

The Manhattan Project conducted nuclear weapons research during World War II. In St. Louis, Mallinckrodt, then located downtown, played a pivotal role in the project by purifying uranium for U.S. atomic weapons. Mallinckrodt serves specialty markets in human and animal health care and specialty chemicals.

But Mallinckrodt's role in the war effort was not without cost.

In 1974, St. Louis was recognized by the Department of Energy as having the most contaminated acreage and radioactive waste of any U.S. site not owned by the DOE and contaminated by the government's activities involving radioactive materials.

According to the task force's draft report, St. Louis' contamination problems are com-

pounded by: the area's dense population; evidence that the contamination has spread through the air as well as through surface and ground waters; the location of contaminated properties within the flood plain between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers; and evidence of radioactive contamination of Coldwater Creek.

The draft report also contains recommendations for remediation of the four other sites. These include:

- Clean up the Berkeley ball fields on McDonnell Boulevard, airport site vicinity properties, the Latty Avenue properties and Coldwater Creek to unrestricted-use standards.

- Clean up the West Lake Landfill and St. Louis downtown site to industrial- and commercial-use standards.

- Clean up the City Levee (Riverfront Trail) to industrial, commercial- and recreational-use standards.

involving radioactive materials, and St. Louis is the largest of the 46 FUSRAP sites, Snyder said.

Mallinckrodt's downtown St. Louis production facility processed uranium until 1957, when the Atomic Energy Commission moved production to a site 30 miles away at the former U.S. Army TNT production facility in Weldon Spring, Mo.

The federal government, however, in 1946 acquired 21.7 acres at Lambert Field, the St. Louis airport, for storing residues from uranium ore processing at Mallinckrodt. The St. Louis Airport Storage Site was a repository for pitchblende/radfinite, radium-bearing waste, barium cake residue, and dolomite liners, as well as other waste during cleanup projects undertaken from 1948 through 1962. In 1966, the government sold the waste at the airport site to Continental Mining and Milling Co., which moved some of the materials to a site in nearby Hazelwood, Mo.

Spillage resulting from transport led to additional contamination at vicinity properties. In 1969, the Cotter Corp. assumed ownership of the materials and began shipping them to its processing plant in Colorado. By 1973, all that remained was 8,700 tons of barium sulfate, which was dispersed in 39,000 tons of topsoil and shipped to the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo., labeled as "clean fill dirt."

These transport and storage maneuvers also led to contamination of the Mississippi River banks, Coldwater Creek, and numerous roads and rail lines totalling about 90 areas.

Task Force Recommendations

In its draft report, the task force made the following recommendations for the overall cleanup:

- ▶ That the airport site, the Coldwater Creek site, and sites near residential areas be cleaned up for unrestricted use, reducing thorium/radium contamination to five picocuries per gram above background levels in the top six inches of soil, and 15 picocuries per gram in each six-inch layer below the top layer;

- ▶ That the downtown Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. site, West Lake Landfill, and riverfront areas be cleaned up to levels compatible with industrial uses; and

- ▶ That the contaminated soil be transported in sealed containers to remote out-of-state storage facilities in the West, probably including Nevada, Utah, and Washington.

- ▶ David Farquharson, task force member and mayor of Hazelwood, told BNA that area residents have long championed the idea of shipping the waste to storage sites in other states.

The task force identified cleanup of the airport site as the highest cleanup priority, and will urge its cleanup during fiscal 1997.

Saying that he agrees with task force's recommendations, Rep. James Talent (R-Mo) Aug. 13 requested in a letter to Thomas Grumbly, assistant energy secretary for environmental management, that DOE make available \$40 million during fiscal 1997 to allow the cleanup to begin.

David Adler, St. Louis FUSRAP site manager, however, said Aug. 18 that although DOE will give consideration to the task force's recommendations, he is uncertain whether Congress will approve necessary funding to carry out the plan, which he estimated at \$600 million to \$700 million.

Price said the cost of the panel's recommendations are not far out of line with DOE's proposed construction of a containment bunker at Lambert Field for most of the wastes at an estimated cost of \$500 million to \$600 million.

The task force consists of local officials, DOE-designated representatives of affected groups, including owners of contaminated properties, congressional field staff, and representative of agencies that have regulatory authority at the St. Louis sites.

Radioactive Waste

Task Force To Recommend Shipping Wastes From Missouri Contaminated Sites To Other States

ST. LOUIS—An advisory task force plans to recommend to the Department of Energy that contaminated materials at scores of sites in the St. Louis area be shipped to storage facilities in other states, a member of the panel told BNA.

The 41-member St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force, which was commissioned by DOE and assembled in August 1994, was directed to study issues related to disposal of radioactive wastes that originally were created at a uranium processing plant for the U.S. nuclear weapons program but later ended up in various locations.

In 1990, DOE proposed to excavate the 90 contaminated sites and dispose of 900,000 cubic yards of low-level radioactive waste at a central bunker in the St. Louis area. However, public opposition to DOE's proposal prompted the department to appoint the task force to come up with alternative proposals.

"The task force has reached consensus on a comprehensive cleanup plan designed to address the radioactive wastes which have burdened the St. Louis area for far too long," Sally Price, task force chairwoman, told BNA. "The group has worked diligently during the past two years to develop these recommendations, and I look forward to a successful outcome of its efforts." Price would not speculate on the likelihood that DOE would adopt the task force's recommendations.

The task force released its draft proposal Aug. 18 and will meet Sept. 14 to make final revisions to its report, Price said. The panel will hold a public hearing Sept. 18 before sending the plan to DOE.

The current situation, with wastes located at scores of sites evolved over 50 years, and the aftermath of the U.S. project to build the atomic bomb have left St. Louis with the largest Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in the United States, both in acreage and volume of radioactive waste material, the draft report said.

Uranium Processing

The Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. was the sole source of processed uranium from the inception of the U.S. atomic bomb program in 1942 until 1951, Sarah Snyder, FUSRAP community relations coordinator, told BNA. In 1974, DOE established the program to clean up nongovernment-owned sites contaminated as a result of the government's activities

EDITORIALS

Move Bomb Waste — Carefully

Some 90 sites in and around the St. Louis region contain radioactive waste left over from uranium processing during the development of the atomic bomb. After years of debate, the question of what to do with it remains unanswered. Now comes a plan by a local committee created two years ago at the behest of the U.S. Department of Energy that makes a serious attempt to supply an answer. Though not perfect, the plan is worth a hard look.

Contaminated soil on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood, at several other locations in the same city and in Berkeley and along Coldwater Creek would be completely dug up and shipped out of the area. A less thorough cleanup would occur at the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works and at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, where only industrial uses would be permitted. The plan's most important element: There would be no permanent storage dump at Lambert Field, as the Energy Department originally wanted but is no longer pressing in deference to community's wishes.

The group that developed the plan unveiled it this week at Hazelwood Civic Center East. Another meeting will be held to consider refinements, and then a public hearing before the results are forward-

ed to the Energy Department. Two issues need to be considered before any plan is sent to Washington. First, is there a reasonable chance Congress is willing to pay the roughly \$700 million it will cost to move the waste, more than a permanent bunker would cost? If not, the current plan needs a backup to avoid becoming irrelevant. Second, can the waste be safely transported out of the area?

Even if the waste were sent to government installations from Utah to Tennessee that are already contaminated, how much risk is there to citizens along the routes it must take to its final destination? Just as St. Louis doesn't want to become the transit point for all nuclear waste moving from east of the Mississippi River to a possible permanent home in Nevada, the region shouldn't try to visit a similar problem on its neighbors.

Still, the new plan is worth considering; leaving nuclear waste scattered about is neither safe nor sane. Something must be done with it, but not at the expense of Missouri's neighbors — and only after everyone is certain that digging up the contaminated soil won't seriously risk spreading the uranium waste around, making many people sick. Those points still need clarification.

Horn's Rematch With Congressman Is Basic Liberal-Conservative Fight

By Fred W. Lindecke
Missouri Political Correspondent

HE HAS continued to vote with Newt Gingrich against the environment, seniors, children, workers, consumers, education. . . . The list goes on and on."

That's Joan Kelly Horn talking about U.S. Rep. James M. Talent, R-Chesterfield.

"The major issue is who wants to change Washington and who wants to keep the status quo. She thinks we've gone too far already. That's what her slogans amount to."

This is Talent talking about Horn.

The battle in the 2nd District in St. Louis and St. Charles counties is a rematch between Horn and Talent, with the roles reversed.

This time, Talent is the incumbent and Horn the challenger.

In 1992, Horn, a Ladue Democrat, was the one-term incumbent, and Talent, former minority leader of the Missouri House, was the

challenger. She had won the district by only 54 votes over former Rep. Jack Buechner, R-Kirkwood, in 1990. Then the district was redrawn following the 1990 census.

Areas in the 2nd where Democratic voters live were given to 1st District Rep. William L. Clay, I-St. Louis, and 3rd District Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, D-south St. Louis County.

Talent defeated Horn by more than 8,000 votes in a year when Democrats were winning nationally and in Missouri. This feat was interpreted widely as a demonstration of how Republican the seat had become as a result of redistricting. Talent and Horn agree: The district leans Republican.

It is 94 percent white, mainly middle class, but includes the most affluent neighborhoods in the St. Louis area. The district is framed by fast-growing St. Charles on the west and historic suburbs such as Webster Groves and Kirkwood on the east. The district takes in Missouri's largest employer, defense giant McDonnell-Douglas, the Trans World Airlines hub at Lambert Field, and Chrysler and Ford manufacturing plants in South and North County, respectively.



Where They Stand

Name	Balanced Budget Amend.	Term Limits	Abortion Rights	Welfare Reform
Talent	for	for	against	Let states set benefits
Horn	against	against	for	Fed. government set minimum standards
Steuer	for	against	for	Opposed to welfare
Clessler	for	for	for	For as part of balancing the budget

Horn sat out the 1994 election after deciding — correctly — it would be a bad year for Democrats. Talent was re-elected by more than 84,000 votes.

Also on the 2nd District ballot on Nov. 5 are Libertarian Anton Charles Steuer of Wildwood and Judith Clessler of west St. Louis County, a candidate of the Natural Law party who got on the ballot by petition.

Talent and Horn each expect to spend about \$500,000 on their campaigns. Talent has raised his \$500,000. Horn said she's only about halfway there.

A Classic Battle

Linda Kowalczyk, assistant professor of political science at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, said the Horn-Talent contest was the classic liberal-conservative conflict.

"In many ways, it's a much more stark

contrast than Clinton and Dole, since Clinton is making moves toward the center," Kowalczyk said.

She said that due to redistricting after the 1990 campaign, "Talent has demographics on his side. The 2nd District seems a likely Republican district."

Kowalczyk thinks Horn is wise to link her campaign against Talent to President Bill Clinton and "tap into voter unease with the direction of the Republican Congress" under House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Kowalczyk added that if Clinton's big lead over Bob Dole continued, Talent might have to be concerned about discouraged GOP voters staying away from the polls.

Talent showed no signs of backing away from Gingrich. He said he planned to focus in his next two years in Congress on passing constitutional amendments for a balanced bud-

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Congress

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get and term limits, as well as a tax relief bill.

Contract Points

He said he was happy with passage of some portions of the House Republican "Contract With America." These were enactment of welfare revisions, a health-care bill, reduction of delays in carrying out the death penalty and congressional reforms including cutting its budget and pensions, term limits for committee heads and making Congress obey laws it imposes on others.

Despite the stalemate between Clinton and the Republican Congress over a balanced budget, Talent said, "The bottom line is that we've slowed growth in the rate of federal spending to the rate of inflation. Increases in revenue on this basis will be enough to balance the budget, and that was my goal to start with."

The continuing resolutions used to appropriate funds, which Clinton has been signing, are keeping the federal government on this track, Talent said.

Horn said she agreed with Clinton that the budget should be balanced, "but be careful how we do it."

She attacked Talent's votes "to gut the Environmental Protection Agency to prevent it from enforcing clean water and air laws. Luckily, she said, his action "did not make it out of the House because moderate Republicans prevented it."

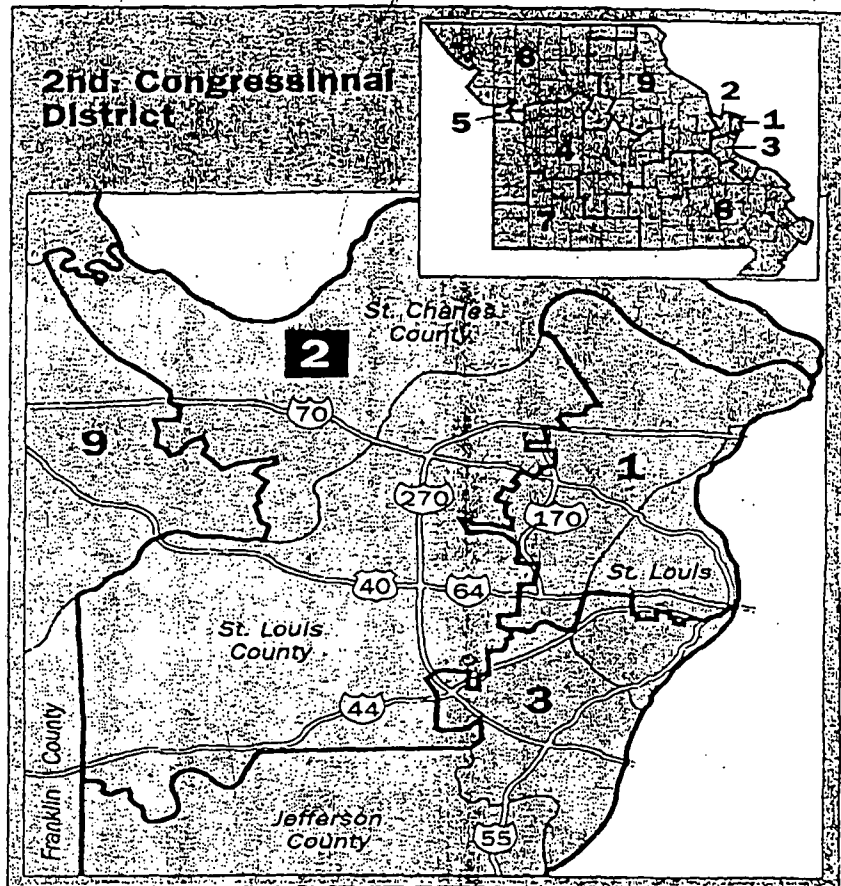
Horn said Talent voted to slash funding for college loans, education in general and to abolish the Department of Education.

"The budget that Talent voted for this year would raise the deficit in the next two years. The budget I support brings the deficit straight down to zero by 2002" without requiring a constitutional amendment, she said.

GOP balanced-budget plans hit social programs such as Medicare too hard because they contain excessive tax cuts, spend too much on defense and give tax breaks to corporations, Horn said.

Talent responded that the Medicare plan which Clinton vetoed "would have been the best for senior citizens since it was enacted in 1965." The student loan changes did not reduce loans or increase their cost to students, and struck a compromise between whether banks or colleges should process them, Talent said.

Talent and Horn rode in the annual



Tom Borgman/Post-Dispatch

Missouri's 2nd Congressional District is 94 percent white, mainly middle class and leans Republican. It includes the most affluent neighborhoods in the St. Louis area.

Greentree Festival parade in early September in Kirkwood. The suburb is Republican territory, but some spectators recalled voting for both of them.

Jim Loomis and his wife, Marcia, voted for Horn in 1990 when she ran against Buechner, but switched to Talent in 1992. They said they would stick with Talent this year. "He's honest," said Marcia Loomis.

James Ward from Oakland also voted for Horn in 1990. "I wasn't a big Buechner fan," he said.

■ **POST *LINK*** links to the candidates' home pages on the Internet. . . . POSTnet details, Page 2A

Ward said he was a Republican and planned to stay with Talent.

Marcia Caciono watched the parade with her children. She said she would go with Talent. She said she remembered when Horn and her husband, Terry Jones, were accused of violating a Ladue ordinance by living together without being married.

"It's important to be married," Caciono said. "It's just the way I was raised."

Diane Engelbart of Shrewsbury said she was a Democrat who would vote for Horn. "I've found Talent to be abrasive and very confrontational on some issues," she said.

Ann and Ken Williams said they were minority Democrats in Kirkwood. "We oppose everything Talent stands for," Ann Williams said. Even though both parties propose reducing the growth of Medicare, "I think we would be more protected under the Democrats," she said.

The following clipping is not about FUSRAP but is included because it provides relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Scandal And Deceit In Dioxin Cleanup

By Steve Taylor

Citizens at odds with the Times Beach incineration policy were recently informed that EPA administrator Carol Browner had removed herself from the Missouri dioxin cleanup. Browner removed herself because her sister, Michelle Browner, is employed by the company responsible for the Times Beach cleanup.

This maneuver places politics over public health. Citizen appeal to the Environmental Protection Agency has been severely restricted for reasons incompatible with the responsibility of safeguarding public health and the environment. Yet, the management of the eastern Missouri dioxin sites and the Times Beach incinerator by federal and state agencies has been embroiled in scandal from Day One.

Shortly after the Times Beach story began to unfold, several EPA officials alleged that authorities did not take action or inform citizens until almost a decade after state and federal authorities were well aware of the contamination. The debate culminated in the controversial replacement of Dan Harris, EPA's regional dioxin coordinator. Harris, who was responsible for initiating the dioxin investigation in the 1980s, stated to the *Post-Dispatch* at that time, "I got the feeling that they [EPA] were trying to bury the whole investigation."

In 1982, as flood waters forced the evacuation of dioxin-contaminated Times Beach, Congress investigated the negligence of the EPA and Centers for Disease Control in responding to dioxin contamination in eastern Missouri. President Ronald Reagan ordered EPA administrator Ann Gorsuch to withhold documents under "executive privilege." Rita Lavelle, head of the hazardous waste program, began to shred documents.

Gorsuch was forced to resign along with 19 other appointees, and Lavelle served six months in jail for perjury and obstruction of justice in an investigation into political use of waste cleanup funds. Pollutant data from many of the Missouri sites remain "lost" according to the EPA.

In 1990, a report by the Committee on

Government Operations, "The Agent Orange Coverup," was submitted to Congress. It said: "The Centers for Disease Control study [of exposed veterans] was controlled and obstructed by the White House because the Reagan administration had adopted a legal strategy of refusing liability in military and civilian cases of contamination involving toxic chemicals and nuclear radiation."

Some of Missouri's dioxin contamination resulted from Agent Orange production. The CDC study was investigating the health effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans, in particular the toxic effects of dioxin in the herbicide. This year, President Bill Clinton signed a bill expanding compensation to veterans and

executive vice presidents eventually pleaded guilty; one was sentenced to five years in prison.

On May 2, 1995, a researcher funded by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry testified to the St. Louis Dioxin Monitoring Committee that blood levels had decreased in citizens living next to an incinerator in Arkansas. The researcher, Morris Cranmer, reversed his findings after the federally funded report's data were obtained by Greenpeace. In 1988, a federal court had found Cranmer guilty of defrauding the Farmers Home Administration of nearly \$10 million.

This August, the EPA met with Missouri citizens to hear evidence that a laboratory owned by the same company that operates the incinerator held for more than a week samples from sensitive trial burns. The samples were later analyzed to determine if the incinerator was performing within EPA guidelines. The laboratory, Quanterra, was 50 percent owned by International Technologies, the owner of the Times Beach incinerator. International Technologies formed Quanterra several years after acquiring metaTrace. MetaTrace was suspended from EPA contracts in 1990. The location and phone number, along with some equipment and employees are the same as metaTrace's. The Department of Natural Resources is investigating a possible conflict of interest.

If all goes as planned, Times Beach will soon be a park with the ash from 27 eastern Missouri dioxin sites buried along the Meramec River. State and federal authorities hope that a blood study soon to be released will allay the concerns of those living near the incinerator. They hope that past indiscretions will be forgotten. But for many of us who have lived through the Times Beach saga, we will know that among the toxic ash is buried the integrity of officials and agencies that the public has entrusted to safeguard our health and environment.



their children for debilitating effects of exposure to Agent Orange. To date, there has been no compensation to citizens exposed to the same chemicals as a result of the improper disposal of dioxin in Missouri.

In 1990, metaTrace, a St. Louis-based analytical laboratory in Earth City, was suspended from EPA contracts. The regional EPA official's request for suspension cited many violations including charges that metaTrace "had falsified and fraudulently submitted computer generated pesticide/polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) test data." The request also said, "EPA has made policy decisions that are potentially life threatening relying on this invalid data."

MetaTrace handled large contracts for work at Times Beach and Weldon Spring, including a dioxin analysis designed specifically for Times Beach. Two former

Area Residents Want Waste Shipped Out

Area residents, environmentalists and local officials turned out Wednesday night to ask the government to ship radioactive waste out of metropolitan St. Louis to remote areas in other states.

They supported the report of an advisory committee that is asking the Department of Energy to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to remove the waste.

St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr., St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall, Gov. Mel Carnahan, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt and U.S. Reps. William L. Clay, D-St. Louis, and James M. Talent, R-Chesterfield, sent representatives to endorse the plan.

"Now that the Cold War is over, it's time for the federal government to clean up" the waste, Bosley said in a statement read to about 80 people at the Henry VIII Hotel in Bridgeton.

Congressional candidate Joan Kelly Horn, a Democrat, asked why the government has allowed tons of waste to remain in heavily populated and commercial areas for 50 years.

Gephardt, D-south St. Louis County, and Clay sent a letter asking the head of the Department of Energy to come here to accept the report's findings. An energy official at the meeting promised that agency Administrator Thomas P. Grumbly would do just that.

Faced with public outrage two years ago, Grumbly reversed the government's decision to build a \$200 million bunker at Lambert Field to store the radioactive waste.

Grumbly then asked a local advisory committee to come up with a better idea. The 40-member committee presented its findings to the public Wednesday. Key points:

- Much — but not all — of the radioactive waste at 90 sites here would be shipped out of state to rural areas.

- The highest priority should be removing waste at the airport. Removal should begin as early as next year.

- The energy department should pay for the removal — which has been estimated at \$600 million.

MISSOURI

RADIOACTIVE WASTE**Ship Much Out Of State, Panel Urges**

A 40-member committee on Tuesday endorsed a proposal to ship much — but not all — of the radioactive waste at about 90 sites here to remote areas in other states.

The local committee was formed at the request of the U.S. Department of Energy. A public hearing on the \$600 million-plus plan will be held at 7 tonight at the Henry VIII Hotel, 4690 North Lindbergh Boulevard in Bridgeton. The plan, worked out by the committee over the past two years, still must be approved by federal agencies and Congress.

The waste is from uranium processing for development of the atomic bomb. Under the proposal, most areas containing the waste would be excavated and cleaned up for unrestricted use.

Less drastic cleanup would occur at and around the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works plant along the north St. Louis riverfront, where the uranium was processed, and at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton.

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Environmental Movement Of '90s Looking For Justice

Leaders Focus On Cleanup Of Minority Communities

By Mary H. Cooper
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WASHINGTON

THE ENVIRONMENTAL movement, which began in the 1970s, reflected the priorities of its prosperous, mostly white leadership.

But in the 1990s, a growing environmental justice movement is calling for special efforts to clean up minority communities, contending that inner-city black and Hispanic residents, as well as American Indians on reservations, are more likely than whites to be exposed to toxic wastes and other pollutants.

The movement's approach differs from that of the superfund program, which identifies specific waste sites and cleans them up.

"We look at the hazards in a community as a whole, rather than each being site-specific," says Charles Lee, director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice. Lee has advised the Environmental Protection Agency on environmental justice issues.

"If you were to take a bunch of sites, all of which may comply with standards, it doesn't mean that cumulatively there is no risk in that community," Lee said. "Moreover, there may be other sites that are completely undocumented."

He says the high incidence of asthma in many minority communities underscores the multiple aspects of environmental problems.

"Asthma is a controllable disease that is caused by several different sources and is exacerbated by many others," he said. "The incidence is so high in minority communities, because of greater exposure to allergens, greater susceptibility to those allergens, because of inferior living conditions, and the inability to address it, because many residents lack adequate health care."

On Feb. 11, 1994, President Bill Clinton lent support to the environmental justice movement by issuing an executive order requiring that all federal agencies include the achievement of environmental equity among their goals.

The same year, the environmental agency set up an Office of Environmental Justice and established the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to study the impact of environmental policies on different income and racial groups. The council also will provide grants to help communities around the country identify and address local environmental problems.

Some activists say the environmental justice movement is getting a vital boost from efforts to encourage redevelopment of contaminated industrial wastelands in cities across the country. These "brownfields" usually are empty lots that once contained factories, oil-tank farms or smelters.

Because the level of contamination is too high to permit redevelopment, but too low to merit priority treatment under the federal superfund program, brownfields often are left to languish as urban eyesores. Potential buyers are frightened away by fears that they will be held liable for past pollution in future lawsuits, while others give up because bankers and insurers refuse to provide financing and liability coverage for such risky investments.

The Clinton administration is offering a two-year "brownfields initiative" aimed at luring businesses to locate in these lightly polluted areas. The program provides federal grants of \$200,000 to industrial developers of polluted sites.

This year, Clinton would expand the program by proposing to grant tax breaks to companies that buy brownfield sites, clean them up and build new businesses on them. Under the proposal, included in the president's plans for the fiscal 1997 budget, businesses could deduct the full cost of cleaning up brownfield sites.

Environmental justice activists praise the initiative as a ray of hope. "The heart of the issue is to bring back to life communities which are distressed," Lee says.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996

Talent Will Bring Waste Through Area, Horn Says

By Fred W. Lindecke
Missouri Political Correspondent

Joan Kelly Horn accused Rep. James M. Talent, R-Chesterfield, Saturday of wanting to send trainloads of nuclear waste through Kirkwood, Webster Groves, Valley Park, Fenton and Eureka.

Horn, Democratic candidate against Talent in the Nov. 5 election, put leaflets attacking Talent on cars parked at Kirkwood Park for the city's annual Greentree parade and festival.

Talent responded in an interview that he is sponsoring legislation that would require transportation of nuclear waste to a storage facility at Yucca Mountain, Nev., and that he has no intention of allowing it to pass through the Second District he represents.

Both Horn and Talent rode cars in the Greentree parade. Talent defeated Horn in 1992 after she had represented the district for two years.

"Talent's toxic train threatens our community," the leaflet said. It said Talent "should be paying more attention to the needs of our community and less to his friends in the nuclear



Talent
industry."



Horn

Talent said the bill, if passed, does not identify shipment routes. He said it is intended to direct the Energy Department to get started on a commitment Congress made to help nuclear power plants dispose of their waste.

After the bill is passed, the debate will start over which routes to use. "I don't see why it has to go through any populated area," Talent said.

Horn answered that the likely routes from nuclear plants to the east would be on Union Pacific tracks or trucks on Interstate 70 going through the Second District.

Dioxin Burning Forecast Extended

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The dioxin incinerator at Times Beach will operate into next year, instead of finishing by October as previously predicted.

When the incinerator began burning on March 17, project manager Gary Pendergrass said the job would take seven months. On Friday, he said the burn would "probably be finished by the end of January."

"The main thing driving it is the additional quantities that we're getting," he said.

The amount of contaminated material to be burned initially was estimated at 130,000 tons. That estimate now has grown to almost 200,000 tons.

The increase is coming from two places — the amount of soil being excavated from contaminated sites, and heavier-than-expected bags that were stored from already cleaned sites.

In addition, the initial estimate of the burn time was based on the incinerator operating at 100 percent capacity, burning 1,000 tons a day in round-the-clock operation. So far, the actual processing has been closer to 75 percent capacity. As of Friday, 70,000 tons had been burned.

"We're disgusted, but not surprised," Steve Taylor, an opponent of the burning, said of the delay. "Nothing about this project has gone according to plan."

See DIOXIN, Page 3

Dioxin

From page one

The risk assessment used to get operating permits for the incinerator is based on an eight-month burn. Will a longer burn mean greater risks?

"That's a very pertinent question right now," said Bob Feild, who is coordinating the project for the Environmental Protection Agency. "As it becomes clearer that eight months will be exceeded, we would recalculate risks."

But Feild emphasized that the current estimate of risk is so low, even a 50 percent increase in the time incinerator is running would not escalate the risk beyond what is permissible.

The EPA estimated the risk of the project to be two additional cancer cases among 10 million people getting maximum exposure to incinerator emissions.

"A 50 percent increase in the duration of the project still would have the risks well below the maximum allowable of one cancer case per million people," Feild said.

Fred Striley, another opponent of the incinerator, said the risk assessment did not include other contaminants in the material being burned and did not figure in "fugitive" emissions coming from sources other than the stack.

"To say the risks are so low that they can easily double and still be within acceptable risk is based upon a number of false assumptions," he said.

The state permit specifies that only material from the 27 dioxin sites in eastern Missouri be burned in the incinerator, and sets a five-year deadline for the project, ending on April 14, 2000.

Eleven sites were excavated earlier and the material stored, and four

■ **POSTnet** has more on dioxin. POSTnet details, Page 2A

sites have been cleaned since the incinerator began operation. Two other sites will be capped with soil in place because the dioxin levels are low. That leaves 10 sites awaiting excavation.

The state Health Department took blood samples from residents living around the incinerator and from a control group that lives in the Manchester area before the burning began.

This week, a second round of samples will be taken to determine whether dioxin levels have increased in the nearby residents while the incinerator is operating.

David Shorr, director of the state Department of Natural Resources, which issued the operating permits, said the fact the project may take longer than earlier estimated was not a concern.

"We are more concerned about making sure that the cleanups are being done thoroughly," Shorr said. "This is our only opportunity for cleanup dollars, and we want to make sure we're cleaning them as best we can."

Nuclear Waste Proposal Tough Call For Illinois

By Philip Dine

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

AS THE TRANSPORTATION and storage of waste from nuclear power plants come to the forefront in the Senate, they raise a thorny dilemma for the senators from Illinois.

In considering whether to build a temporary storage site in Nevada's desert and ship the nation's nuclear waste there, Sens. Paul Simon and Carol Moseley-Braun must balance two factors. On the one hand, Illinois contains 13 of the country's 110 nuclear power plants, generates one-sixth of the nation's nuclear power and has 5,000 metric tons of waste — easily topping all other states on each count. So nowhere is it more crucial to rid a state of its spent nuclear fuel.

But that very concentration means that in Illinois more waste would have to be handled, packaged and moved. And, geography dictates that much of the spent fuel of states east of Illinois, where the bulk of nuclear plants happen to be, will pass through Illinois on its way West.

Missouri — with only one nuclear power plant — would also be a major route for the shipments.

"I think it is clear we have to do something with nuclear waste," Simon said Wednesday. He supports the Nevada plan with some reservations. "I really do not contemplate any problems — the people involved say they will go out of their way to be safe — but no one can guarantee that it is risk-free."

Being right on this one is critical, Simon said, because "the repercussions are so great."

The federal government is supposed to take title to the waste by 1998 but has no place to put it, and states are growing increasingly concerned about running out of storage space. The Senate proposal calls for a temporary storage facility and a permanent facility, to be built by 1998, in Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

Illinois ratepayers have spent more than \$1 billion, more than any other state, toward the interim Nevada facility.

Moseley-Braun remains reluctant to endorse the plan because so much waste would probably travel through Illinois.

However, after years of study about nuclear waste, Illinois is running out of storage capacity at the nuclear power plants. So she favors moving it but will push for an amendment to clarify accountability during transportation among the Department of Transportation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state nuclear regulatory commissions. "Unlike many areas where everyone wants responsibility, this is one where no one does," she said.

A political battle over the measure appears imminent.

The Senate voted 65-34 on Tuesday to proceed with action on the plan. That vote, an indication of support, called for a second vote Thursday on invoking cloture, which would cut off a filibuster by Nevada's two senators. They vigorously oppose the plan.

But in light of the matter's complexity and the emotions it arouses, Senate leaders decided Wednesday to

■ **POST 1724** links to the legislation and the regulators. POSTnet details, Page 2A

hold off the vote until this coming Thursday so legislators can move forward on defense appropriation measures. Otherwise, defense spending could have been delayed, with 30 hours set aside for debate on the nuclear plans.

Sister legislation in the House has seen little debate, awaiting Senate action.

The White House has signaled its reservations. Chief of staff Leon Panetta this week noted the president's desire to see more thought given to the temporary site and more "sensitivity" to concerns in Nevada.

And interviews Wednesday with several members of Missouri's delegation showed mixed sentiments.

House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., fears "making St. Louis a highway for the nuclear waste."

Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., believes that the legislation offers a prudent approach to solving a mounting problem and that federal regulations would ensure safety. Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., also favors the plan.

Rep. Harold L. Volkmer, D-Mo., is undecided.

Missouri, with one nuclear power plant in Callaway County, near Fulton, would face less transportation of its own waste, but would be a major byway for waste from Eastern states.

In decades of periodic transportation of nuclear fuel containers — 2,400 shipments in all — there have been seven accidents, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute, a trade association in Washington. Four involved highway travel; three, trains. No radiation leaks occurred, and only one accident involved injuries.

In the worst mishap, a quarter-century ago, a tractor-trailer carrying a 25-ton shipping container with spent nuclear fuel swerved on a Tennessee road to avoid a head-on collision. Out of control, the vehicle overturned, and the driver was killed. The trailer and its still-attached container broke away from the tractor, coming to a halt in a rain-filled ditch. No radioactive material was spilled.

Since the bill was first considered in March, it has been tightened as a result of senators' concerns about environmental protection, transportation oversight and the storage facility. But a presidential veto would probably be sustained, Simon said, given the 34 votes already opposed to the measure.

For Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Ill., whose district is served by a nuclear power plant in Clinton, Ill., worry persists, though he realizes something must be done about waste. Potential transportation routes through his Metro East area are along Interstates 270 and 70. "Before I support Yucca or any other location, I want the Department of Transportation to develop a plan of how the waste will get to the site," he said. "I want specific routes."

Despite the contentiousness of the issue, and the political uncertainty, trying to deal with it now is the right thing, Costello said. "I think it's good that it's coming to the forefront. It would be very easy to push it off to future generations and let them make the decision. I think it's our responsibility."

HAZELWOOD

Council Endorses Cleanup Of Sites Tainted With Radioactive Materials

The Hazelwood City Council has endorsed the cleanup of several sites that have been contaminated with uranium and other radioactive materials.

The cleanup was recommended by the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force, which recommended two levels of cleanup: removal of the contaminants to another storage facility and returning the sites to a green field or a slightly lower level of cleanup of highly contaminated materials so the sites could be used again for

industry.

The council says wants all of the sites returned to green fields by removing the contaminated material and shipping it to storage sites in Utah or Washington.

In other business, the council approved a six-month freeze on licensing pawnbrokers. Two other bills on zoning for pawnshops and regulating the shops were postponed until the council's meeting Aug. 7. Mayor David Farquharson said he and the council wanted time to study the bills.

Fulton Sun Gazette

Fulton, Missouri

Sunday, September 17, 1995

50¢

Fulton Sun

'93 flood aided hazardous waste release in Callaway

By The Associated Press

Two of the few releases of hazardous materials during the Flood of '93 happened in Callaway County, a new study indicates.

Ironically, one release happened as operators at an electrical transformer plant were preparing for the floods.

At ABB Power T&D Co. in north Jefferson City, about 200 gallons of mineral oil were spilled in July 1993 as workers were topping off an underground tank to ensure a steady supply during the disaster.

The mineral oil sloshed into a containment area, but the flood popped a containment berm and

sandbags on top of it to wash out much of the oil. The study found residues from the oil in several spots around the plant.

The survey also uncovered petroleum byproducts at the stone gatehouse entrance to the now-abandoned Renz Correctional Center north of Jefferson City, where receding water deposited an underground storage tank. Officials still don't know where the tank came from.

Around Missouri, worse things could have happened to a dozen hazardous waste sites than being battered and covered by water during the 1993 flood, state officials said after reviewing a new report.

"Overall, considering how much

water we had and how much damage it did, most of the sites survived relatively well," said Ed Sadler, director of the Hazardous Waste Program for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The department received results last week of a \$148,000 study of hazardous waste sites and other areas where state officials were worried floodwaters might have exacerbated environmental problems.

Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the study originally was to have been performed earlier but was delayed to include results from less serious flooding that occurred this past summer, Sadler said.

"Some sites showed less contami-

nation after the flood than before.

One dramatic example included several radioactive "hot spots" in sediment in the Mississippi River near a federal hazardous waste site in St. Louis, where radioactive materials had been refined in the production of the first atomic weapons.

The U.S. Department of Energy is conducting the cleanup on the site and found the "hot spots" of radium, uranium and thorium in a survey performed before the 1993 floods.

But the latest survey by a state contractor, BDAT Environmental Inc. of St. Louis, found only background radiation levels in the area of the "hot spots," state environ-

mental engineer Mitch Scherzinger said Friday.

"I believe Mother Nature did us a big favor, because we found less than was found before," Scherzinger said.

Where did the radioactive sediment go? Presumably downstream, but state environmental officials contend the sheer volume of floodwaters diluted the radioactive materials below dangerous levels.

"The floodwaters washed it away," Scherzinger said. "To have the volume of water that passed through during the flood, one could only assume that it was vastly diluted."

Partnership

Continued from Page 1A

north and Lindbergh Boulevard on the east.

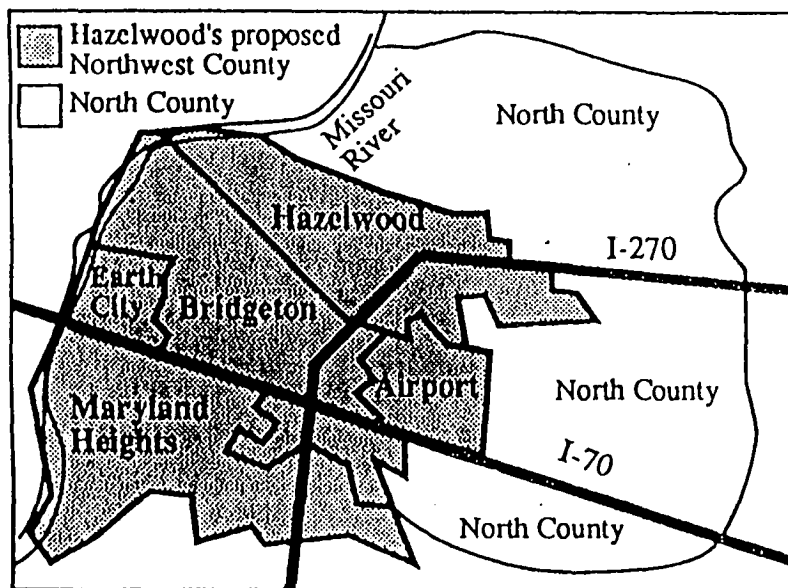
"North and West County are dramatically dissimilar from Northwest County in all the fundamental categories that draw Hazelwood, Bridgeton and Maryland Heights together," the study says. "These three cities are similar in population, income distribution, business and industrial base, economy, housing stock, geography and the potential for future growth."

The report adds that Northwest County is poised to attract not only residential growth, but is also a venue for large-scale commercial and industrial development. Its proximity to major transportation corridors, a high-quality work force and housing stock, and an abundance of vacant land makes the area prime for development, the report says.

Carlstrom said the Northwest County designation could be used as a tool to market Hazelwood and its economic potential. He said he also plans to speak with officials in Bridgeton and Maryland Heights about a partnership that could include sharing costs for an economic development director and an economic development program for the three cities.

Carlstrom said neither the report nor the "Northwest County" designation is intended to shed a negative light on other North County communities.

"I think if they (other community officials) read the report, they'll find it makes sense," Carlstrom said. "We are not saying that we do not belong in North County. We're simply saying we are more similar to Bridgeton and Maryland Heights."



'Northwest County' Hazelwood proposes new name

By Nancy L. Ide
Staff writer

Hazelwood city officials have proposed forming a partnership with the cities of Bridgeton and Maryland Heights, and renaming the area "Northwest County."

"We are different from some other cities in North County, and the demographics prove that," said Hazelwood City Manager Ed Carlstrom at a City Council meeting last Wednesday. "It's in the best interest of the city to develop an identity and pride in the area in which we live."

Carlstrom said city staff put together a study that compares the populations, income distribution, racial composition, and educational and poverty statistics in the three cities with averages of 43 other North County municipalities. Carlstrom said statistics were compiled from numbers supplied by the St. Louis County Department of Planning in the 1994 *St. Louis County Fact Book*.

For example, the study notes that:

- Median income is \$38,619 in Bridgeton, \$40,757 in Hazelwood and \$39,211 in Maryland Heights, as opposed to a North County average, median income of \$29,992.

- The percentage of adults with college degrees is 23.2 in Bridgeton, 20.2 in Hazelwood and 33.5 in Maryland Heights, as opposed to a North County average of 16.08 percent.

- Minority population accounts for 5 percent in Bridgeton, 10 percent in Hazelwood and 7 percent in Maryland Heights, as opposed to a North County average of 47 percent.

Since the study was done internally, no outside costs were incurred, Carlstrom said.

The study proposes that "Northwest County" be roughly bounded by Page Avenue on the south, the Missouri River on the west, Charbonier Road on the

See PARTNERSHIP, Page 4A

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1995

6A

St. Louis To Get Cleanup Money

Program Restores Sites For Commercial Use

By Kathleen Best

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — St. Louis is getting \$200,000 from the federal government to lure business back to a blighted, 26-acre section of the city plagued by pollution, high unemployment and a dwindling tax base.

The city was one of 15 areas selected for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "brownfield" grants designed to help cities cope with the legacy of pollution left behind as industries fled inner cities for the suburbs.

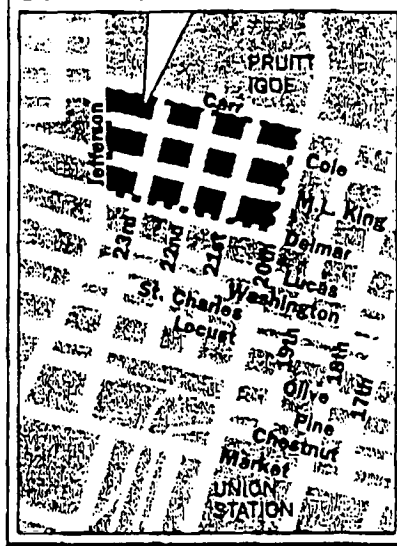
The money will help St. Louis put in place initiatives to lure businesses back to polluted sites, clean them up and assure new business occupants that they will not face financial ruin if additional past pollution is discovered.

The EPA will work with cities and state regulators to set cleanup standards that reflect how the property will be used in the future — a change of approach that could potentially save millions of dollars.

In the past, the EPA generally insisted that polluted sites be restored to standards suitable for residential property, even if the sites were going to be used for industry. "Brownfields means we may say, 'If it's going to stay industrial, then let's clean it up to industrial standards,'" said Glenn Curtis, brownfield coordinator in the EPA regional office in Kansas City.

"It's a change in thinking, in mentality," Curtis said. "We're trying to work with prospective purchasers to overcome their fears about a brownfield site and to assure any employees that the property will be safe. We won't allow them to go in and work if there is an unsafe level of contamination."

Brownfield Site



Post-Dispatch Map

The EPA grant will allow St. Louis to use the Martin Luther King Business Park as a pilot project that could become a model for restoring other contaminated areas of the city. The business park is bounded by Delmar Boulevard, Jefferson Avenue, Carr Street and 20th Street.

Michele Duffe, director of real estate for the St. Louis Development Corp., said the money would help the city:

- Finish an inventory of environmental problems in the 26-acre business park.

- Pay the administrative expenses of a citizens advisory committee to work with surrounding neighborhoods and a separate committee of experts in environmental law, policy and finance to work with businesses willing to move into the park.

- Explore ways to set up a remediation fund to help businesses if cleanup costs exceed initial estimates.

- Put in place a special taxing district that would allow some of the taxes paid by new businesses in the park to be recycled to help clean up and lure businesses to other contaminated city sites.

The city or its subsidiaries now own all the land in the business park. Eventually, city officials hope to offer a potential purchaser a menu of incentives and other services that would turn a brownfield park into a tax- and job-producing oasis.

Here is an example of how the system would work, says Duffe.

A parcel of ground in the business park is appraised at \$1.50 a square foot — the value if the land is cleaned, which it is not.

A business agrees to buy the property for the appraised price. At closing, the purchase price is placed in an escrow account. That money is then used by the business to pay the costs of cleaning up the site. If money is left over once the cleanup is complete, it goes to the city for deposit in a remediation fund.

If the cleanup costs exceed the amount in the escrow account, the city would work with the business to help it qualify for corporate state income tax credits or would use money from the remediation fund to help the company close the financial gap.

The state and the EPA would have to sign off on the cleanup efforts.

Curtis said that if the required environmental standards were met, his agency might be willing to enter binding agreements or issue so-called "comfort letters" limiting or eliminating any future liability for past pollution of the site.

Bill's Cuts May Do Dirt To Missouri's Environment

Ability To Keep Air, Water,
Soil Clean Could Be Restricted

By Repps Hudson
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

WASHINGTON

AT STAKE FOR Missouri in an appropriations bill on the House floor today are cuts for waste-water treatment, pollution runoff and low-interest loans to pay for safe drinking water.

David Shorr, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, said the proposed changes in spending and policy in the Environmental Protection Agency appropriations bill could limit the ability of state government to keep the air, water and soil clean.

"My question is real simple," Shorr said in a telephone interview. "Is this country cleaner, and is this country more prosperous? Yes and yes. The problem is administrative. So we should fix the laws, not get rid of them."

Pro-environment House members are fighting a hurried campaign to save the structure of environmental laws Congress has passed in the last quarter-century.

Meanwhile, members who want to change or halt enforcement of environmental laws promise to fight to keep the revisions they wrote into the funding bill for the Environmental Protection Agency.

The battle is joined this week as House members take up the spending bill for the environmental agency, one that Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., says is a "regulatory agency completely out of control, an agency that until now has delighted in routinely redefining its mission without proper congressional oversight."

Lewis heads the panel of the Appropriations Committee that wants to make the most changes in the agency's mission since Congress created it in 1970.

The panel recommended cutting the agency's budget by a third, to \$4.9 billion in the coming fiscal year from \$7.2 billion in this fiscal year.

Shorr noted that several measures in the bill would affect the St. Louis area:

- Missouri's four cement kilns, which burn hazardous wastes, would be exempted from new air-quality regulations to make them meet standards similar to those imposed on incinerators.

- Missouri's pending vehicle inspection and maintenance program to fight ozone would be weakened further by stripping the Environmental Protection Agency of the power to enforce minimum air-quality standards. A similar program for the Metro East area would be affected.

- Though Missouri has no such law yet, the state would be allowed to exempt companies from penalties if those companies disclosed their own illegal pollution.



"Is this country cleaner, and is this country more prosperous? Yes and yes."

DAVID SHORR, state resources chief

- The St. Louis area would lose the enforcement power of the Superfund law, which is requiring the cleanup of dioxin from Times Beach and of the radioactive site at Weldon Spring. Shorr says Superfund now requires polluters to pay the \$1 billion in cleanup costs in the greater St. Louis area. The appropriations bill would cancel the polluter-pays liability and shift cleanup costs to taxpayers. Potential Superfund sites in the Metro East area also would be affected.

- Refineries, such as the Clark and Shell operations at Wood River, would not be subjected to tougher air-quality standards for such carcinogens as toluene, xylene and benzene that the Environmental Protection Agency is drafting.

- A freeze on permits for municipal storm-water sewer systems would mean that many smaller cities would not be required to control their pollution from runoff, while many larger cities already have received their operating permits.

- A ban on overflow permits for combined sanitary and storm sewer systems in many older cities, such as St. Louis, would halt a program that environmental agency

regulators believed had solved pollution issues raised by the older cities.

The spending bill also would prevent enforcement of the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, as well as other environmental laws, until Congress again passes the blueprint authorizing bills.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental lobby, said Missouri stands to lose \$10.1 million for waste-water treatment, \$2.3 million to fight runoff pollution and \$31.8 million for low-interest loans to help cities get safe drinking water.

Environmental advocates on Capitol Hill realize they must win a pivotal fight if they are to save a host of laws enacted over 25 years.

Rep. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., believes he has the answer in an amendment to ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency has continuing authority to "protect humans against exposure to arsenic, benzene, dioxin, lead or any known carcinogen."

Other members plan to offer amendments that would wipe out 17 provisions in the funding bill that would prevent the agency from enforcing more than 50 environmental laws and regulations, according to the National Resources Defense Council.

"This is the backstop. This is the bottom line for EPA," Durbin said this week. He said that with a substantial cut in the agency's operating budget, the agency would have difficulty enforcing many laws. The agency would have to set new priorities. He said his amendment would give the agency the legal basis to override other efforts to nullify protection.

Durbin wants to force House members to vote on continuing protection against a variety of environmental risks. He said that when the American people saw how many environmental laws could be curtailed or exempted by the House Appropriations Committee's bill, they would pressure their representatives to keep the protection.

Lewis' panel also approved policy or spending changes in the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund law and the waste control act and other laws enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A spokeswoman for the appropriations committee said its strategy was to get Congress to write new bills for air, water, hazardous waste cleanup and other environmental laws. "There's a lot of concern among people in industry and in the private sector that EPA has overstepped its bounds," said Elizabeth Morris.

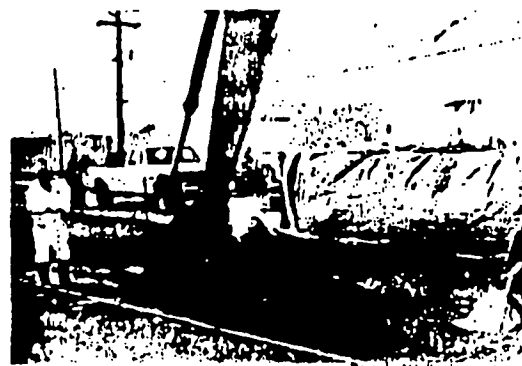
A spokesman for the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Owen Kean, said his trade association, which represents most chemical makers in the United States, "has not been an active player in the process. We need an effective EPA to do a good job so we can do our own job. It's in our self-interest."

NEWS ANALYSIS

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1995

132630



Paralel Weinberg photo

Andy Kohler, an employee of Remediation Services Inc., directs a backhoe operator as the shovel scoops up contaminated dirt along Nyilat Avenue in Hazelwood.

Soil cleanup under way at residential sites

By Nancy L. Ide
Staff writer

HAZELWOOD/ BERKELEY

Work began last week to clean up six residential sites in the Hazelwood area that are contaminated with radioactive soil.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of December, said David Adler, site manager for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Bechtel Environmental, the contractor for the project, hired Remediation Services Inc. as subcontractor to perform the cleanup.

DOE officials announced in August that \$18 million had been set aside for radioactive waste cleanups throughout the St. Louis area. About \$3.5 million will be used to clean up the six residential sites — five in Hazelwood and one in Berkeley, Adler said.

"Our highest priority is to have all the residential properties cleaned up," Adler said. "In terms of quantity, the amount of waste is not significant."

The remainder of the \$18 million will be used to clean up contaminated industrial sites in the St. Louis area, Adler said. Two waste storage sites are in the North County area — one on Latta Avenue in Hazelwood and one at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. A third site is located in downtown St. Louis.

Adler said contaminated soil landed at the six residential sites beginning in the late 1960s, when a private company hauled radioactive residue from uranium ore processing in open trucks from the airport storage site to the Latta Avenue site. Radioactive dirt blew off the trucks and contaminated residential yards and ditches along the route.

The contaminated areas will be dug to a depth officials expect to be clean — between 6 and 18 inches — and the dirt will be excavated to 8-inch sections using standard earth-moving equipment, Adler said. Two rounds of sampling will be taken

from the remaining soil to ensure that all of the contaminated dirt has been removed.

The soil will be transferred to and sealed in an "intermodal container," which is a large, secure storage box designed to transfer easily from an 18-wheeler to a railroad car, Adler said. Each intermodal container can hold 20 cubic yards of dirt, which translates to about two dump-truck loads.

Initially, the containers will be trucked to the airport storage site and stored there for a few weeks until the containers are shipped by rail to Envirocare of Utah, a licensed waste storage facility about 80 miles west of Salt Lake City, Adler said. He estimated about 100 containers would be needed to hold the contaminated dirt from the six residential areas.

After the cleanup is completed, the site will be restored and clean dirt will be trucked in to replace what has been taken out, Adler said. Grass and vegetation will be planted.

Adler said workers are taking every precaution in removing the dirt.

"All efforts are focused on eliminating any health risks in removing the dirt," Adler said.

"We have air monitors on our personnel and around the excavation site, and the soil is kept moist to reduce dust."

"Our main concern is traffic safety risks (from some traffic lanes being closed)," he added.

The northbound lane of Hazelwood Avenue is closed beginning at Nyilat Avenue and extending about 1,000 feet north while workers clean up four properties on the east side of Hazelwood Avenue. The eastbound lane of Frost Avenue will be blocked when workers clean up two properties on the south side of Frost, east of Eva Avenue, in about two weeks.

SUPERFUND WEEK

Vol. 8 No. 41

October 21, 1994

FUSRAP funding, cleanups hiked

The Energy Dept. has increased funding for its Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program in fiscal year 1995 and is increasing its field work by 300%.

Cleanups in FY 1995 are planned for vicinity properties of the St. Louis Airport and Maywood, N.J., sites. Demolition of the Colonie Building in New York and a cleanup in Wayne, N.J., are also on FUSRAP's project list, along with the cleanup of seven World War II-era contaminated sites, which would bring the number of completed sites to 23.

The seven sites are Alba Craft, Associate Aircraft, Baker Brothers and HHM Safe Co. in Ohio, Bliss & Laughlin in New York, Chapman Valve in Massachusetts, and a General Motors site in Michigan.

With three more sites cleaned up in FY 94, FUSRAP has completed remedial actions at 16 of the program's 46 sites. The number of FUSRAP sites has doubled since the program started in 1981, including two new sites added in FY 94. The two sites recently cleaned up are the Aliquippa Forge site, an abandoned factory used for milling uranium billets, and C.H. Schnoor, both in Pennsylvania.

Contact: Sandra Plant, Bechtel Environmental Inc. of Oak Ridge, Tenn., which is managing FUSRAP for DOE, 615-576-5034.

DOE to spend \$15 million on St. Louis cleanup

The Energy Dept. has announced plans to start spending \$15 million that was allocated to clean up radiological contamination areas in the St. Louis area.

DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program is handling the project. Between \$4 million and \$5 million is planned to be spent cleaning up residential properties contaminated by DOE activities.

What DOE will do with the remaining \$10 million or so has not been determined.

"We are pleased to begin this project, which will remove a significant portion of this hazardous material from both residential and industrial areas in St. Louis," said Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Tom Grumbly earlier this month.

DOE will start by cleaning up six or seven residential properties along haul routes, or stretches of road where trucks once transported hazardous materials in support of uranium processing activities in the St. Louis area that were part of the nuclear weapons program. Over the years, contamination flew off some of the trucks and settled in nearby soil.

The initial work will be overseen by Bechtel National Inc. in Oak Ridge and will mostly involve the removal and disposal of contaminated soil. Envirocare of Utah Inc. has already been contracted to receive the waste from the residential properties.

The cleanup work has already been contracted to two St. Louis firms: B&V Waste Science & Technology and Remediation Services Inc.

The final use of the remaining money will be heavily influenced by stakeholders in the St. Louis area.

"DOE is committed to a process that will lead to increased stakeholder input and involvement in decisions that affect both the near term cleanup and ultimate disposition of these materials," Grumbly said.

"We acknowledge that there is a general consensus against permanent disposal of these wastes in highly populated areas of the country, such as Lambert Field. We will explore alternatives such as soil treatment and siting of a disposal facility elsewhere in Missouri," he said.

There are four sites in St. Louis that are part of the FUSRAP program: the St. Louis Downtown Site, the St. Louis Airport Site, several vicinity properties associated with the airport site, and the Latty

Ave. Properties, which include the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site. Contamination includes low levels of thorium, uranium and radium.

Pasha Publications, 1616 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1000, Arlington, Va. 22209

Defense Cleanup — September 2, 1994

MISSOURI

HAZELWOOD — Radioactive soil will be removed from six residential yards here at a cost of \$15 million, the Dept. of Energy says. The dirt will be taken to a nuclear waste dump in Utah.

Audit Reveals Some Officials' Problems With Expenses

By Lin Hower
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Members of the Berkeley City Council reimbursed themselves for about \$30,000 worth of trips, mileage and other expenses, often without proper documentation, according to State Auditor Margaret Kelly.

Some council members charged the city

for dry cleaning, cable TV, long-distance phone calls and hundreds of dollars of monthly mileage, although there are only 59 miles of streets in Berkeley.

Last week, Kelly released the findings of an audit of the city's finances, covering a one-year period — through June 30 of last year. About 200 disgruntled residents turned out

to question Kelly about what they could do about the council's activities.

"Nothing in the audit was blatantly illegal, but many things were questionable," Kelly told the audience. "If you don't like what your representatives are doing, you can tell them that at the polls."

Many residents said they felt helpless —

some council members was reelection in April, before release of the audit.

"There are some councilmen on that board who are telling us they run the city and we don't," said resident Kenneth McClelland.

Kelly devoted a large section of the audit to problems with expense sheets, submitted by council members and the mayor, each of

whom receive a yearly salary of \$2,100. The auditors provided the following information:

Three of the officials — Councilmen Tom Greene and Ted Hoskins and Mayor William Miller — submitted only monthly estimates rather than expense sheets, then forwarded actual claim sheets at year's end. The other

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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Audit

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five officials submitted monthly expense sheets.

Hoskins and Councilwoman Judy Ferguson Shaw sought reimbursement for dry cleaning expenses. They also claimed in-home office expenses, along with Greene, Miller, and council members William Martchink and Louvenia Matheson; the total reimbursement was \$6,400 for these expenses. Greene's bill included reimbursement for cable television service for 11 of 18 months.

The audit reported that the city had advanced Hoskins and Shaw \$2,000 for combined ward picnics. Greene received a \$4,000 advance for a picnic he never held; Greene repaid the money almost a year later, with \$160 in interest. The city also advanced \$2,000 to ex-Councilwoman Delores Fink for a ward picnic; \$304 of the money went toward a "thank-you" luncheon for volunteers.

The audit criticized city officials for claiming largely different amounts of mileage at different rates. Some officials charged the city 26 cents per mile; others charged 28

cents.

On out-of-town trips, Miller and Shaw charged long-distance phone calls to their rooms without indicating whether these calls were for city business, the auditors reported. The auditors also found that officials claimed different amounts of reimbursement for attending the same seminar.

For example, Hoskins, Matheson, Miller and Shaw each attended a National League of Cities convention in New Orleans; they billed the city for registration fees of \$460, \$560, \$460, and \$635, respectively. Shaw billed the city \$710 for her registration fee for a convention in Orlando, Fla., while Hoskins and Miller charged \$475 for the same convention. Kelly said some of these expenses might result in added income to the officials, who would have to pay taxes on those amounts.

The auditors also criticized the city for spending \$700 in 1992 and \$1,220 last year for food, entertainment, prizes and refreshments at employee Christmas parties. The audit says officials also spent \$714 to send flowers to city employees and their ailing family members. The city also spent \$2,019 in fiscal year 1993, and \$2,535 this fiscal year on banquets for city board and commission members. The expenditures included food

and an open bar.

In their response to the audit, officials agreed to standardize mileage, discontinue picnics and adopt better documentation procedures. The officials refused to limit expenditures for employee parties, quit sending flowers or eliminate banquets, though they did agree to stop providing alcohol.

Only three council members at-

tended last week's meeting and spoke to residents. M. Jean Montgomery, Leonard Hall and newly elected Carol Leonard told the residents they supported all of Kelly's recommendations.

Last year, Leonard had canvassed neighborhoods with petitions, requesting the audit. She said she wasn't surprised by the findings. Miller and others were unavailable for

BERKELEY COUNCIL EXPENSES

Council Member	Annual Expenses	Receipts Submitted	Monthly ¹ Mileage	Seminars Attended	Total Cost
William Miller	\$11,300	some	202	3	\$6,097.46
M. Jean Montgomery	610	none	15	none	N/A
Judy Ferguson Shaw	7,331	some	396	5	6,238.49
Bill Martchink	998	some	242	none	N/A
Ted Hoskins	7,874	none	318	3	5,578.05
Louvenia Matheson	3,300	some	41	3	4,611.95
Tony Greene	4,892	some ²	38	none	N/A
Leonard Hall ³	252	yes	139	none	N/A

¹On average

²Auditor could not tell if all documentation was submitted

³Appointed June 1993

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EDITORIALS

A Better Idea For Nuclear Waste

In a major surprise, the Energy Department has reversed itself on what to do with the nuclear waste stored in the St. Louis area as a result of bomb production dating back to World War II. Previously, the department had planned to propose that a permanent storage bunker be built just north of Lambert Field. Now it says there may be economically acceptable ways to remove the waste entirely.

Thomas P. Grumbly, the assistant secretary for environmental restoration and waste management in the Energy Department, recently visited St. Louis to gauge the feelings of both residents and public officials on what to do with the area's nuclear waste. He found nearly universal opposition to building a permanent depository on land in a flood plain that contains one of the state's highest concentrations of people.

Mr. Grumbly thinks he has found a better idea. Previous plans to ship the waste stored at the airport, a site on Latty Avenue and some 85 private properties could cost up to \$650 million, and risk spilling toxic waste in the process.

But Mr. Grumbly says new technology suggests the possibility of separating the so-called hot material from the nearly 1 million cubic yards of dirt with which it is mixed. Once separated, the toxic material amounts to only about the size of a hot-dog stand. That's easily removable to the nation's only commercial radioactive disposal site in Utah.

Mr. Grumbly promises to come back with a plan along these lines. That's good news about a problem that until now has defied everyone's attempts to come up with a sensible, cost-effective and safe solution. It's also responsive government.

DOE official: Decision on waste not finalized

By Teresa Kaemmerer
Staff writer

The final word is not in on the future of radioactive waste in the North County area, despite media reports the contaminated soil likely would be moved out of state, officials say.

David Adler, Department of Energy manager for the St. Louis sites, said recent reports may have given the impression that the DOE definitely wants to move contaminated soil from three area sites to a commercial waste facility in Utah.

In January, Adler had announced a DOE proposal to build a permanent bunker at a site near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. On Friday, Adler said that proposal is no longer in effect, but neither is a plan to move all the waste to Utah.

Thomas Grumbly, assistant secretary of environmental restoration and waste management for the DOE, simply wants to find a remedy that is effective and financially viable, Adler said. The DOE is seeking a solution that will gain the approval of all parties involved, including local officials, the DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Congress, he added.

He (Grumbly) never specifically said that on-site (storage) was out," Adler said. "He also said, 'It's clear we don't have a consensus for the current proposal.' We were getting closer to satisfying regulatory officials, but it was not the remedy the local officials would prefer."

The radioactive soil has been in the area since

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the 1940s, when the federal government hired Mallinckrodt Chemical Works to process uranium. Some contaminated soil is located at the plant downtown and other waste remains at an original storage site near the airport. In the 1980s, a private company moved some of the waste to the Latty Avenue site. During the relocation, some waste also was spilled from trucks traveling along transportation routes.

Officials had estimated that building a bunker at the Airport Site to contain all the contaminated soil — from that site, Latty Avenue, the downtown site and some private areas — would cost \$200 million. DOE officials had planned to present a final proposal for such a bunker this spring, Adler said.

"Clearly, we won't be making a proposal in the next couple of

months," he said. "I think it sets back the time line for a final, comprehensive remedy."

Moving the soil to Utah would cost about \$650 million, DOE officials have said. DOE officials still believe that option is cost prohibitive, Adler said.

The next step is for federal and local officials to meet and try to develop a viable long-term containment plan for the soil, Adler said. The plan may call for on-site storage, off-site storage or other treatment options, he said.

While the time line for a final plan has been set back, Adler said the DOE will act quickly to address immediate problems, such as cleaning up some of the private property along truck routes, and stabilization at the current storage sites to ensure contaminated soil is disturbed as little as possible.

'Bunker'

U.S. Cleanup Boss: Isolate Hot Waste Here, Ship It Off

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff
• 1994, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In a stunning about-face, a top Energy Department official says radioactive waste in the St. Louis area may be moved out of state, rather than stored in a permanent bunker at Lambert Field.

The Energy Department said in January it expected to propose this spring that a \$200 million bunker be built on a contaminated field north of the airport.

But the official, Thomas P. Grumbly, said Tuesday that he would like to change those plans. He is in charge of cleaning up the nation's radioactive waste sites.

"Instead of driving a bunker down people's throats, we'd like to come back with a new solution," Grumbly said.

In addition, Grumbly said the department would proceed with plans to build a second bunker for contaminated material at an abandoned uranium-processing plant at Weldon Spring in St. Charles County.

He ordered independent tests to see if releasing treated water from the Weldon Spring site into the Missouri River is safe.

The Energy Department had said it would cost up to \$650 million to move the material out of the state. But Grumbly said the costs of moving — rather than burial in a bunker — could be reduced if the waste was treated "to separate the dirty from the clean."

The government would haul the reduced pile to the nation's only commercial radioactive waste disposal site, in the Utah desert, Grumbly said.

He made his comments in an interview after a two-day meeting here of the department's environmental management advisory board. It included a tour of radioactive waste sites and comments from residents.

Those who spoke said it was a bad idea to build a disposal bunker on a flood plain in the state's most populated area.

Kay Drey, an anti-nuclear activist who has been delivering that message for 15 years, was elated — and a bit incredulous — when told of Grumbly's comments.

"It's a big victory for the people of St. Louis," said Drey. "Does he have the authority to do that?"

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Yes, said David Adler, in charge of the cleanup of radioactive material in sites around St. Louis. The sites include the field at the airport, a storage area on Latty Avenue and some 85 private properties.

Grumbly is assistant secretary of environmental restoration and waste management. He is the Clinton administration's point man in handling the radioactive wastes.

"He's the boss," said Adler.

Said Grumbly: "We've heard what the people and the state officials think. Instead of coming to the St. Louis area in May and taking grief about a solution nobody likes, we'd like to come back and start a new dialogue."

Adler said changing the solution did not mean the \$50 million spent on the problem was wasted.

Information from those studies will be needed when the wastes are exca-

vated, Adler said.

The department has calculated that the sites hold about 850,000 cubic yards of radioactive material, mostly contaminated dirt. While that total would fill Busch Stadium, the amount of radioactive residues — if isolated — would be a block about the size of a hotdog stand.

Grumbly said new technology might allow just that — removal of the hot material.

"We're going to have to step back and rethink the whole thing," he said. "There's the potential for a new solution there."

Adler said Grumbly also wants to speed up removing contamination from private property, including the Berkeley ball fields across McDonnell Boulevard from the airport site. The material would be moved and stored temporarily at fenced-off areas at the airport or at Latty Avenue.

David Shorr, Missouri's top environmental official, wrote Grumbly two weeks ago, threatening to file suit against the Energy Department because of lack of progress in the cleanup. He welcomed Grumbly's ef-

forts to remove the contamination from areas accessible to the public.

"That's the issue that gives me the most heartburn," said Shorr. "What happens 10 years from now when a guy's tearing up his patio? How does he deal with what he finds?"

But while Grumbly put a new twist on the cleanup of the St. Louis area sites, he said he planned no changes in the \$865 million job to decontaminate the uranium-processing plant and quarry at Weldon Spring.

"We have a solution there that seems to be working," he said.

The quarry cleanup has included the discharge into the Missouri River of millions of gallons treated to remove radioactivity and other toxins.

Drey, the anti-nuclear activist, has criticized the release of the water, saying it should be stored rather than released into a river that provides drinking water for the St. Louis area.

Grumbly said he would not halt the discharges, but would order independent testing to determine if the water is safe. Five government agencies already are testing the water, and have pronounced it fit for release.

Waste Plan Does A Flip

Radioactive waste may be moved out of state, rather than stored in a Lambert Field bunker.

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 VOLUME 74 - NUMBER 9 (USPS 202-620) TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1994

Reynolds Meets With DNR Director "Bunker Design Does Not Meet Missouri's Safety Requirements"



David L. Reynolds (Florissant-Ward One)

Florissant Councilman David L. Reynolds, along with Hazelwood Councilwoman Jeanette Eberlin and Hazelwood City Manager Ed Carlstrom, met with David Shorr, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to discuss the radioactive waste storage bunker being proposed by the U. S. Department of Energy near Lambert International Airport.

In informal discussions with the officials, Shorr said that the current design of the bunker did not meet the safety criteria of the Department of Natural Resources

at that he would be notifying the Department of Energy of these findings.

Although he said if a bunker would be designed to meet all of the state's requirement he would have no reason to block it's location at the airport site.

The cost, however, of redesigning and construction of the bunker to meet the state requirements may be high enough to warrant reconsideration and the subsequent relocation of the waste material from the area, which officials from Florissant, Berkeley, and Hazelwood have been trying to have the Federal Government to do for years.

Earlier this year Reynolds expressed concern over the plans of the Department of Energy's to construct a permanent bunker for the storage of radioactive and chemical waste on the banks of Coldwater Creek, upstream from the cities of Hazelwood, Florissant, and Black Jack.

In 1989, Reynolds was president of the St. Louis County Municipal League and appointed a select com-

mittee of area officials to monitor the remedial action being taken to clean up the radioactive waste materials at the St. Louis Airport site, the Latty Avenue site in Hazelwood, the Berkeley Athletic Fields on McDonnell Boulevard, the Mallinckrodt Chemical facility in North St. Louis, and the adjacent ditches and haul routes.

As a result of actions taken by the committee, a non-binding referendum was presented to the voters of St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Voters in these jurisdictions voted overwhelming against (80% and 85% respectively) the establishment of a permanent facility in the metropolitan area.

According to Reynolds, it seemed that the Department of Energy would begin looking for alternative sites in more sparsely populated regions of the state, but with apparent total disregard for the citizens of the area continued with their original plans.

Representatives of the Department of Energy con-

tractor, have presented the basic risk assessment for the proposed waste storage bunker. Reynolds said "he was not convinced that the risk to Hazelwood, Florissant, and Black Jack residents was small enough to warrant moving additional waste materials to the location. The high incidents of leukemia in the Latty Avenue area is reason enough to move the material from the region".

Council rebuffs idea to expand waste site

By Nancy L. Ida
Correspondent

Hazelwood

Two representatives of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who advocate expanding the Latty Avenue radioactive waste site in Hazelwood were given a cold reception last week by city officials.

Speaking at the City Council meeting, DNR representatives Daniel Tschirgi and Larry Erickson said the DNR's major

concern currently is the radioactive waste in unrestricted areas, such as in yards and on roadways.

Several area properties and roadways have been identified as contaminated, mainly due to radioactive waste that was spilled 40 years ago from trucks traveling through Hazelwood and Berkeley to the Latty Avenue storage site, DNR offi-

cials said.

"Our position is that we need to get that (waste) out of public access ways and into a controlled area until the Department of Energy (DOE) comes up with an acceptable final disposal solution. We feel the waste in unrestricted areas is a threat to citizens," Erickson said.

The City Council has long advocated closing the Latty Avenue site and moving the

waste out of the state to a sparsely populated area.

"We want it moved to a non-urban site," said Ward 8 Councilwoman Mollie Rickey. "And we don't want it moved twice. We want it moved all at the same time."

Rickey said DNR officials last year attempted a cleanup of the route sites, but city officials opposed the move. Now state officials again are asking

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to consolidate the waste from Hazelwood and Berkeley at Latty Avenue, before a permanent storage solution is determined.

Erickson said the DOE has come up with five plans for a permanent storage site, one of which is to move all radioactive waste in the area to a site north of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. The waste currently is stored at the airport site, Latty Avenue site and the Mallinckrodt plant in the downtown area. Waste also is scattered among routes to these sites.

The DOE is expected to announce preliminary plans for a permanent storage facility for all of the waste in late March or early April, Tschirgi said.

Currently, the DOE is favoring the proposal to add to the radioactive waste already in the ground at the airport site, Erickson said. The 23-acre site is owned by the city of St. Louis.

"If they use this option, we will ask that they totally excavate down to clean soil and put in liners," Tschirgi said. "After trucking in the waste, they will cap the site."

The other four options are:

- Taking no action.
- Instituting controls on land deemed to be contaminated, such as deed and land-use restrictions.
- Moving all the waste to another site in the state.
- Moving the waste to an out-of-state location.

Hazelwood officials said the wishes of area residents should be taken into consideration when DOE officials formulate preliminary plans for permanent storage. "There was a referendum vote

in 1990 and voters were asked if they wanted a radioactive waste storage site here," Rickey said. "In St. Louis (City), 80.7 percent voted 'no' and in St. Louis County, 85.8 percent voted 'no.'"

Ward 8 Councilwoman Jeanette Eberlin added: "We feel it would help us if your department sided with us and the public (and) move it out. We don't want any more movement until it's moved out. It would help if you got behind us and gave us a little clout."

Staff writer Teresa Kaemmerer added some information to this story.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

How To Handle Dangerous Waste

The important issue of "What To Do With Nuclear Waste?" (Jan. 29 editorial) warrants a more rational consideration. The editorial writer dismisses the option of moving these old nuclear weapons wastes from the various sites in the St. Louis area to the surplus Union Electric-owned land in Callaway County. The grounds for dismissing this alternative? "Because the county won't take it and can't be compelled to."

Not true. Either the state of Missouri or the federal government can exercise the right of eminent domain upon the Union Electric property.

The editorial writer then goes on to tell us, "If the EPA accepts the Energy Department's proposal to build a dump here, local officials can't stop it."

Not logical. If St. Louis County can be compelled to become the permanent site of the waste, then so can Callaway County.

In a non-binding referendum, 85 percent of the voters of St. Louis County overwhelmingly rejected the location of a permanent radioactive waste dump in the heart of a major metropolitan area, next door to our region's largest employer, situated partly in the floodplain of Coldwater Creek and along the New Madrid fault line. The site in Callaway County has none of the above characteristics and, as the editorial writer points out, the UE property "already has its own waste" and is therefore not a pristine site by anybody's standard.

The Callaway Union Electric nuclear plant holds many thousands times more curies of radioactivity than the sum of curies in the weapons waste at all the sites in our metropolitan area. The Callaway County site will have to be monitored in perpetuity anyway.

As the editorial states, when one is dealing with radioactive wastes "all the alternatives are unappealing." But relocating the waste to the Union Electric property adjacent to the nuclear plant is the best of the unappealing alternatives.

Dolores Hoefel
St. Louis

I am writing regarding the Jan. 29 editorial, "What To Do With Nuclear Waste?" On top of the wrongheadedness of insisting that Callaway County cannot be "compelled" to accept a radioactive waste dump in its midst and St. Louis County can, the editorial trots out the old canard that the contaminated "soil is supposed to be safe unless you eat it."

Tell that to the people who live along Nyflot near the Latty Avenue radioactive waste site in Hazelwood. The eight houses on the block (two have since been torn down) have been home to 10 cancers and one genetic disorder.

How many of those victims of radioactively induced illness does the editorial writer suppose went after the two huge, plastic-sheeted piles of radioactive dirt with a spoon?

Margaret Hermes
St. Louis

Residents Urged To Actively Oppose Airport Radioactive Waste Site Plan

By Janice Borgschulte

Florissant Councilman David Reynolds urged residents to let the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) know if they oppose the plan to build a permanent radioactive waste facility in North County.

The Florissant City Council had in the past issued two resolutions opposing such a storage site. And the vast majority of voters in 1990 passed a resolution against the plan.

Speaking at the city council meeting Jan. 24, Reynolds urged citizens to attend a public meeting with DOE on the subject on Feb. 1, at the Hazelwood Civic Center.

The permanent waste facility is proposed for the northern boundary of Lambert-St. Louis Airport, starting at Banshee Road and McDonnell Blvd. along Coldwater Creek.

DOE is proposing to add to the radioactive waste already in the ground--residue from the manufacture of nuclear bombs that were trucked to the area periodically from 1946 to 1957. The waste is at the 22-acre airport site that is in St. Louis County but is owned by the city of St. Louis.

The energy department is expected to call for an expansion of the site onto the adjoining former Berkeley Baseball Fields to include wastes from the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis, Laury Ave. in Hazelwood, the affected Coldwater Creek banks and the old truck and train routes where spillage has been identified. The baseball site is also owned by the city of St. Louis.

Local officials and residents have long voiced opposition to the waste storage here.



Reynolds Concerned Over Plans to Build Permanent Waste Bunker on Banks of Coldwater Creek



David L. Reynolds (Florissant Ward One)

Florissant Councilman David L. Reynolds has expressed concern over the apparent plans of the Department of Energy's to construct a permanent bunker for the storage of radioactive and chemical waste on the banks of Coldwater Creek, upstream from the cities of Hazelwood, Florissant, and Black Jack.

In 1989, Reynolds was president of the St. Louis

County Municipal League and appointed a select committee of area officials to monitor the remedial action being taken to clean up the radioactive waste materials at the St. Louis Airport site, the Latty Avenue site in Hazelwood, the Berkeley Athletic Fields on McDonnell Boulevard, the Mallackrodt Chemical facility in North St. Louis, and the adjacent ditches and haul routes.

As a result of actions taken by the committee, a non-binding referendum was presented to the voters of St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Voters in these jurisdictions voted overwhelming against (80% and 85% respectively) the establishment of a permanent facility in the metropolitan area.

According to Reynolds, "It seemed that the Department of Energy would begin looking for alternative sites in more sparsely populated

regions of the state, but with apparent total disregard for the citizens of the area continued with their original plans".

Reynolds attended a public meeting on Tuesday where representatives of the Department of Energy contractor, presented the basic risk assessment for the project. He said "he was not convinced that the risk to Hazelwood, Florissant, and Black Jack residents was small enough to warrant moving additional waste materials to the location. The high incidents of leukemia in the Latty Avenue area is reason enough to move the material from the region".

He has asked Tim Fischesser, executive director of the St. Louis county Municipal League, to forward his concerns to the current league president Lee Berger of Olivette in the hopes that the league committee could be activated.

EDITORIALS

What To Do With Nuclear Waste?

The Energy Department wants to consolidate in one location all the radioactive waste left over from the manufacture of nuclear material in the St. Louis area. The proposed site is just north of Lambert Field, where much of the waste is already stored. The Energy Department plans to recommend this course to the Environmental Protection Agency, which has the final word. St. Louis County and other local officials are strongly opposed. What to do? Unfortunately, no easy answer exists.

Some 1 million cubic yards of radiation-laced soil lies buried in a couple of major sites in the area, as well as in 85 private properties. Much of the soil is pretty well contained — beneath the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in the city and at Latty Avenue, where some of it was moved when a private company in 1966 tried to recover minerals from the soil. But the soil buried in numerous private lots is less secure. It certainly should be moved. But where?

One option is to move all nuclear-tainted soil out of Missouri. A metropolitan area is no place to build a nuclear-waste site. But the Energy Department says 85,000 trucks would be required to move the soil to rail cars that could take it to a commercial hazardous waste dump in Utah, at a cost of \$600 million. Such a transfer may be neither safe — much soil might be spilled in the transfer — nor economically feasible. Taking it to the Callaway County nuclear plant in mid-Missouri, which already has its

own waste, isn't an answer, because the county won't take it and can't be compelled to.

The Energy Department rightly rejects just putting fences around the soil at 85 separate private sites and the handful of larger ones. The region would be honeycombed with relatively unprotected mini-nuclear waste dumps. The Energy Department's preference, to build a permanent repository north of the airport, would be safer.

But can a permanent dump, even one complete with double lining and a 10-foot layer of topsoil, really be expected to last for the billions of years required for the nuclear material to become benign? As technology improves, the dump could be upgraded, but no one knows when that might be.

All the alternatives are unappealing. But one thing is certain. If the EPA accepts the Energy Department's proposal to build a dump here, local officials can't stop it. Their only recourse is to ask the Missouri congressional delegation to press the administration to stop the dump. But before that happens, local officials should decide what they really want. Otherwise, the waste may stay right where it is for a long time while an interminable argument proceeds over what to do with it.

The soil is supposed to be safe unless you eat it, but that's not much comfort, even if true. Letting it stay where it is because moving it to Utah is too expensive and too risky isn't a very good answer either, but no one yet has come up with a better one.

DOE recommends burying toxic waste

By Teresa Kaemmerer
Staff writer

A recommendation has been made to bury toxic waste near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, but a final decision will not be made for more than a year, a U.S. Department of Energy official said.

The recommendation is the first step in a process that includes the DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), area residents and Congress, said David Adler, manager for DOE sites in North County and St. Louis.

"We really aren't close to a final decision," Adler said at a public meeting last week at the Hazelwood Civic Center East. "We're close to a proposal; that should happen in May."

DOE officials have recommended to the EPA that radioactive waste currently stored at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS), the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site at Latty Avenue (HISS) and the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) all be moved to SLAPS and contained. Some waste also is located along transportation routes between the sites.

The 22-acre SLAPS site lies on airport-owned property in Berkeley and Hazelwood. It is bordered by McDonnell Boulevard and the airport. The waste originally was generated by Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. in downtown St. Louis between 1946 and 1957. The company purified uranium and thorium for U.S. nuclear weapons until it closed in 1987. The waste was transported to the SLAPS site for storage, and later some waste was

moved by a private company to Latty Avenue.

The DOE's recommendation calls for all of the waste to be consolidated at the airport site and contained in one of two ways, Adler said. One option would be to leave the contaminated soil currently at the SLAPS site as is, dumping waste from the other sites on top and capping off the pile, Adler said. With an estimated price tag of about \$160 million, this is the less expensive option, Adler said.

The alternative is to dig up the waste at the airport site and build a storage cell with a clay liner — anywhere from 3 to 20 feet thick — where the waste from all sites would be dumped and capped off. In addition to a higher price tag of between \$250 million and \$270 million, this option would use up to 83 acres of land, compared with the 22 acres required for the other plan.

"The one we recommended was to build the smallest cell and would be finished soonest, but it would leave some waste in the ground," Adler said. "Building a large cell with liners is a problem. It can be done, but at that point you are potentially using up all the property."

That solution also would require rerouting McDonnell Boulevard, Adler said.

The recommendation was made to EPA officials in July, Adler said. The agency is expected to announce within the next few months whether it accepts the recommendation.

If the EPA does accept the recommendation, the next step would be a forum to receive public input, Adler said.

"Even once the DOE and EPA think they know what makes sense, there is still a meaningful public discussion," he said. "Typically, there's a lot of fireworks and everyone gets a chance to weigh in."

Unlike the government of 50 years ago, agencies today want to share information and get public input, Adler said.

"Years ago, the government said, 'We know what's good and we'll do it and if you want to talk to us about it in 30 years, go ahead,'" Adler said. "That is no longer the attitude."

While residents' opinions will be taken into account, they will be only one of many factors considered in deciding the ultimate fate of the waste, Adler said.

Solutions divide residents

Residents' impressions of the federal government's efforts to clean up radioactive waste in the St. Louis area range from overkill to negligence.

The U.S. Department of Energy has recommended consolidating up to 1 million cubic yards of contaminated soil from three sites and burying it in an area near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and McDonnell Boulevard. The proposed burial site lies within the boundaries of Berkeley and Hazelwood, DOE officials said.

Despite DOE assurances that the health risk from the contaminated soil is minimal, after almost 50 years of dealing with that risk, some residents want it eliminated.

"It appears that the government is on the other side of public health," said Ted Hoskins, a Berkeley councilman.

But public health may not necessarily be a concern, said Hazelwood Mayor David Farquharson.

Farquharson said he has heard both DOE and independent experts state there is little health hazard, and he said he is

not disputing their claims. Nevertheless, he said Hazelwood officials do not want a permanent waste site that poses to home.

"Our hope would be that somewhere along the line, it would be removed from the area altogether," Farquharson said. "If you move it and cap it off, you're going to have more and more waste in here."

Other residents, however, said that if the hazard is minimal, why waste taxpayers' money to move the soil.

"A lot of people, a silent majority, don't want to see the money wasted and another site contaminated," said Marty Buchheit, a Berkeley resident. "Nobody can come up with any figures that say this has been a health hazard. Common sense to me says as long as there's no health hazard, build a container on (each) site."

Information on the history of current storage sites and future plans is available for review by the public at the DOE trailer, 9200 Latty Ave. in Hazelwood. For more information, call 324-4063.

— Teresa Kaemmerer

Department examines four options for handling waste

Four options were considered for containing radioactive waste in North County and north St. Louis, a federal official said last week.

David Adler, site manager with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), told area residents at an informational meeting at the Hazelwood Civic Center East, that the options were studied for technological and financial viability before officials decided waste from the three sites should all be stored at one site.

"We are trying to end up with as few contaminated properties as possible," Adler said. "We

want to free up as much land as possible for unrestricted use."

The one-site option is the second least expensive, with a price tag of anywhere from \$160 million to \$270 million, depending on what type of storage method is used, Adler said. The site would be near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and McDonnell Boulevard.

The three other options were:

- Stabilize the waste at each site: At a cost of about \$30 million, the DOE could contain the waste where it currently is, leaving three contaminated sites in the area. Some cleanup also would be required along trans-

portation routes, Adler said.

- Ship waste elsewhere in the state: Waste from all three sites would be removed and contained in a location 80 to 300 miles away from St. Louis, Adler said. The cost is estimated at \$350 million. The DOE most likely would run into opposition from residents in out-state Missouri, plus there are other potential problems, Adler said.

- There are transportation risks, with 85,000 truck loads of soil being moved," he said.

- Ship waste to Utah: This most expensive option would involve collection of all contaminated soil and removal to a con-

tainment site in Utah. The site already is established, and has been accepting waste from other states, Adler said.

At an estimated cost of \$800 million, the price may be a little too high for Congress to swallow, Adler said. Additionally, other states do not take kindly to the DOE shipping radioactive waste across their borders.

"Generally, when DOE tries to ship hazardous material across state lines, we run into trouble, not necessarily in Utah, but in other states crossed," Adler said.

— Teresa Kaemmerer

FLORISSANT

Nuclear Waste Site Endangers Areas, Says Council Member

By Arthur Goldgaber

Post-Dispatch Special Correspondent

Florissant City Council member David L. Reynolds is concerned about a U.S. Energy Department plan to build a permanent radioactive waste facility in north St. Louis County.

Reynolds, 1st Ward, said the proposal disregards a November 1990 non-binding vote in which 85 percent of St. County voters and 80 percent of St. Louis city voters opposed establishing a permanent airport waste site.

Because of that vote, Reynolds said, "I was surprised about" the permanent site proposal. "I thought that problem went away two years ago." Reynolds said that he first heard about the energy department's decision through news media

reports.

At a public meeting this month, federal officials were to explain the plan to build the permanent facility at a 90-acre site near the northern boundary of Lambert Field, near McDonnell Boulevard.

Reynolds explained that the new site would be in addition to a 22-acre airport waste site, where nuclear bomb waste was deposited from 1946 to 1957. Reynolds said that he had contacted Tim Fischesser, executive director of the St. Louis County Municipal League about the waste site proposal.

Feds Seeking Atomic Waste Dump Here

North County Bunker Is Choice For Burial Of Radioactive Debris

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff
* 1984, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

After spending a decade and \$50 million studying what to do with radioactive waste left in St. Louis by the birth of The Bomb, the Department of Energy is about to recommend that it be buried here.

Up to a million cubic yards of contaminated soil — enough to fill Busch Stadium — remains at two sites in the metropolitan area and on 85 private properties. The government has concluded that shipping it out of state is too expensive.

Instead, it will propose this spring building a \$200 million bunker north of Lambert Field on a site where radioactive waste already is stored. If the department gets its way, construction could begin in about 2 1/4 years. Nobody knows how big the bunker will be or how long it will take to complete.

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Family near Latty Avenue site ready for cleanup of yard to begin 4A



David Adler, an Energy Department official, stands Thursday in front of covered mounds of radioactive waste at the end of Latty Avenue in Hazelwood. Adler plans to recommend that up to a million cubic yards of the contaminated waste be buried in a bunker north of Lambert Field. Reynolds Ferguson/Post-Dispatch

FUSRAP, St. Louis Sites, St. Louis, MO, St. Louis Post-Dispatch,
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EF 11A

HAZELWOOD

City Pushed To Move On Excavation Of Radioactive Soil

By Jordan Betz
Post-Dispatch Special Correspondent

State and federal officials are pushing Hazelwood to move forward on excavation of radioactive soil and expansion of a waste storage facility within city limits.

In a letter dated Dec. 20, state Department of Natural Resources Director David A. Shorr expressed the department's disappointment "with the lack of progress on the cleanup of federal weapons production waste" on property now owned or controlled by the Department of Energy.

Shorr called for Mayor David Farquharson to support the removal of

low-level radioactive soil in residential areas and along Hazelwood roads by the federal Department of Energy. The contaminated materials would be temporarily stored at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site, 9200 Latty Avenue, while the department finds a permanent home. The state has set May 1995 as a target date for a final decision.

In his letter to the mayor, Shorr states, "The Hazelwood site would be expanded to temporarily store a small part of the radiologically contaminated soil near the St. Louis Airport." The storage site currently houses 330,000 cubic tons of radioactive debris. The debris at the storage

site and on area property is the result of Mallinckrodt Inc.'s uranium processing during the development of the first nuclear bomb for the World War II Manhattan Project.

The Department of Energy has contacted residents whose yards are contaminated about removing the waste, most recently in early 1993. But the department did not first get approval from city officials.

Farquharson and the City Council oppose moving any contaminated soil within Hazelwood until a permanent storage facility is found. "When these trucks move this kind of thing, there is always going to be spillage and further contamination," the mayor

said. "This problem has been with us for years. It's a never ending situation.

"If we've got it and don't want it, no place else is going to want it either."

A state environmental assessment completed in March 1992 supported the need for expansion of the Hazelwood storage site, but asserted it would not be a permanent facility.

"Hazelwood and Berkeley officials are trying to prevent Latty Avenue from becoming a dump-site for additional radioactive materials," said Councilwoman Jeanette Eberlin, 6th Ward. The storage site is in Eberlin's ward.

The study concluded that an expanded site would pose no health threat to residents. Moreover, it found that allowing the contaminated soil to remain ungathered would inevitably lead to the spread of contamination.

"What we don't want is proliferation of contamination on additional properties," Shorr said. "Until it's all contained, it has the prospect of being spread."

He cited roadwork, repair and installation of utilities and construction as ways in which contamination could spread.

Clean up of the Hazelwood residential areas and roadways is on the

federal Superfund priority list. Shorr said federal money should pay for all the clean up and storage, but the department has not received that assurance.

Farquharson was scheduled to meet on Tuesday with other area officials at the Hazardous Waste Oversight Commission meeting to discuss Shorr's letter.

In other business, the council swore in Boonie Palmer to the 1st Ward council seat left vacant since the death of Richard Martin in November. Palmer was appointed by the council on Dec. 19. Palmer will face election in April for the final year of the three-year term.

Waste

From page one

Berkeley Mayor Bill Miller says he is "totally opposed" to the plan. Hazelwood Mayor Dave Farquharson predicts: "I'm sure people will lynch them if they try to leave it here."

Nevertheless, the Energy Department official in charge of the project plans to recommend the bunker to the Environmental Protection Agency, which has the final say on the cleanup.

"This is not a popularity contest," said the official, David Adler.

A third alternative is: leave the waste where it is.

Congress has ordered the Energy Department to clean up radioactivity at power plants and atomic weapons factories. The Defense Department must decontaminate some 2,000 military installations. Add to that the 1,200 private sites on an EPA's priority list.

The result: a cleanup bill into the hundreds of billions.

Pressure is growing from the government and business to start with the sites with the greatest risks. Adler said the contamination here does not present "significant hazards."

"People are beginning to ask tough questions about eliminating all hazards at these sites," Adler said. "It's become a national debate."

One side says it is not economically feasible to return all the sites to a pristine state. The other opposes Band-Aid solutions in which a site is covered or enclosed but not cleaned up.

"It's a good time to ask those questions about this site," Adler said. "We are looking at an enormous potential expense here, so you want to ask those questions before you spend a lot of money."

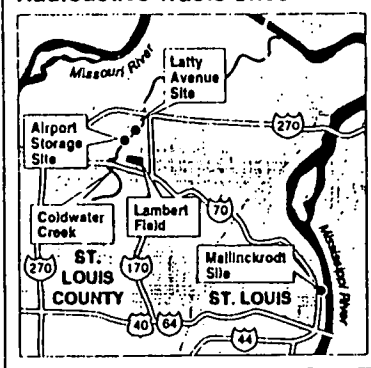
Problem Began 50 Years Ago

A short history lesson explains how St. Louis got into this predicament.

In August 1942, the government hired Mallinckrodt Chemical Works to process uranium used in the bombs dropped on Japan in World War II. The work continued at Mallinckrodt's plant north of downtown until 1957, when operations moved to a new processing plant at Weldwin Spring. (The Energy Department also is cleaning up the Weldwin Spring complex and has proposed building a waste bunker there.)

A 22-acre field north of Lambert was used to store radioactive residues from the Mallinckrodt plant. McDon-

Radioactive Waste Sites



Post-Dispatch

nell Boulevard borders the field on the north and east. Coldwater Creek cuts through it en route to the Missouri River.

In 1966, a private company bought much of the residues in an unsuccessful scheme to recover minerals. When the company moved the material a few miles away to a storage spot on Latty Avenue, trucks spilled the residues along the route, contaminating ditches and nearby property.

The Department of Energy estimates that approximately 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil remain at Mallinckrodt's downtown site, much of it buried under buildings and parking lots.

Another 200,000 cubic yards sits in covered piles and spills over onto adjacent properties at the Latty Avenue site. About 250,000 cubic yards are buried in the field near the airport, some up to 18 feet deep.

Adler estimates that 150,000 more cubic yards of radioactive soil sprawls across yards and ditches along the haul route. He said the department might find more contaminated soil, which he estimated could easily put the total at 1 million cubic yards.

85,000 Dump Trucks of Soil

The rubble consists mostly of soil. If the radioactive metal could be consolidated, the Energy Department

figures it would make a chunk the size of a hotdog stand.

Adler says it would take 85,000 loads in dump trucks to move the soil to a rail yard and ship it out of the state to the nation's only commercial hazardous waste facility, in the Utah desert. The bill: \$600 million.

Adler said the department would recommend that it build a "disposal cell" on the already contaminated field near the airport to consolidate the soil and store it permanently.

The state would require that the bunker proposed be double-lined and equipped with a system to collect and treat leachate, water that would percolate through the radioactive rubble.

The Energy Department also must show that the field near Lambert can meet the state's regulations for a hazardous waste site. Those regulations cover possible leaks to ground water.

"They're not required to attain our approval or community acceptance," said Robert Geller of the Department of Natural Resources. "But if they want our support, they're going to have to address our concerns."

Adler said: "It appears that ground water will not be a problem, it's essentially on a clay geology. Technically, it's feasible."

Building the cell might require rerouting of McDonnell Boulevard because the cell would take up more than the 22 acres on the southern side of the street. People would see a gently sloped grassy hill enclosed by a fence. It would have a cap of layers of soil and gravel 10 feet thick.

"We'd have to maintain the cap, mow the grass and have a long-term surveillance program," Adler said on a car tour of the site.

Cleaning Up for the Future

Because most of the contaminated soil is either buried or behind fences, the Department of Energy says it presents no threat to people. The department has found some contamination in ground water that feeds into Coldwater Creek but said the creek dilutes the radioactivity to harmless levels.

Although Adler said the soil is not a threat now, he said it could be for future generations. "The problem is the material lasts for a long time — uranium will be around a few billion years."

The Energy Department wants to free up the land for future development.

"Very clearly there could be health risks," Adler said. "You would not want to see the airport site developed for condominiums or a day-care center."

"The real tough question is how much money should be spent to protect future populations."

While most of the contamination is in areas the public

Family Remembers Children Playing In Radioactive Rubble

Dale and Laverne Lakenburger live near the Latty Avenue site in north St. Louis County. Dale Lakenburger said he remembered neighborhood children playing in the piles of radioactive rubble and the trucks bouncing over the railroad tracks near his home, spilling debris into his yard.

The Lakenburgers live at the corner of Hazelwood and Nyflot avenues. Four residents of Nyflot, including the Lakenburgers' 15-year-old son, have died of leukemia.

Radiation causes cancer, and because only one in every 10,000 Americans develops leukemia, the state health department studied the "cancer cluster" on Nyflot. The department said it could not determine whether the cluster was related to the radiation.

"We're exposed to so many different insults from the environment, it's very difficult to prove that a cancer was caused by exposure to low levels of radiation," said Gale Carlson, a health department official.

"But because it's such an inexact science, the prudent thing to do is to be conservative. Because of that, we don't believe you should leave this material in place unprotected."

Laverne Lakenburger has lived with the situation for 35 years and will be glad when the cleanup of her yard finally begins.

"You really don't worry about it until they bring it up again," she said. "Then you begin to wonder."

— Tom Uhlenbruck

cannot reach, the soil in roadside ditches and private property could be a threat.

Kay Drey, an anti-nuclear activist who favors removing all the soil from the metropolitan area, said: "Until they decide that radiation is good for us, you have to get this stuff out of our air, our water."

"Children play in Coldwater Creek, and the creek runs into the Missouri River, upriver from where the city gets its drinking water."

Appeals Panel's Dioxin Hearing Could Affect Incinerator Here

By Tim Bryant
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

In a case that could affect plans to incinerate dioxin in Times Beach, a federal appeals court panel here heard arguments Monday over a dioxin-burning project already under way in Arkansas.

At issue was an injunction issued in February by U.S. District Judge Stephen Reasoner of Little Rock, who ordered a hazardous-waste incinerator in Jacksonville, Ark., to stop burning. Reasoner ruled there were doubts that enough of the toxic chemical was being destroyed.

Reasoner's order could have a direct effect on dioxin

incinerators such as the one to be built this year to burn soil from Times Beach and 26 other sites in Missouri.

In April, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis halted Reasoner from enforcing his order until it ruled. If the court upholds Reasoner, no incinerator will be built in Times Beach, said Gregory Ferguson, a lawyer who opposed the Jacksonville incinerator.

EPA regulations require that virtually all — 99.9999 percent — of the dioxin burned must be destroyed. This is the so-called six nines rule. Reasoner ordered the shutdown of the Jacksonville incinerator because tests showed that about 99.96 percent of the dioxin was being destroyed.

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The following clippings are not about FUSRAP, but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS/THURSDAY

• THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1993

Griggs Back On Board As City Airports Director

By Joe Holleman

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

After weeks of lobbying and waiting, Leonard L. Griggs Jr. is back as the city's director of airports, a job he held for 10 years before being forced out in 1987.

Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. announced Griggs' appointment Wednesday and also named a new assessor, supply commissioner and director for the Department of Human Services.

Griggs, 61 and a retired Air Force colonel, will replace Donald W. Bennett and make \$84,864 a year.

"I'm delighted. I love St. Louis, and I'm looking forward to serving St. Louis for the rest of my career," Griggs said in an interview Wednesday.

Griggs began stumping for the job shortly after Bosley was elected mayor in April, some two months after Griggs resigned as assistant administrator for airports at the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington.

Bosley and Griggs talked several times and met at least once, sources said.

Griggs was picked because of his experience with airport expansion projects in the early 1980s, when he was done on runways, terminals and gates. Bosley said that experience made Griggs the best choice to oversee possible future expansion.

"I just thought Leonard was the man to have driving the airport, the man to have when concrete gets poured," Bosley said.



Griggs



Bennett



Spearman



Hill



Ross

Bosley said the change in no way reflects on Bennett. "I like Donald Bennett; he's a hell of a guy," Bosley said. Griggs is no stranger to working with mayors. He was appointed director in 1977 by Mayor James F. Conway. In March 1987, Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. forced Griggs to resign and appointed Bennett to the post.

Sources said Griggs fell into disfavor with Schoemehl after Griggs talked with reporters without getting permission from the mayor's office. To reporters, Griggs criticized Schoemehl's policy of having staff members sell tickets to fund-raising events for Schoemehl.

Bennett, 63 and a retired Air Force major general, was unavailable for comment Wednesday. In a written statement, Bennett said he was looking forward to retirement

on July 1 and would make himself available to Griggs to ensure a smooth transition.

The only snag that involved Bennett personally arose from his living in O'Fallon, Ill. When hiring Bennett, Schoemehl assured him that he would not have to move to the city, as many believed the city charter required. Schoemehl persuaded the city's Civil Service Commission to grant Bennett a residency waiver.

In 1988, Alderman JoAnne Wayne, D-1st Ward, sued to force Bennett to move. A court ruled that the airport director was exempt from the city residency requirement.

Bosley said also he would ask the Civil Service Commission to grant a residency waiver for Griggs, who lives in west St. Louis County. Griggs got a residency waiver previ-

ously, Bosley said Griggs has a "special expertise," with grounds for a waiver.

The other three appointments are:
■ Elaine Harris Spearman, as Human Services director, which pays \$70,148. Spearman is a lawyer and a Bosley's transition team. She succeeds Chester Hiner, department administrator social welfare programs.

■ Dennis A. Hill, as assessor, which pays \$67,034 a year. The assessor's office is responsible for personal and property assessments and appeals.

■ Anthony J. Ross, as supply commissioner, which pays \$37,746 a year. The supply commissioner's office handles the bidding procedures for most city purchases.

The appointments of Griggs and Spearman to directorships are only the second and third major Cabinet changes Bosley has made since taking office seven weeks ago.

Last month, Bosley appointed former state Rep. R. White as city counselor, directing the legal department.

Some City Hall watchers wondered why major Cabinet appointments took so long. But Bosley and his chief of staff, Lloyd Jordan, said they were more concerned with making good appointments than quick ones.

"It's silly to rush in and replace people," Bosley said.

Jordan said he was looking at ways to streamline communications between city departments and the mayor's office, he said, might be to set up "deputy mayor" or "division chiefs," who would handle reports from departments that deal with related issues.

Nevada warns Region About Nuclear Waste

By Tom Uhlenbrook
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

As many as 31,160 truck shipments of high-level radioactive waste would roll through the St. Louis metropolitan area — one every eight hours for 28 years — if the government located a nuclear dump in Nevada, officials of that state said Wednesday.

If all shipments were made by highway, about 40 percent of the waste would come through St. Louis, said Bob Halstead of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Project. If shipped by rail, about 25 to 30 percent would come through here.

The Department of Energy has proposed building a nuclear waste burial site on Yucca Mountain, a desert ridge about 70 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Waste from the country's 127 commercial nuclear reactors would be shipped by truck and by rail to the remote site.

That would total some 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste by 1998, when the government is required by law to take title to the waste, said Kathleen Grassmeyer, transportation manager for the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Project.

Grassmeyer — and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources —

See WASTE, Page 10

The following clippings are not about FUSRA but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Waste

From page one

Resources — said it would be up to the federal Department of Transportation to determine how the waste gets from the reactors to the dump.

"We have a 30-year safety record, not only in the United States but around the world, where our waste has never been released into the environment," she said.

"It's very easy to go out and pose the question, 'How safe is safe?' We are safe, and we've proven it."

The state of Nevada, which has no nuclear power plants, opposes construction of the Yucca Mountain facility. Halstead is visiting cities along the

potential haul routes this week to tell them what they might expect.

Halstead said the Department of Energy had failed to outline its transportation strategy because it fears the protests that may follow from residents along the routes.

"There are some obvious political reasons why they're dragging their heels," Halstead said at a news conference at City Hall. "We did our own study, and if these shipments were starting today, this is the way they would travel."

Waste from nuclear reactors in the East would come into St. Louis on Interstate 70, and then take 270 across the northern edge of the metropolitan area before rejoining 70, he said. Shipments from the southeast would approach the city on Interstate 64, taking Interstate 255 north to Interstate 270.

If coming by rail, the shipments would enter East St. Louis and then take one of three lines west, including the Union Pacific line that runs through Webster Groves and Kirkwood.

"High-level nuclear waste is an extremely hazardous material," Halstead said. "Transporting nuclear waste involves real risks, including the possibility of severe accidents and terrorist attacks."

Halstead said Yucca Mountain is a poor geologic choice for a nuclear dump. But Grassmeyer said it is the only place under consideration by the Department of Energy.

"Right now, with the studies we've done so far, there is nothing identified as a show stopper," said the DOE's transportation manager. "It's a good looking place with all the tests we've done so far."

If the site is approved, the construction schedule calls for the facility to be opened in the year 2010, she said. However, the transportation of waste could begin as early as 1998 for storage on site.

Halstead said Nevada "is going to fight the decision to build a dump at Yucca Mountain. We'd love to have you join us because your citizens have a vested interest."

Kay Drey, an anti-nuclear activist from University City, who attended the news conference, said Nevada should not face the problem alone.

"It's a problem for anybody who would travel the routes where these shipments go," she said. "We call it mobile Chernobyl."

The following clippings are not about FUSRAP, but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

F-4 expansion opponents see hope in hiring of new airport director

By Laura J. Hopper
Staff writer

Opponents of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport's expansion plan hope a change in the airport's leadership will revive discussions about altering the proposal.

Leonard L. Griggs, who headed Lambert Airport from 1977 to 1987, will return to his old post as airport director July 1 after being appointed to the job Wednesday by St. Louis Mayor

Freeman Bosley Jr.

Griggs replaces Donald W. Bennett, who took over in 1987 after Griggs resigned in a dispute with former St. Louis Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr.

Under Bennett's leadership, Lambert officials initiated a major airport expansion plan, called F-4, that involves building three new runways and expanding airport terminals and parking space.

One of the three runways would extend westward into

Bridgeton, which has sparked considerable opposition from the municipality's leaders and residents.

The appointment of Griggs might signal an opportunity to reach a compromise on the expansion issue, Bridgeton Mayor Conrad W. Bowers said.

"As new incumbents, both Bosley and Griggs are in positions to bring fresh thinking and new perspectives to the task of

See GRIGGS, Page 5A

From Page 1A

expanding airport capacity," he said.

Bowers said he hopes Griggs will consider a way to expand Lambert that would "serve the needs of all communities (and) will not destroy any community."

Members of the Bridgeton Air Defense, a residents' group formed in opposition to F-4, say they hope to discuss their expansion views with Griggs.

"We think the appointment of Griggs is a positive development, and we look forward to meeting with him," said Jack Taylor, a spokesman for the group.

The F-4 plan is awaiting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

After leaving Lambert in 1987, Griggs was named the FAA's assistant administrator for airports.

He resigned from that post in February and had met with Bosley several times since then to discuss the possibility of returning to his former airport job.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Bosley praised Griggs' experience in handling airport capital improvements.

"Mr. Griggs has a wealth of experience in aviation manage-

ment and policy development," Bosley said.

Alderman JoAnne Wayne, D-1st Ward, called the change "good for the airport." She added, "Griggs is a person the mayor can work with."

Wayne, who as chairman of the city's Transportation and Commerce Committee handles all airport legislation, said she does not believe a new airport director will change the direction of Lambert's expansion plans.

Bosley has not taken a public position on the F-4 plan, which Schoemehl pushed when he was mayor. However, Griggs was an F-4 supporter as airport director under Schoemehl and during his stint at the FAA.

"I've sure whatever they come up with, it will be agreeable to both sides," Wayne said.

Bennett, who served for 34 years in the U.S. Air Force before being appointed to the Lambert position in 1987, said he plans to retire as of July 1, when Griggs officially takes over.

In a statement released after Bosley's announcement, Bennett said he would work with Griggs "to ensure a smooth transition for Lambert Airport."

Staff writer Paul Thompson contributed information to this story.

The following clippings are not about FUSRAP, but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Trash In Landfill Sparks Political Influence Charges

By Mark Schlinkmann
Regional Political Correspondent

Citing a problem with exposed trash over the past nine months at the West County Landfill, a nearby resident has renewed her accusations that county officials are lax in regulating the site because of the owner's political connections.

Angela Dillmon, leader of the West County Citizens Association, has alleged that County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall's administration was reluctant to cite the landfill for violations because the owner, James Becker, has donated to the campaigns of Westfall and some Democrats on the County Council.

"They try to elicit his cooperation instead of just going out and saying these are the rules," Dillmon said. "It's the overall attitude" of the county.

County officials deny that they have gone easy on Becker's operation. Moreover, they say the trash in question wasn't covered by soil that is usually required — only because the county and state had required the landfill to do some excavation work beneath it. Thus, they said, there was no violation.

Sue Taylor, who heads the county's waste-management division, said county inspectors first noted the exposed trash last September and had asked Becker to cover the area with a plastic tarp. But the tarp sometimes came off in windy weather, she said, and inspectors again noted the problem on subsequent reports.

"Finally, we were out there in April and said, 'Jim, you've got to do some-

Last month, the landfill installed a different, better secured tarp.

thing to solve this problem,'" Taylor said. Late last month, she said, the landfill installed a different, better secured tarp that should keep the area covered until the excavation work is done.

She added that because the waste involved is at least 10 years old, there was no gas migration or odor. She said the issue was an aesthetic concern, not environmental.

Taylor said that although the landfill had made "somewhat of a slow response" to the county's requests, "our office has acted responsibly and sought correction," and in the end obtained it.

The county's treatment of the landfill also surfaced Thursday at a hearing of the council's Public Improvements Committee on the landfill's request for some unrelated changes in its operating rules.

Councilman Greg Quinn of West County, R-7th District, didn't allege a political motivation for the county's actions. But he said the landfill "probably should have been cited" for a violation "a long time ago." He spoke against the changes.

After Quinn and county officials fenced on that issue, the committee chairman, Councilman Geri Rothman-Serot of Frontenac, D-3rd Dis-

trict, said it appeared to her that the landfill was trying to comply with county restrictions.

But Rothman-Serot said she would oppose a key change sought by the landfill. That change would have removed a requirement for fencing along the site's northeast property line, much of which is heavily wooded. She said she felt uncomfortable deleting something that could enhance the safety of nearby children. The committee voted 2-1 against dropping the fence, overriding the county Planning Commission.

The committee agreed with the planning commission's refusal to allow excavation work on Saturdays and after regular weekday closing hours, and with its support for changing the landfill's letter of credit and extending a deadline for constructing some drainage ditches.

Becker, in an interview as Thursday's meeting was ending, said he had never gotten any special treatment from the county because of his political donations.

Campaign finance reports on file with the County Election Board showed Becker and West County Disposal Ltd. donated \$14,750 to Westfall's campaign committee since 1989. He and/or the company donated lesser amounts to four of the council's five Democratic members.

Last year, Dillmon appeared in a TV ad for Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., ripping Rothman-Serot, Bond's Democratic opponent, for voting for earlier changes in the landfill's regulations after getting donations from Becker.

The following clippings are not about FUSRAP, but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Radon Gas Releases At Quarry Called No Cause For Concern

By Judith Vandewater

Of the St. Charles Post

Solid contaminated wastes are being moved from a quarry at the Weldon Spring Superfund clean-up site — increasing the potential for the release of radon gas into the atmosphere — but the project director says there is no cause for concern.

Steve McCracken, the manager of the \$650 million clean-up of the defense-plant site for the Department of Energy, says radon levels as monitored at the fence line along Highway 94 have been at or below three to four picocuries a liter.

The monitors have measured at least one instance where radon levels reached four pi-

cocuries a liter.

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that people ventilate their basements if radon levels exceed four picocuries a liter. McCracken says the emission levels measured at the fence line are not cause for significant concern because the gas is not being released in a populated area and because it dissipates rapidly outdoors.

Radon gas is a carcinogen created in the decay cycle of radium. The gas is trapped in pockets in the solid waste in the quarry. Moving the waste can release the radon. Most of the waste in the quarry pit was created when the site was used to make munitions and en-

See RADON, Page 5

Radon

From page one

rich uranium for weapons.

McCracken says that if radon levels begin to rise, the contractor can use tarpaulins or foaming devices to limit the amount of quarry area exposed to the air at any given time.

Workers from OHM Corp., the contractor in charge of moving the waste, will remove about 100,000 cubic yards of old equipment, soil, debris and drums from the quarry in 30 months. The contaminated waste will be transported to the chemical plant and temporarily stored in sealed containers.

"Officially we have begun quarry bulk-waste removal with the removal of some vegetation," McCracken said. "We'll begin removing the most contaminated material about a month from now."

Water from the quarry is being treated in a nearby water-treatment plant, one of two such plants in operation at the site. Treated water from both plants is being pumped into the Missouri River.

The second water-treatment plant was erected to treat waste water in raffinate pits nearer the chemical plant. McCracken said the plant is also

being used to purify rainwater that is contaminated as it filters through the soil. The water leaks into an old sewer line that served the chemical plant. Workers have capped the pipe.

"In this way we have been able to capture some of the water which had been going off the site," McCracken said.

Workers also have begun taking down one of the largest and most contaminated of the chemical-plant buildings.

"It is one of the more visible activities out here," McCracken said.

Last week, the Department of Energy made public its annual report on emissions and effluents at the site. The inch-thick report concludes that all releases were within national health and safety guidelines and posed no threat to human health.

Ken Meyer, an environmental safety and health management official for the project, said the biggest danger associated with the site was construction safety.

As part of the analysis, biologists monitor levels of radioactive materials in plants and wildlife in the area by testing the bones and tissues of fish and deer at the adjacent Busch Wildlife Area. None of the levels posed a threat to human health, Meyer said.

The following clippings are not about FUSRAP, but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Hull wins Ward 2 seat on Berkeley council

By Dennis R. Heinze
Staff writer

The overwhelming support Leondus Hull received last week in his successful bid to represent Ward 2 as a Berkeley councilman is a message that residents want to see change in the city, Hull said.

"I think that the citizens of Ward 2 really spoke that they are tired of business as usual and that they're looking for a change and a trend that can turn it around," Hull said Thursday. "We can take a good city and make it better."

Hull, a retired district manager with Clean Industrial Services, garnered nearly 80 percent of the votes in last Tuesday's special election to defeat Carol Black, according to unofficial figures released by the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners. Both candidates are political newcomers.

Hull, 64, will fill the unexpired term of William Martchink, who was elected in April 1992 but died on Jan. 9, 1993. The term will end in April 1996.

"I think that the citizens of Ward 2 really spoke that they are tired of business as usual...."

Leondus Hull

As a councilman, Hull said he will work to enhance public safety by beefing up patrols in certain areas of Berkeley.

"I want to utilize the police in a more efficient manner," he said. "We need to make them more visible, and we need to make sure the ordinances of Berkeley are enforced."

Hull said police officers also need to slow down when patrolling neighborhoods to keep a closer eye on activities in the area. He said police need to have more positive contact with residents and get to know them better so they can work together to combat crime.

The following clippings are not about FUSRAP, but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Sewer Systems Badly Polluted, Area Consumer Groups Warn

By Christine Bertelson
and Estela Villanueva
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

THINKING OF GOING fishing or swimming in a local lake, river or stream this summer?

Better think again, says Heidi Hill, a clean-water activist with the Missouri Public Interest Research Group.

The sewer systems of Illinois and Missouri — which ultimately discharge treated water into rivers and streams — are among the most heavily polluted in the nation, according to reports issued Monday by the Illinois and Missouri public interest research groups.

"For consumers' health this summer, they should find out what chemicals have been dumped into the rivers," Hill said. "Find out if there are any fishing or swimming advisories."

The research group's studies were based on 1991 pollution reports that industries must file each year with the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The figures are the most recent available.

Illinois industries reported discharging the most toxic releases (59 million pounds) in the nation to sewage treatment plants in 1991, according to the report. Three industries in the Metro East area were among the worst polluters in the state. They are:

- Monsanto Co.'s chemical plant in Sauget, which ranked first in the state and second in the nation with 20.5 million pounds of toxic material sent to sewage treatment plants.

- Harcros Pigments Inc. of East St. Louis, which ranked fourth in the state by releasing 2.5 million pounds.

- Amoco Petroleum Additives Co. in Wood River, which was fifth with 2.4 million pounds.

Between 1989 and 1991, the Harcros plant reduced release of the chemical to its treatment facility by 80 percent, said spokesman James Valentino.

"We're trying to reduce those releases that are considered to be toxic," Valentino said.

"Through 1995 we should continue to see reductions to get at or below the level allowed by the EPA."

Missouri ranked sixth in the nation, with more than 26 million pounds of industrial chemicals released to sewage-treatment plants.

Columbian Chemicals Co. led the list, discharging 14.4 million pounds of toxic waste. Columbian Chemicals operates two plants in St. Louis.

"All our permanent discharges go to the sewer system," where they are treated, said Gary Juno, senior counsel for Columbian Chemicals in Atlanta. "They do not go to the waters of the U.S. The goal of the company is to be environmentally responsible."

Columbian Chemicals makes iron oxide, a pigment used for paint and building materials.

Gary Barton, director of environmental communications for Monsanto Co., said the discharges from its Krummrich plant in Sauget are acids that are neutralized before they end up in the Mississippi.

"What goes into the Mississippi is really not a problem," Barton said. "The water is treated and rendered non-toxic, and treated a second time."

Ammonia discharged from Monsanto's Queeny plant in St. Louis is treated by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District before it goes into the river, Barton said.

Illinois industries discharged more than 6 million pounds of pollutants to surface waters. In Missouri, industries dumped more than 1.2 million pounds of pollutants to surface waters.

The consumer groups urged industries to cut the amount of chemicals they use, rather than dump them into sewage systems that were not designed to handle toxic chemicals.

The consumer groups in more than 30 states have joined forces with the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy to lobby for a stronger Clean Water Act. The law is up for reauthorization this year, and hearings are under way in Congress.

TOP POLLUTERS LISTED

Illinois

Top Five Polluters of Sewer Systems
Monsanto Co., Sauget
Rockford Wire Technology,
Rockford
Corn Products and Best Foods, Bedford Park
Harcros Pigments, East St. Louis
Amoco Petroleum Additives Co., Wood River

Top Five Polluters of Surface Water
3M, Cordova
IBP Inc., Geneseo
B.F. Goodrich, Henry
Phoenix Chemical Co., East Dubuque
Allied-Signal Inc., Metropolis

Missouri

Top Five Polluters of Sewer Systems
Columbian Chemicals Co., St. Louis
Mallinckrodt Specialty, St. Louis
Monsanto Co., St. Louis
Blue Side Cos. Inc., St. Joseph
Chrysler Motors Corp., Fenton

Top Five Polluters of Surface Water
Ireco Inc., Louisiana
ICI Explosives USA Inc., Joplin
Biokyowa Inc., Cape Girardeau
LaRoche Industries Inc., Crystal City
Miles Inc., Kansas City

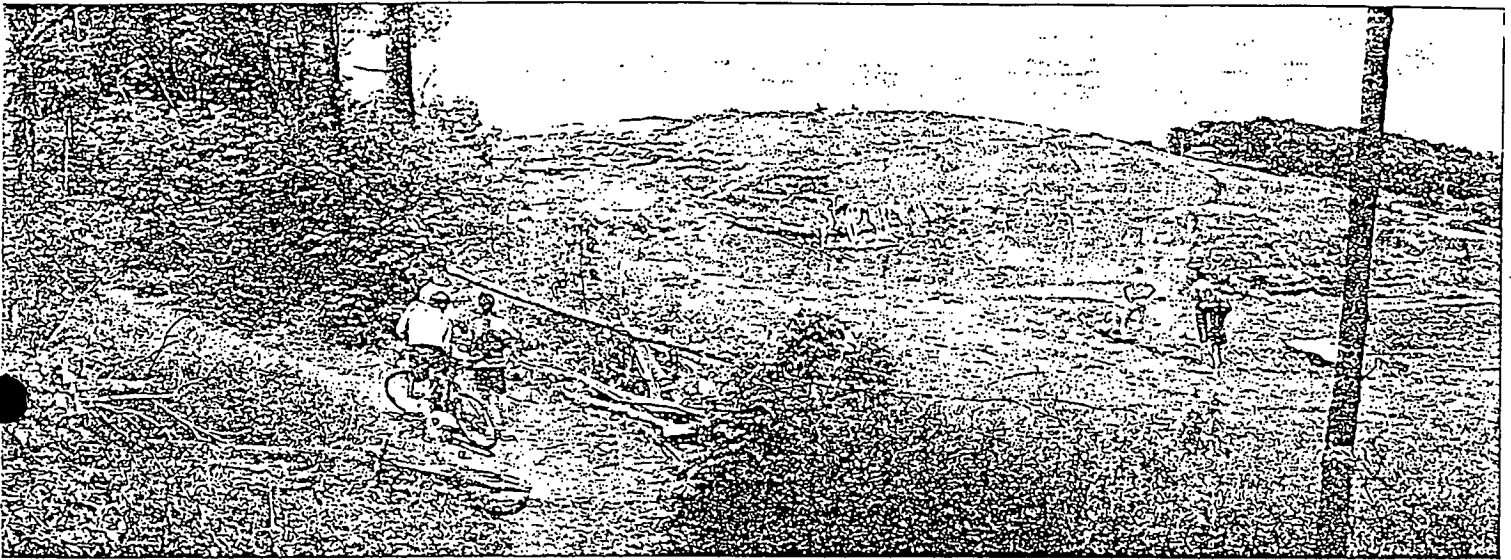
In Missouri, information on health, swimming or fishing advisories for streams is available from the Department of Health at (314) 751-6062 or the Department of Natural Resources at (314) 751-1300.

In Illinois, information on pollution in waterways is available from the Department of Public Health at (217) 782-4977 or the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at (217) 782-3397.

ST. LOUIS

SECTION D

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1993



Wayne Crosslin/Post-Dispatch

Hikers and bikers on the Grotzpeter trail last week in Castlewood State Park. The three-mile path skirts the West County Landfill.

Landfill Called Too Close To Beaten Path

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Noel Taylor took his son hiking at Castlewood State Park in west St. Louis County and was moved to write about their experience:

"Within 100 yards we found ourselves in a cloud of something which smelled like the old chlordane termite sprays, and which burned our eyes and lungs.

"The odor was soon joined by other odors, like turpentine, diesel exhaust and rotting garbage. As we rounded the bend, we found an area of hundreds of dead trees.

"We could soon see a man-made embankment ... dotted with shredded plastic sheeting and sporting large pipes which gave out continuous flames. We didn't hang around long."

Homeowners Complain; State Suit Pending

Welcome to Grotzpeter trail, a three-mile footpath that winds through upland forest in the park. The path also skirts West County Landfill on Sulphur Springs Road off Big Bend Boulevard, and that's what Taylor was describing in an essay he sent out on a national computer bulletin board.

The landfill and park have been feuding for years. The landfill was there first, opening in 1972, when the area was mostly forest and farms. But now the 680-foot mountain of waste is surrounded by the park and pricey subdivisions.

Homeowners and hikers complain of the stench, and state officials say the landfill violates

its permit. But the landfill's owner insists he's complying with all rules and blames the developers for building so close.

"We have a subdivision with common ground right up to the landfill," James Becker, owner of the landfill, "It creates problems."

The feud is just one of many environmental skirmishes as suburbs sprawl into isolated areas, bumping into the nation's 6,600 licensed landfills.

"And it's not only landfills," said Allen Blakey of the National Solid Wastes Management Association. "You have the same thing happening with other types of commercial and industrial

facilities — and with airports."

The conflict in West County dates to 1979, when Castlewood Park opened near the landfill. A building boom that started in the mid-1980s has made it worse.

West County Landfill accepts about 6,000 cubic yards of trash a week. About 100 garbage trucks travel to the landfill each work day.

Complaints Fatten Files

Scott Gates knows about the problems. He is among the homeowners whose names are in two thick complaint files at the county's landfill offices.

See PARK, Page 6

Park

From page one

Most of the complaints concern noise from the landfill. Others tell of piles of trash left uncovered by the mandating of patches of soil, heavy machinery noise at odd hours or speeding trash trucks.

When he bought his house, Gates said, a real estate saleswoman told him that the landfill would close soon. He complained to the Department of Natural Resources when he found out differently.

"The DNR said I was kind of stupid to believe her," said Gates. "I said, 'Hey, I took her word.'"

There may be confusion — intentional and unintentional — over the closing of a portion of the landfill. The north face of the landfill has closed, but operations moved to the south side of the 140-acre dump. The landfill is expected to continue taking trash for more than a decade.

"We get calls from people who say the real estate agent told them the landfill was going to close in six months," said Sue Taylor, who heads the county's waste management division. "People have to do their homework."

Signs in the neighborhood advertise homes ranging "from the low \$110,000's" up to almost \$200,000.

One builder in the area, McBride & Sons, requires buyers to sign a clause in their closing contract that says they know a working landfill is close by their dream home.

Honest, it hasn't affected our sales," John Eilermann, manager of the Stoney Creek project.

Homeowners near the landfill have formed a group, the West County Citizens' Association, to monitor its operations.

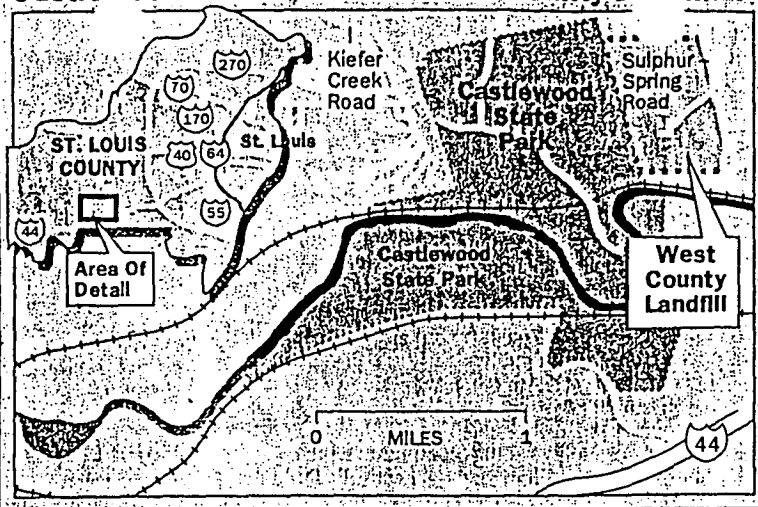
"There's never been a fight over the existence of the landfill — it's there and needs to operate," said association president Angela Dillmon. "Our biggest beef is that it's not monitored well."

"There's been a wall of trash exposed on the south face since October of 1992, and the county is doing absolutely nothing."

Buffer Zone Conceals Little

If prospective homebuyers want a good look at a potentially undesirable neighbor, they might hike Grotspeter trail, which begins near the

Castlewood State Park And West County Landfill



Post-Dispatch

Castlewood visitors center. The first hint of something unusual is the drone of heavy machinery accompanying the songbirds in the forest.

Looking through the bare branches of a grove of dead trees set in barren earth, they would see white plastic pipes protruding from the ground 100 feet away. The pipes spout fire like flamethrowers, burning gases sucked up by the landfill's methane collection system.

A 10-minute walk later, the trail emerges from the woods and gives a clear, unobstructed view of the landfill a stone's throw away. Large sheets of plastic, apparently a liner to collect leachate, stick out from the hillside of buried trash.

Comments Joe Vujnich, chief of planning for St. Louis County: "It's like a bomb went off."

Vujnich said the dead trees were killed by methane gas that traveled underground from the landfill into the park. A new collection system has corrected the problem, and should curb odors, he said.

The landfill is required to maintain a 20-foot visual buffer of trees and vegetation between it and the park. Vujnich and park officials differ on whether the trail, or the landfill, has infiltrated the buffer zone. In winter when the leaves have fallen, the argument is moot.

The county says that the landfill meets all environmental regulations. The state disagrees. "As it stands now, they are legal under county ordinance but in violation of their state permit," Vujnich said.

State Has Lawsuit Pending

One builder in the area requires buyers to sign a clause in their contract that says they know a working landfill is close by their dream home.

Park, pointed out that the section of trail close to the landfill is just a tiny part of the park's 1,778 acres.

Noel Taylor's essay "compared us to a Superfund site — he's way out of bounds," Love said. "There are some odors on certain parts of the trail where it's closest to the landfill. But it only affects a small portion of our total acreage."

Castlewood, on the Meramec River, is popular with hikers and mountain bikers who use trails that wind through bottomland forests or along a bluff offering splendid views, especially in fall. Visitors to these areas get nary a glimpse or whiff of the neighbor to the east. The park draws nearly 300,000 visitors a year.

The state's major complaint is that

the landfill has grown to 680 feet tall, 40 feet beyond its permitted elevation. The suit seeks a fine of \$1,000 a day for each day the violation exists.

Tim Duggan of the Missouri attorney general's office said the suit, filed in November 1991, is winding its way through the system. "If we can figure out at what point they went over 640 feet, we could seek a fine from that time," he said. "We believe that may have occurred in October of 1990."

Duggan also said it was "entirely possible" that the state could require the landfill to remove the top 40 feet of the trash mountain.

Vujnich, however, believes that removing the grass-seeded earth to exhume the top 40 feet of garbage would cause even bigger problems, especially for nearby homeowners.

"What you'd get is a lot more odor," he said. "You take 40 feet off — talk about smell."

Closing Would Boost Values

West County Landfill's permit is in effect until 2001. How long the landfill will stay open after that is hard to estimate. The goal of Missouri's new solid waste law is to extend landfill life by banning certain materials, including yard waste.

An estimated 18 percent of the county's garbage goes to West County; that may increase when the Missouri Pass landfill at Page Avenue and Lindbergh Boulevard closes in the next few years. The county has five sanitary landfills.

"In the real long-term look, West County will reach capacity and close," said Vujnich. "The area will be restored back to native grasses and pasture. Give it 15 years, and maybe we'll be seeing something different."

Homeowners such as Scott Gates eagerly await that day. He envisions a park, or perhaps a ski slope, where the landfill now stands.

"I've heard where real estate around a closed landfill has tripled in value," said Gates. "That's what I'm banking on."

Meanwhile, officials of Castlewood State Park are considering retooling Grotspeter Trail to move it away from its noxious neighbor.

That would be fine with mountain biker Paul Weiss, who sweated up one of Grotspeter's steeper hills last week — only to be surprised by a commanding view of the dump.

"What's this?" he exclaimed. "It's an abomination!"

St. Charles Journal Sunday, May 30, 1993

DOE begins removing debris from Weldon Spring Quarry

By Dennis Miller
Staff writer

A three-phased project to clear vegetation and remove radioactive debris from the Weldon Spring Quarry "officially" got under way Thursday, said a U.S. Department of Energy official.

The first four or five weeks of the job will entail clearing and hauling away logs and vegetation, then several thousand cubic yards of soil piled up at the mouth of the quarry. The excavation of contaminated debris is

scheduled to begin in late June or early July.

The work is expected to take 18 to 30 months to complete and cost an estimated \$18 million, said Steve McCracken, project manager of the cleanup of the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant site.

From 1942 to 1969, debris from the production of explosives and processing of uranium was dumped into the quarry, located near Highway 94 about four

(See QUARRY, Page 10)

Quarry

(Continued from Page 1)

miles south of the former uranium-processing plant.

McCracken estimated that the quarry contains 110,000 to 120,000 cubic yards of radioactive materials.

A contractor will haul the materials to the plant site, where it will be kept in a specially designed temporary storage area until federal agencies adopt and implement a permanent storage plan. Materials will be hauled in trucks using a gravel road that passes beneath Highway 94 between the quarry and the plant site.

The DOE contracted the job to OHM Remediation Services Corp., an Ohio-based firm with a branch office in O'Fallon. The contract does not specify a fixed price for the work because the department wanted the flexibility of being able to interrupt the project, if necessary.

For example, if the contractor discovers an unknown material in one of the drums in the quar-

ry, "we would want to stop the work until we have a chance to study that," McCracken explained.

In bidding out the job, McCracken said the DOE emphasized technical qualifications to perform such work. OHM is also a partner with another firm in one of the contracts for dismantling some of the buildings on the plant site.

"They are well-qualified to do the work," he said.

The removal of debris from the quarry will proceed as the DOE continues to remove, treat and release water from the quarry. Treatment of the water began in January and is expected to continue for several years. Each batch of up to 800,000 gallons of water is treated to remove or reduce contaminants and then tested before being released into the Missouri River.

The quarry sits above St. Charles County's water wells located in the Missouri River floodplain.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993

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EPA Calls Pollution Numbers Disturbing

By Bill Lambrecht

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — If a toxics tour of Missouri is what you wanted, you'd start at the lead mining spots in Jefferson and Iron counties and then swing by the auto assembly plants in St. Louis.

In Illinois, you would drive by Granite City and head north toward Tuscola, home of the Cabot Corp., Illinois' biggest producer of hazardous materials.

If you wanted to travel farther in search of wastes, you'd head to Louisiana, which pro-

duces the most air, water and land pollution. Next on the biggest producers list is Texas, followed by Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana. And then you would return to Illinois.

This road map of toxic chemicals came to you on Tuesday as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's annual toxics release inventory for companies in the United States.

The national total of nearly 3.4 billion pounds of wastes represented a 9 percent drop from the year before. The figures were compiled for 1991.

Nonetheless, EPA administrator Carol M. Browner asserted that companies are generating "huge volumes of hazardous waste," and that recent numbers suggest that the total may rise again.

"If these projections are true, this is a disturbing trend," Browner said.

The EPA's toxic release inventory is compiled from reports that companies are required to file with the federal government.

Missouri dropped in the rankings to 22nd from 20th, generating 60 million pounds. Illinois advanced to sixth nationally from the

ninth position, with an output of about 123 million pounds.

The Doe Run Co.'s mining and milllog smelter at Herculaneum, in Jefferson County, once again topped Missouri's list. The report shows that the company produced about 16.5 million pounds of hazardous materials — slag and smelting leftovers — roughly 2 million more than the previous year.

Jeffrey L. Zelms, president of Doe Run, said Tuesday that his company is committed to deep reductions in the amount of its waste. He

See WASTES, Page 10

Wastes

From page one

promised that the next EPA report would show just 6.2 million pounds, a cut due partly to a downturn in business and partly because of more effective ways of extracting lead, copper and zinc from ore.

"We're tickled to death about the progress we have made," Zelms said.

Second on Missouri's list was Asarco Inc., a mining company in Glover, with 6.7 million pounds, followed by

the Ford plant in Claycomo (1.8 million); the Ford plant in Hazelwood (1.7 million); and the Chrysler plant in Fenton (1.6 million).

The Cabot Corp., Illinois' main generator of wastes, makes fumed silicon dioxide, a powdery substance used in cosmetics, paint and rubber. One by-product is hydrochloric acid, which Cabot tries to sell. Sales of the chemical fell in 1991, and Cabot injected the excess underground, the company said. It said it injected more than 14 million pounds of hydrochloric acid into wells about 140 miles northeast of St. Louis.

The company also produced about

4.5 million pounds of air pollution, much of it chlorine, according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Monsanto Co. of St. Louis ranked fifth in the total of toxic releases from its plants around the country. According to the report, Monsanto is among the top 10 generators of wastes in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Iowa and Massachusetts.

In Texas, Monsanto's Chocolate Bayou chemical plant at Alvin, in the Gulf Coast area, injected over 54 million pounds of ammonium sulfate into three, 6,000-foot-deep wells, according to the Texas Water Commission.

Diane G. Herndon, Monsanto's manager of corporate communications, observed that ammonium sulfate is not among the most toxic chemicals.

She noted also that Monsanto has pledged to work toward eliminating all of its discharges. Since last year, she said, the company had cut about two-thirds of its air pollution, a reduction that will show up in the next EPA report.

Councilman Shear To Seek State Senate Seat

By Mark Schlinkmann
Regional Political Correspondent

SQUEEZED OUT of his district by reapportionment, County Councilman John R. Shear said Saturday he would not seek a third term next year.

Instead, Shear expects to run for the state Senate against a fellow Democrat, 24-year incumbent John D. Schneider of Florissant.

Shear also endorsed Mayor Charlie Dooley of Northwoods to succeed him in the 1st District council seat in the 1994 election.

Dooley, who also is Normandy Township Democratic committeeman, is vying to be the county's first black councilman.

"The Afro-American population of St. Louis County now represents about one-seventh of the county," said Shear, of Ferguson.

"It is time for a change. It is time for an Afro-American ... on the County Council."

Shear and Dooley, 45, made a joint statement at the St. Louis County

Democratic Party's annual Thomas Jefferson Days gathering at the Holiday Inn Airport-North in Bridgeton.

Shear was put in a political quandary last year by a redistricting map imposed by U.S. District Judge Jean Hamilton.

Shear's home was put in the nearby 4th District, represented by fellow Democrat Jim O'Mara of North County.

The 1st District, which Shear has represented since 1987, was redrawn so that its black population increased to 65 percent from 45 percent.

To stay on the council, Shear's choices were:

- To run last year against O'Mara, when elections in the even-numbered districts were held.



Shear

- To move his home into the new 1st District to run next year in a black-majority district. Dooley had been among those mentioned as likely black challengers.

Shear, 37, said he would make a final decision on running for Schneider's seat by the end of the summer. He said he disagrees with Schneider on "just about everything."

For example, Shear said, he takes more of a middle-ground approach on abortion than does Schneider, long known for his strong anti-abortion views. Shear said he wanted neither to tighten nor to loosen Missouri's abortion laws.

Shear also contrasted his support for term limits for legislators with Schneider's role as the longest-serving state senator.

Schneider, 56, said Saturday that he intended to seek a seventh four-year

term next year and charged that Southwestern Bell Corp. had encouraged Shear to run against him because of Schneider's opposition to legislation pushed by the company.

A measure barring state regulators from considering Yellow Pages profits in setting telephone rates died earlier this month when Schneider threatened a filibuster against it.

Schneider contended that the measure would have spurred higher consumer rates, an accusation disputed by Bell.

Shear denied that Bell officials had urged him to challenge Schneider and said he had not taken a position on the Yellow Pages bill because he had not studied its details.

But he added that the Legislature should be "real careful" about not doing anything to drive Missouri companies out of the state.

Clean Up Illinois' Hazardous Waste

Incredible as it may seem in this age of increasing environmental awareness, Illinois' Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund does not have a permanent source of funding. If the Legislature would only pass Senate Bill 534 before the session ends, such a source of funding will be secured. But the Legislature may not do so.

Last year, and again in this session, the powers-that-be in the Illinois House of Representatives have been reluctant to put Senate Bill 534 on the floor, where a clear majority favors it. Gov. Jim Edgar not only endorsed the bill, but came out for increased expenditures for the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund during his 1990 campaign for governor. The state Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturers Association favor the bill, too. So do almost all environmental groups. But waste haulers, who will see their tipping fees raised, strenuously oppose the bill.

The legislation is desperately needed. At present, more than 120 toxic waste sites in the state need immediate cleanup. Several of the sites are situated in metropolitan St. Louis — in East St. Louis, Sauget, New Athens, Fairmont City, Alton, Granite City, Eagle Park and Collinsville. They contain everything from poisonous metals, solvents, creosote and PCBs to perchloroethylene. They are hardly good for the health of nearby residents.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency estimates the cleanup will cost a total of \$143 million. Senate Bill 534 would allocate \$8 million annually for the task on a continuing basis. Until now, funding for hazardous waste cleanup has come from parts of the revenue of various state bonds issued for other purposes. It is time to put the Illinois Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund on a solid basis. The Legislature should be permitted to vote on — and should pass — Senate Bill 534, which would do just that.

Sunday, May 23, 1993 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

New Rules May Delay Dioxin Incinerator

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A new federal policy on licensing hazardous waste incinerators has confused Missouri officials and angered environmentalists. Both are wondering how the rules affect a dioxin incinerator proposed at Times Beach.

"It's a game of smoke and mirrors," said Charlie Cray of Greenpeace, an environmental group.

Ed Sadler, Missouri's top hazardous waste official, said he is in a "holding pattern" while he waits for the Environmental Protection Agency to explain whether the rules will affect Times Beach.

At a news conference in Washington on Tuesday, EPA administrator Carol Browner announced "rigorous new controls" on the incineration of hazardous wastes.

She said the government would freeze toxic waste burning levels at 5 million tons for the next 18 months while the EPA overhauls incineration rules. Any new operations, she said, would be held to strict standards for emitting dioxin.

But those new restrictions apply only to permanent industrial and utility boilers and cement kilns that burn hazardous waste, not to temporary incinerators built at Superfund sites, the EPA said Wednesday.

"I really see very little impact on Times Beach," said David Wagoner, the regional EPA official in charge of Missouri's Superfund sites, including Times Beach. Referring to Browner, Wagoner said, "She's not talking about temporary facilities like the one at Times Beach."

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which is overseeing the cleanup of Times Beach, is not so sure.

Sadler said Browner's 15-page statement does not mention incinerators used in Superfund cleanups, like the one at Times Beach. He said the freeze in allowing new incinerators to begin operations may well include so-called remediation incinerators.

"We're waiting for more information," he said.

Cray said Browner's announcement was the result of public protest over incineration of dioxin and other hazardous wastes at Superfund sites, especially at the Vertac incinerator in Jacksonville, Ark.

"They started out reacting to citizen pressure and made this new policy statement," Cray said. "The EPA wants to create the appearance of doing something while, in reality, they have to go further."

"To leave the universe of dioxin burners out of this new policy is a cynical admission that their program is ineffective."

Syntex Agribusiness, which ended

up with the liability for cleaning up Times Beach, plans to build an incinerator to burn the 100,000 cubic yards of dioxin-contaminated soil from Times Beach and 26 other dioxin sites in eastern Missouri.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would have to issue a construction permit for the incinerator. Wagoner said Syntex's permit application is imminent.

But a second permit would be needed to burn dioxin, and the Department of Natural Resources has said the Times Beach incinerator will have to meet the so-called "six-nines" rule before that permit will be granted.

The EPA has said dioxin incinerators must destroy 99.9999 percent of the dioxin they burn. But the agency also concedes that no incinerator has demonstrated that efficiency when burning low concentrations of dioxin, like those at Times Beach.

There currently are legal challenges to the permits to burn dioxin in Arkansas and Ohio because of the failure to demonstrate "six-nines" success. Wagoner said those suits "could have an impact on Times Beach."



AP

Actor Martin Sheen being arrested in front of the White House in a demonstration Monday by opponents of a hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio.

U.S. To Put Freeze On Building Hazardous Waste Incinerators

© 1993, New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Reacting to protests about the burning of toxic chemical wastes in Ohio, Arkansas and more than a dozen other states, the administration of President Bill Clinton plans to bar the development of new hazardous waste incinerators for 18 months.

The policy was developed under Carol M. Browner, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. It calls for freezing the capacity of the nation's hazardous waste incinerators, forbidding them to burn more than the current level of chemical byproducts a year, EPA officials said Monday.

There are 184 hazardous waste incinerators in the United States. Under the order, no more could be built unless old ones were closed. This would probably result in a temporary halt in the development and construction of incinerators, the officials said, giving the agency more time to develop tougher health,

safety and environmental requirements for current plants.

The policy, which Browner is scheduled to describe at a news conference today, would require officials in the agency's regional offices to study more carefully the effects of air pollution from incinerators on local food supplies. The issue arose last year in East Liverpool, Ohio, where the environmental group Greenpeace and some residents have been battling the owners of the nation's newest hazardous waste incinerator and the government to close it down.

EPA officials said the order was also meant to enforce a provision in the federal hazardous waste law that requires manufacturers to reduce the amount of wastes to be incinerated. This approach would eliminate the need for more incinerators and could prompt the closing of older ones, said EPA officials.

Officials said the plan was aimed less at the country's 20 commercial

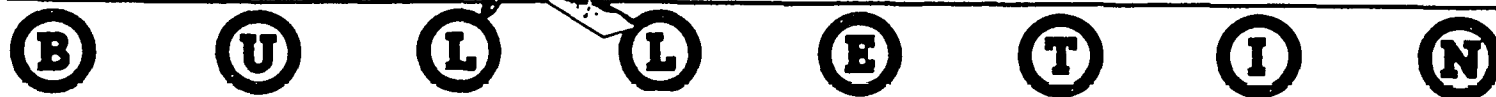
incinerators than at the 164 plants that burn hazardous wastes as fuel in cement kilns, boilers and industrial furnaces.

In December, Vice President-elect Al Gore announced that the new administration would prevent the Ohio plant from opening until Congress investigated its safety. But despite that pledge, in March the administration permitted the plant, operated by Waste Technologies Industries, to begin operation.

In reaction, the residents and Greenpeace mounted a nationwide bus tour in the past month accusing the president of renegeing on the pledge. The bus tour arrived in Washington Monday, and members of the group chained themselves to concrete blocks inside a truck in front of the White House, shutting down the westbound lanes of Pennsylvania Avenue for hours. The Washington police said more than 50 people were arrested, including actor Martin Sheen.

BERKELEY

May -
June 1993



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INFORMATION CENTER WELCOMES VISITORS

Many of you are aware of the radioactively contaminated soil that is located in St. Louis, and would like to know more about where it came from, how it affects you, and what is going to be done about it. That is why the Department of Energy (DOE) opened an Information Center at 9200 Latty Avenue, where some of the soil is stored.

The DOE recognizes the importance of getting St. Louisans involved in the decision-making process and has taken steps to work with the public towards a safe, effective solution.

Recently David Adler, DOE Site Manager, met with Mayor Miller, Berkeley City Council members, and other Berkeley officials, to discuss the cleanup and storage options that are being considered, and to answer their questions. Other DOE representatives attended a meeting of the Berkeley Betterment Commission, where the same information was presented.

In an effort to inform as many people as possible about the St. Louis Site, a Speakers' Bureau has been established. Speakers are available to address schools, groups, clubs and organizations. Meetings may be held in the Conference Room of the Information Center, or at your location.

If you would like to know more about the site, schedule a speaker, or would like to voice your comments about the cleanup and disposal of the contaminated soil, you may call the Information Center at 524-4083. Your comments may also be placed in writing to: David Adler; U.S. Department of Energy Information Center; 9200 Latty Avenue; Hazelwood, MO 63042.



David Adler, DOE site manager discusses possible radioactive waste cleanup measures with members of the Berkeley City Council

Berkeley, MO

WELDON SPRING

Cleanup Of Asbestos Re-examined

Investigation Is Reopened After Workers Say They Saw Torn Bags Put In Containers

By Judith VandeWater

Of the St. Charles Post

The Department of Energy and the primary contractors at the \$650 million Weldon Spring Super Fund cleanup project have reopened an investigation into charges that sloppy procedures were used in the removal of asbestos at the site.

Stephen H. McCracken, the project manager, said that last month two employees of Kimmins Industrial Service Corp. alleged that they had seen several violations of safety rules between early October 1992 and early February 1993.

Kimmins, a major subcontractor at the site, is responsible for decontaminating and demolishing buildings once used to manufacture DNT and TNT, and, later, to enrich uranium for the defense department.

The employees charged that clean-up workers did not repair torn bags containing asbestos before disposing of those bags in five large metal containers. The workers estimated that 10 to 20 bags of the 1,200 bags in each metal container were torn before they went inside the containers.

McCracken said investigators had not opened the containers during the investigation because they would have no way of knowing which bags were torn before storage and which broke under the weight of other bags in the containers.

The workers also charged that they had been warned by radio of the approach of safety inspectors.

"The allegations were that the workers had been told to take some short cuts. There was never any question that the workers' health was at risk. They were wearing respirators," McCracken said.

The investigators found no physical evidence to support or deny the allegations that safety procedures were not being followed, McCracken said.

John P. Schmerber, assistant director of safety and environmental services for Morrison-Knudsen Corp. of Boise, Idaho, headed the investigation, which cost an estimated \$30,000.

Morrison-Knudsen is the parent of M.K. Ferguson, the general contractor on the Weldon Spring clean-up.

Schmerber also headed the investigative team that responded to an earlier allegation of improper asbestos removal at Weldon Spring. That investigation focused on the work practices of a crew employed by Ecology Inc. of St. Charles during two weeks last fall.

The investigators concluded that the safety records kept by site inspectors were too general to either refute or support the allegations. They said that even if the most serious of the allegations were true, the dangerous practices would have been done clandestinely for a

See ASBESTOS, Page 2

Friday, April 16, 1993
St. Charles Post

St. Char

Asbestos

From page one

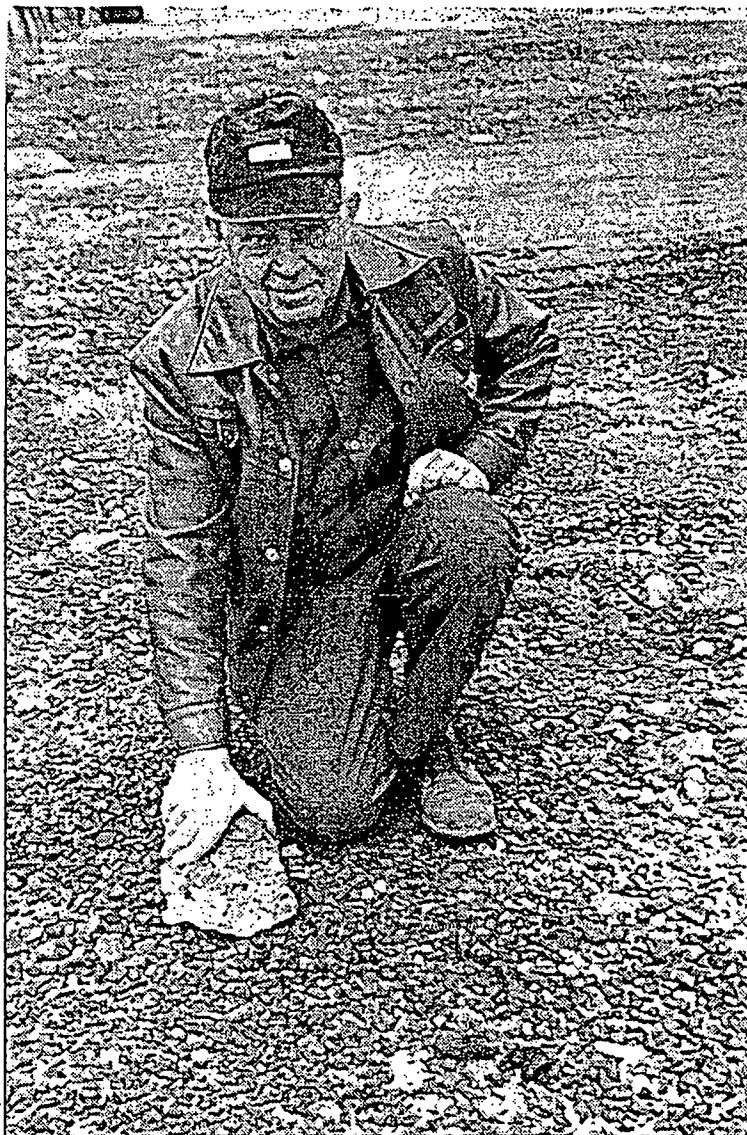
short time on a relatively small scale. Schmerber had estimated earlier that the investigation cost the Department of Energy about \$80,000 to \$90,000.

McCracken said that although both investigations were costly and inconclusive, they resulted in some suggestions for ways to improve safety procedures. After the first investigation, site safety inspectors began keeping more detailed records of inspections, he said.

The latest investigation has underscored the benefit of convincing workers, even workers on the site for a short time, that they can report safety violations immediately without fear of retribution, McCracken said.

"If we can do that, we can immediately fix the problem, and there does not have to be these long, drawn-out, expensive investigations which may or may not prove anything."

To: Dave Adler
Darryl Balan
Joe Williams
Linda Plant



James A. Finley/AP

Contaminated 'Gravel'

Norman Soechtig kneeling Monday in a lot near his home in Granite City. He is at one of the sites where crushed rubber battery casings were used as gravel. The lead-contaminated rubber is now part of a \$4 million cleanup.

Illinois town fighting EPA lead cleanup

The Associated Press

GRANITE CITY, Ill. — Norman Soechtig picked out some small, hard pieces of black rubber mixed in with the gravel in his driveway and wondered why the government wanted so badly to take the stuff off his hands.

"Shoot, ain't nothing wrong with it. They're just going to come in here and spend a whole lot of money," said Soechtig, who hauled in the shredded rubber by the truckload more than 30 years ago, when a lead smelting company gave it away for the asking.

The driveway of the home where Soechtig raised two children became the starting point Monday in a \$35 million Superfund cleanup that eventually will involve the scraping away of 6 inches of topsoil from a 55-block area.

The Environmental Protection Agency also is trying to figure out what to do with a 250,000-ton mountain of lead tailing, or mining waste, left behind by National Lead Industries, the lead smelter and automotive-battery recycling company that gave Soechtig and dozens others their landfill material.

In the first phase of the cleanup, Soechtig's driveway and 15 other driveways, alleys and parking lots in Granite City and nearby Madison and Venice will be excavated because they contain crushed rubber battery casings contaminated with lead.

No one will be evacuated during this cleanup, which is expected to remove 13,000 cubic yards of dirt, cost \$4 million and last four to six weeks. The waste will be put in a landfill in Peoria.

But Granite City is fighting the EPA's plans.

City officials fear property values will plummet because of the publicity.

The following clippings are not about FUSRAP but are included because they provide relevant information on FUSRAP sites or issues.

Nevada Warns Region About Nuclear Waste

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

As many as 31,160 truck shipments of high-level radioactive waste would roll through the St. Louis metropolitan area — one every eight hours for 28 years — if the government locates a nuclear dump in Nevada, officials of that state said Wednesday.

If all shipments were made by highway, about 40 percent of the waste would come through St. Louis, said Bob Halstead of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Project. If shipped by rail, about 25 to 30 percent would come through here.

The Department of Energy has proposed building a nuclear waste burial site on Yucca Mountain, a desert ridge about 70 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Waste from the country's 127 commercial nuclear reactors would be shipped by truck and by rail to the remote site.

That would total some 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste by 1998, when the government is required by law to take title to the waste, said Kathleen Grassmeyer, transportation manager for the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Project.

Grassmeyer — and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources — See WASTE, Page 10

*St. Louis Post Dispatch
April 22, 1993*

Waste

From page one

Resources — said it would be up to the federal Department of Transportation to determine how the waste gets from the reactors to the dump.

"We have a 30-year safety record, not only in the United States but around the world, where our waste has never been released into the environment," she said.

"It's very easy to go out and pose the question, 'How safe is safe?' We are safe, and we've proven it."

The state of Nevada, which has no nuclear power plants, opposes construction of the Yucca Mountain facility. Halstead is visiting cities along the

potential haul routes this week to tell them what they might expect.

Halstead said the Department of Energy had failed to outline its transportation strategy because it fears the protests that may follow from residents along the routes.

"There are some obvious political reasons why they're dragging their heels," Halstead said at a news conference at City Hall. "We did our own study, and if these shipments were starting today, this is the way they would travel."

Waste from nuclear reactors in the East would come into St. Louis on Interstate 70, and then take 270 across the northern edge of the metropolitan area before rejoining 70, he said. Shipments from the southeast would approach the city on Interstate 64, taking Interstate 255 north to Interstate 270.

If coming by rail, the shipments would enter East St. Louis and then take one of three lines west, including the Union Pacific line that runs through Webster Groves and Kirkwood.

"High-level nuclear waste is an extremely hazardous material," Halstead said. "Transporting nuclear waste involves real risks, including the possibility of severe accidents and terrorist attacks."

Halstead said Yucca Mountain is a poor geologic choice for a nuclear dump. But Grassmeyer said it is the only place under consideration by the Department of Energy.

"Right now, with the studies we've done so far, there is nothing identified as a show stopper," said the DOE's transportation manager. "It's a good looking place with all the tests we've done so far."

If the site is approved, the construction schedule calls for the facility to be opened in the year 2010, she said. However, the transportation of waste could begin as early as 1998 for storage on site.

Halstead said Nevada "is going to fight the decision to build a dump at Yucca Mountain. We'd love to have you join us because your citizens have a vested interest."

Kay Drey, an anti-nuclear activist from University City, who attended the news conference, said Nevada should not face the problem alone.

"It's a problem for anybody who would travel the routes where these shipments go," she said. "We call it mobile Chernobyl."

Plant

From page one

In more modern technology. He said the state ultimately would spend more than \$2 million to help the plant stay open and expand.

"We believe that the state will get that money back many times over" in higher spending by plant employees and a better tax base in Granite City, Edgar said.

"This is the kind of employment that is so important in the state of Illinois," the governor added. "These are good-paying jobs."

The jobs at the plant, with an average wage of \$12 to \$13 an hour plus health insurance and other benefits, are going first by seniority to workers furloughed previously. Extra vacancies will be filled by offering transfers to workers who have lost similar jobs at a plant in Ohio, and finally by new hiring.

Outgoing Granite City Mayor Von Dee Cruse, who decided not to seek a third term this year, called the plant's reopening "a shot in the arm for the whole community. What a way to go out."

"The most important thing in my eight years as mayor has been the reopening of American Steel," Cruse said.

St. Louis Post
Dispatch

4/27/73

Problems With Yucca Mountain

The Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office is asking the Department of Energy to drop its plan to build a national repository for nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, 70 miles north of Las Vegas. Officials of the Waste Project Office, an agency of the state of Nevada, argue that the site isn't safe, that transportation of the material cannot be managed safely and that there are better alternatives. They appear to be right on all three counts.

The Nevada group believes DOE studies of Yucca Mountain's safety are inadequate and it has undertaken its own examination to determine the facts. Its initial findings make a persuasive case for killing the Yucca Mountain project outright.

Waste Project studies point out that the mountain is located in a range of volcanos, and that as recently as last June the area experienced an earthquake registering 5.6 on the Richter scale. Since Yucca Mountain would hold nuclear waste on site for some 50 years while the repository is being built, and thereafter store it for 10,000 years, it had better be safe. Waste Project's studies suggest it isn't.

Even if it were, Waste Project studies suggest there aren't any truly safe ways to transport nuclear material from 76 sites around the nation. Accidents, not to mention terrorist attacks, can't be ruled out, whether the cargo is shipped by rail or truck. Some 40 percent of the waste would come through St. Louis over interstate highways, only a little less than that if it were shipped by rail. And the St. Louis region is only one of many heavily populated areas that would be exposed to the hazards of nuclear waste if anything went wrong.

Finally, Waste Project officials point out that the development of dry cast storage technology in the last decade makes it possible to leave nuclear waste at individual reactor sites for some 140 years while better technology to handle it is perfected. Of course, much tighter security at the plants would be required. But on-site storage is the most sensible policy now that the technology can handle it.

DOE should listen to what the Nevada Nuclear Waste Project has to say, and modify its plans accordingly. It is time DOE reconsider its fixation with the Yucca Mountain project.

Safety check

Agencies test new batches of treated water at Weldon Spring

By Dennis Miller
Staff writer

Local, state and federal agencies will test samples of treated water drawn Monday from two treatment plants at the Weldon Spring chemical plant complex.

The samples will be analyzed at various laboratories to determine if the treated water is safe for release into the Missouri River.

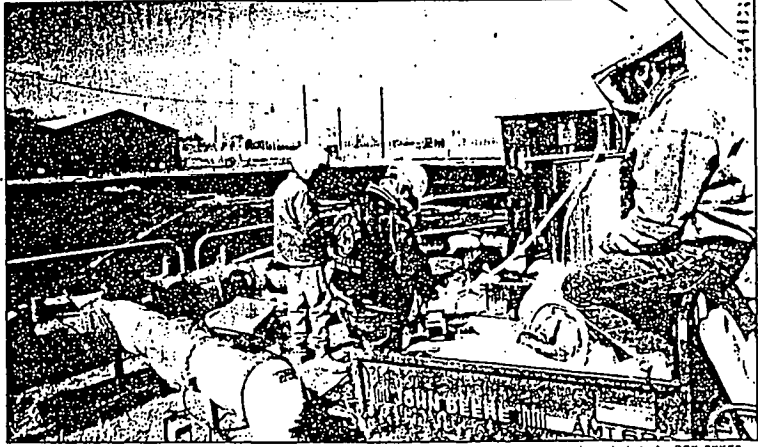
"We've asked everybody to have their results back in about two weeks," said Bruce Balieu, an environmental engineer at the Weldon Spring site.

The treatment of radioactive wastewater is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's \$800 million cleanup of the former uranium- and thorium-processing plant and a nearby quarry.

Samples will be tested for the DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the health departments of St. Charles and St. Louis counties, and the St. Louis city and county water departments.

About 55 gallons of samples were collected Monday from retention ponds at each of two water-treatment plants — one at the site of the former chemical plant and the other at the Weldon Spring Quarry, on Highway 94 about four miles south of the plant site.

Water in the quarry and in raffinate pits on the site of the



Engineers at the Weldon Spring chemical plant site collect samples of treated water for tests to determine levels of contamination.

chemical plant is being treated to remove, or reduce to safe levels, contaminants such as uranium, thorium and heavy metals.

At each site, samples of treated water were drawn at multiple depths at each of the synthetically lined effluent pond's four corners to provide representative samples for testing.

Balieu said the procedures used in the sampling were the same as those used in November, when the same agencies had tests made of the first batch of treated water from the quarry.

In January, the first batch of 541,000 gallons of treated quarry water was released into the river after officials with the various agencies concurred

that tests had shown the water safe for discharge.

The samples taken Monday are from a second batch of 720,000 gallons of treated quarry water and the first batch of 680,000 gallons of treated water from the raffinate pits.

Balieu said performance tests of the site water-treat-

(See WATER, Page 16)

16A

JOURNAL, Wednesday, April 7, 1993

Journal News

Water

(Continued from Page 1)

ment plant had shown it was working properly.

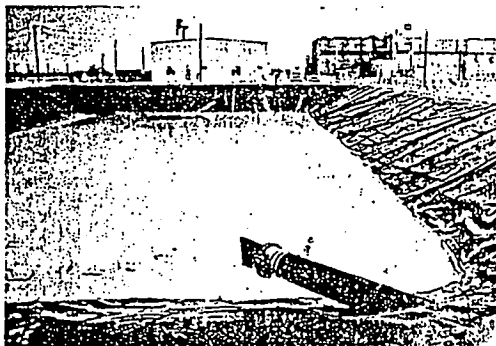
The DOE plans to release both batches into the river if all of the testing agencies, after receiving the lab results, agree that the water meets state and federal clean-water requirements.

But officials said they did not know if the batches of treated water from both sites would be released simultaneously.

The timing of discharging water from the site treatment plant will also depend on completion of a pipeline to carry the water to the river, said Steve McCracken, the DOE's project manager at Weldon Spring.

The pipeline is expected to be completed in about two weeks.

The U.S. Army used the Wel-



The U.S. Department of Energy recently began operating this water treatment plant, built on the site of the former uranium-processing plant at Weldon Spring.

don Spring site during World War II to produce explosives. In 1955, the Atomic Energy Commission acquired 205 acres at the site for construction of the Weldon Spring Uranium Feed Materials Plant, which the Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. used for processing of uranium and thorium until it was closed in 1966.

The raffinate pits contain wastes from processing and decontamination activities. Contaminants in the pits include uranium, radium, arsenic, selenium, fluoride, nitrate and cyanide.

From 1942 to 1966, the quarry was a dump site for debris from the production of explosives and the processing of uranium and thorium at the chemical plant site.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1993

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Environmentalism Rips Radioactive Cleanup

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Missouri's top environmental official says the federal Department of Energy is treating the cleanup of radioactive waste in the St. Louis area as a "low-budget, low-priority" item.

David Shorr, director of the Department of Natural Resources, said he was "completely opposed" to the proposed method for cleaning up the sites because it would leave the radioactive waste in contact with groundwater.

"We do not believe the Department of Energy's current direction adequately responds to the problem," Shorr said Monday.

The current strategies only postpone the problems and place the burden in the hands of future generations.

In a letter sent to the department, Shorr praised its handling of another major cleanup in the St. Louis area, that of the Weldon Spring chemical plant site in St. Charles County.

"The Department of Energy has made a sound commitment to a safe and lasting cleanup at Weldon Spring... but I do not see that same commitment to these sites," he said.

Shorr said his criticism referred to the contamination at the Mallinckrodt plant in downtown St. Louis, at Lambert Field, at Lanny Avenue, in the nearby Coldwater Creek and on adjacent roads.

Those sites are said to contain 876,000 cubic yards

Shorr's letter said his department had been calling for the cleanup of the sites for more than 15 years.

of contaminated material. Radioactivity also has been found in groundwater at the airport site.

The waste at Weldon Spring and the other sites all comes from uranium processing for nuclear weapons. The work began in 1942 at the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works plant in north St. Louis under a government contract and was shifted to Weldon Spring.

Shorr's letter said his department had been calling for the cleanup of the sites for more than 15 years. "Unlike many other states, we have worked to maintain a constructive relationship and we have tried to avoid litigation or a confrontational approach," he said.

David Adler, the Energy Department official managing the cleanup of the St. Louis sites, said he was surprised at the letter's reference to the "low-budget, low-priority" program.

"We are meeting all our deadlines," he said. "It's as high-priority as all of our Superfund sites, and, unfortunately, we've got quite a few."

Shorr said the Energy Department was considering combining all the contaminated materials under a cap on top of the soil at the airport site, with no liner between the waste and the soil.

"Under this strategy, contaminated soil would remain in contact with groundwater at the airport site," he said.

Adler replied that tests had shown that the radioactive groundwater was not flowing from the site.

"Not restoring every drop of groundwater is not the same thing as saying people are at risk from contaminated groundwater," he said. "The groundwater is not being used, nor is it going to be used."

Because the cleanup is still in the feasibility stage, the government has no estimate of the total cost.

Shorr also was critical of proposals to leave contamination under certain roads in Hazelwood and Berkeley.

"This area is an active industrial area with constant development and redevelopment, which potentially disturbs the contaminated soil under these roads," he said.

He said that Missouri "will be faced with a continuing problem of monitoring the soil and groundwater in the area."

Adler said tearing up the roads, redirecting traffic and excavating the contaminated soil underneath could be potentially more hazardous than leaving it in place.

Women of Achievement

Journals honor those whose work has bettered St. Louis

The *Suburban Journals* and radio station KMOX-AM (1120) are proud to announce the selection of the 1992 Women of Achievement, who typify the service and dedication that add greatly to the quality of life in St. Louis.

These women join 371 other Women of Achievement who have been honored since the program started in 1955.

The awards will be presented to the 1992 winners during a noon luncheon May 13 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton.

Reservations for luncheon tickets, which are \$18 per person, may be ordered by sending a check to Women of Achievement, *Suburban Journals*, P.O. Box 411215, St. Louis, 63141. The deadline for reservations is April 23.

Seating will be at tables of 10. If you wish to be seated together, the

reservations and payment should be sent in at the same time. If you are attending on behalf of a specific honoree, please put the name of the specific Woman of Achievement on your reservation and you will be seated with others attending for that honoree.

Kathe Hartley, traffic and news reporter for KMOX, will be mistress of ceremonies at the luncheon.

The 1991 Women of Achievement honored at last year's luncheon were: Cynthia Thompson, community betterment; Mildred Winter, education; Christine Chadwick, volunteerism; Susan Uchitelle, equality in education; Sister Eileen Donovan, human welfare; Joan Newman, youth dedication; Mary Kane, economic development; Theresa Loveless, community service; Harriett Woods, political advocacy; and Julia Goldstein, early childhood education.

Environmental Concern

Kay Drey

Working for a cleaner environment for future generations is a cause to which Kay Drey of University City has devoted nearly 20 years.

"It is nice to know that the work I have done for the last 18 to 20 years for the environment is appreciated," said Drey, 60.

Her drive to better the environment comes in part from her husband, Leo, a tree farmer. His interest in environmental matters sparked a similar interest in her.

Since then Drey has turned her attention toward preserving parks and open spaces in University City, St. Louis County and the entire country. She also is a strong advocate of the shut-down of all nuclear power plants worldwide.

"I am concerned about the radioactive water in Weldon Spring being dumped into the Missouri River just nine miles upstream from where the city and county get its drinking water," she said. "They say it is treated but you have to wonder just how much."

Drey, a dedicated member of Coalition for the Environment, says one of her most significant accomplishments was the coordination of "A Mountain of Waste 50 Years High," a national symposium on nuclear waste held last spring in Clayton.

"I won't rest on the issue of a cleaner environment until every nuclear plant is shut down," Drey says.



Monday 3/22/73

Sweeping Pollution Under Rug

Panel Examines How St. Louisans Deal With Waste

By Virginia Baldwin Hick
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

St. Louisans have typically dealt with pollution by moving it somewhere else, the members of a panel on environmental problems said Sunday.

More than 100 years ago, St. Louis drained festering sink holes and emptied the sewage and sludge into the Mississippi River, said Andrew Hurley, an environmental historian with the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

Hurley moderated the panel, sponsored by the Missouri Historical Society.

And today, authorities in charge of St. Louis' nuclear waste move it from one spot to another instead of developing ways to decontaminate it, said Kay Drey, a local environmental activist.

She cited as the latest example the treatment and release of contaminated water from Weldon Spring into the Mississippi River — upstream from the region's water supply intakes.



Drey

The St. Louis area is home to 2.5 million cubic yards of "some of the oldest atomic waste in the country," Drey said. "And 50 years after they started creating it, they still don't know where to put the first cupful."

The panel, which met in the History Museum at Forest Park, was the first in a series to discuss current area problems in a historical perspective.

Sunday's topic: "Is Cleanliness Next to Impossible? Environmental Crisis and Response in St. Louis History."

Also on the panel were John Lodderhose, an environmental engineer with the Metropolitan Sewer District, and Max McCombs, manager of environmental protection for Monsanto Co.

Lodderhose said St. Louis was still dumping some raw sewage into the Mississippi in the early 1970s — until the Clean Water Act required cities to quit such dumping and provided money to build improved treatment plants.

The last such improved plant began operation in St. Louis in 1986.

But a better solution than cleaning up sewage is not to put so much waste into the system, McCombs said.

"I call it keeping the chemical in the equipment, not in the air or landfill," McCombs said.

For example, until 1988, Monsanto released 1 million pounds of pollutants into the air a year from its manufacture of mothballs.

With new technology, the company has turned the pollutants into marketable products, he said.

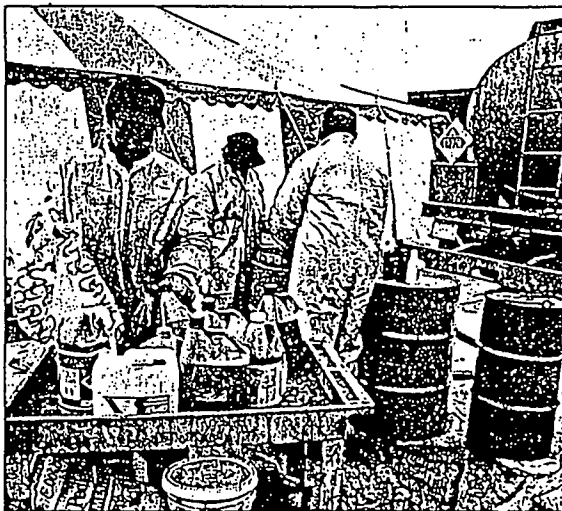
The panelists generally agreed with the 40 or so people in the audience that fines and court cases to make companies clean up pollution are not enough.

And neither are voluntary efforts by companies working in their own interest.

McCombs suggested a third approach, in which consumers reward environmentally progressive companies by choosing their products.

Drey countered that all three approaches are only as good as the systems that monitor them.

The laboratory tests and procedures for careful monitoring are beyond the pocketbook and access of the average consumer, Drey said.



Larry Williams/Post-Dispatch

Employees of Heritage Environmental Services Inc., a hazardous waste hauler, sorting various waste materials into proper containers Saturday at the Shell Oil Co. refinery in Wood River.

Illinoisans Unload Hazardous Garbage

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

While workers in protective clothing took a witch's brew of poisons from the trunk of her car, Pauline Newcome, of Godfrey, Ill., watched with the relieved look of a person who had just unloaded a heavy burden.

"There's a box of lead arsenic in there that was in our house when we bought it," she said in a hushed voice. "I think they used it for rat poison."

"We've had it 35 years, been moving it from one shelf to another in the basement. We didn't know what to do with it."

Newcome was among the hundreds of Illinois residents who took advantage of a free household hazardous waste collection day Saturday, sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The workers slammed Newcome's trunk lid after filling a cart with the rat poison, jugs of used motor oil, half-empty paint cans, containers of floor polishes and bags of pesticides.

"This is a good thing," Newcome said before leaving the parking lot at the Shell Oil Co. refinery in Wood River.

Illinois plans to hold about 30 of the collections around the state this year. Rhett Rossi has worked 16 of the drop-offs for the agency and was managing Saturday's event.

Like other veterans of the collections, he had his favorite war story.

"We had a bottle of snake venom brought in by the local police department," he said. "Some kid was going to mix it with sodium cyanide. The police thought he might be planning to hurt somebody."

Rossi said Illinois has been holding the drop-offs since 1989 and routinely collects from 75 to 175 55-gallon drums of hazardous waste at each one, depending on the size of the community.

"That's stuff that typically would be poured down the drain or put into the

garbage, where it'd end up in a landfill," he said. "None of that is environmentally safe, but it's not illegal."

Laws in Illinois and Missouri strictly regulate what a business can dump in a landfill. But no law — state or federal — covers what a homeowner puts into the trash or down the sewer.

Toxic household waste can cause problems for landfills and municipal water treatment plants.

The Illinois EPA, obviously, wants only waste coming from homes in Illinois.

For residents on the other side of the Mississippi in the St. Louis area, there is no household hazardous waste program. In Missouri, only the city of Columbia has a permanent disposal facility.

Rossi said Illinois pays for its collections through the tipping fee levied on commercial waste haulers at landfills. A single collection day, he said, can cost from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

The state EPA oversees the collections, but contracts with a specialist to handle and dispose of the material. Heritage Environmental Services Inc. of Hazelwood was hired to run the Wood River collection.

"When we do one in southern Illinois, we usually get 300 to 400 cars a day," said Mike Dixon of Heritage. "Most of what we get is paint and used oil. Thirty percent is some type of pesticide or herbicide. Ten or 20 percent is the odd-ball poison, oxidizer or corrosive."

"But we'll get everything — live ammunition, photography chemicals. We got some smokeless gun powder today. Another guy brought in shoes, and another brought in a razor."

The shoes and razor, Dixon said, went into a nonhazardous waste bin. The paint and oil is used as supplemental fuel in cement kilns. The pesticides and other poisons go to a hazardous waste incinerator, he said.

"All that would have ended up in a landfill — guaranteed," said Dixon.

St. Louis Post Dispatch Sunday 2/28/93

Few Signals From Clinton On Nuclear Waste

By Bill Lambrecht
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

DAVID H. LEROY has the title U.S. Nuclear Waste Negotiator, a staff of 10 and a mission from Congress to find a home for some of the most dangerous material on the planet.

But he can't find out where he stands in the new administration, which seems wary of anybody or anything connected with nuclear materials.

"If the government appears to waver in its commitment," Leroy said, "it will potentially destroy all that we've built in the last two years."

President Bill Clinton has been clear on his views about nuclear power: He said last week that it should not be part of America's future, a statement he has since backed up by proposing deep cuts for research on the subject.

But Clinton has given few signals about what his administration will do about nuclear waste, which ranges from the low-level materials used at hospitals to the highly radioactive remains from nuclear weapons production.

The Department of Energy, which is in charge of nuclear waste clean-up at defense plants, has yet to spell out its priorities or plans in dealing with cost-overruns and problems with contractors. Several key energy appointments have not yet been made, among them an assistant secretary for nuclear issues.

Nor has the administration offered ideas for dealing with low-level nuclear waste. In January, a deadline passed for states to set up agreements to provide regional storage sites for these materials.

While it may be too early to judge Clinton's efforts, past critics of government delays are hoping that he spells out his views on radioactive wastes soon.

The fate of Leroy's office is among choices

"If the government appears to waver in its commitment, it will potentially destroy all that we've built in the last two years."

DAVID H. LEROY, U.S. Nuclear Waste Negotiator

awaiting the president.

The waste negotiator's office was set up by Congress as yet another attempt to figure out what to do with the highly radioactive remains from the cores of nuclear reactors. The country has accumulated about 20,000 metric tons of spent fuel from its 110 commercial nuclear power plants, an amount that will double by the year 2000.

Leroy is trying to negotiate a contract with local governments for a waste site in return for tens of millions of dollars in grants.

Leroy has been negotiating mainly with Indian tribes, who have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grants to consider storing these materials. Because of their self-governing status and authoritarian tribal councils, Indians are viewed by some in the nuclear industry as having the means to overcome political obstacles that others would face.

But environmental advocates and many Indians themselves are offended by this prospect. Vice President Al Gore is among those who have warned in general terms about the dangers of exploiting the Indians' poverty to find a dump site.

Yet Leroy's work has shown promise amid many government failures. Leroy calls it the "latest best hope" for dealing with the difficult problem.

"It will be a national tragedy if we don't emphasize this way of doing business," he said.

But since Clinton has become president, Leroy has only two routine conversations with the administration. Neither of them has shed any light on the future of his agency, he said.

Cleaning up the waste from defense plants could be one of the most challenging tasks of Clinton's presidency. Department of Energy officials have spent about \$16 billion over the last four years and, according to the General Accounting Office, have little to show for their efforts.

A devastating report issued last week by the Energy Department itself confirmed fears about one of its most dangerous sites, at Hanford, Wash. Since the 1950s, Hanford produced plutonium for nuclear weapons.

The report admitted that the department had no ability to detect leaks in tanks of explosive radioactive waste and had insufficient equipment to handle problems.

Stephen Schwartz, Washington representative for the Military Production Network, a private group, said that he is waiting for Clinton to take charge.

"I don't think they really know yet how big the problem is," Schwartz said. "It was the government that created these problems, and now people are saying it is time to clean up the land and the air and the water."

Others are eager for the White House to turn its attention to low-level nuclear waste, perhaps by forming a White House commission aimed at overhauling federal law cover-

ing radioactive waste.

Clinton's skepticism of commercial nuclear power has showed in recommended cuts under his economic program.

The administration plans to spend about \$120 million over the next two years on research for a so-called light-water reactor and more than \$150 million this year for other advanced reactor designs, according to analysis by congressional aides.

But Clinton wants more than \$1 billion in cuts after that, which likely means that the government would spend little or nothing after next year for commercial nuclear power.

Meanwhile, the administration is seeking to spend an additional \$1.3 billion on renewable energy and conservation programs during the next few years and \$263 million more for research on natural gas.

Steve Unglesbee, a spokesman in Washington for the nuclear power industry, insisted that the proposed cuts "are not as draconian as they might seem."

He noted that the added federal spending would lead to federal certification of the water-cooled reactor, an important step in making it more attractive to utilities in the future.

Ralph Cavanagh, an energy specialist with the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco, said that the Clinton administration might achieve the most by giving nuclear power utilities incentives to conserve.

He said that by strictly enforcing the Clean Air Act and by encouraging use of pollution credits under that law, the administration "could create a nationwide competition among utilities as to who could achieve the most conservation the quickest."

Clinton's view stands in stark contrast to his predecessor's. Just a year ago, President George Bush's administration succeeded in passing legislation to streamline licensing for new nuclear power plants.

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VOLUME 73 - NUMBER 8 (USPS 202-520) TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1993 12 PAGES - 40 CENTS PER COPY

DOE Opens Door To Communication on Radioactive Waste Problem Officials Pleased, But Berkeley Mayor Urges Safety For Residents

By Jeanette Eberlin, Special Correspondent for the Reporter

The U.S. Department of Energy's philosophy of meeting with small groups interested persons and organizations to discuss the radioactive waste problem is paying off as a means of meaningful communication.

David Adler, DOE site manager, had invited the Berkeley and Hazelwood City Councils to a meeting at the field office at 9200 Latty Ave., Hazelwood on Feb. 9. The purpose was to discuss alternatives and to get input from the officials as to their preferences for the method of disposal of the 740,000 cubic tons of radioactive material on the Latty Avenue, Airport and Mal-

linkrodt sites.

"This was the most organized meeting (with the DOE) I've been to, and one of the most informative sessions we have had. He (Adler) did advance some new alternatives; I'm encouraged to see they have been working," Hazelwood Councilwoman Mollie C. Rickey said after the meeting. Rickey had chaired a countywide committee a few years ago to study the problem.

Berkeley Mayor William Miller also was impressed with the amount of information and candor of the DOE staff and officials. However, he expressed a strong com-

mitment to his preference of moving the dirt away for the safety of the people in the area.

The radioactive material is the debris left from the processing of uranium for the United States' first nuclear bomb and warheads during World War II.

Adler described in detail three major alternatives to dispose of the waste: placing the waste on the SLAPS (St. Louis Airport Site) and building a bunker over it; moving the waste to Hanford, Washington where the DOE has a facility for storing such material, and waiting until the airport's expansion plan is in operation and using

the waste and fill dirt under the runways.

"Sending it to the Hanford Reservation, technically, is an alternative," Adler told the group. "Although, at present, small amounts of material are sent to this facility, such as can be transported on one or two trucks."

"This much material would have to be loaded on a train, and it is predictable that there will be an accident on the long way out there."

Building a bunker over the 22-acre apportion of the airport where some of the dirt is stored underground would require relocating McDonnell Boulevard and moving North into the area where the former Khoury League ballfields are.

This would result in a large hill of radioactive waste which then would be secured, covered and sodded, and it would have an unattractive appearance, he said.

Placing it underneath the airport runways has some "attractive features" Adler said. "The airport needs fill dirt, it could be an above ground monument to the war; also, a lot of this area has clay under it, a good layer of clay."

In answer to a question from Rickey, Adler said the Record of Decision remains at May 1995. The Hazelwood and airport sites are on the federal Superfund priority list, and the term means the final decision on the method of cleanup and disposal.

"95 is far enough," Rickey said. "We've begged, done everything in our power to get the decision date moved forward. We want it taken care of sooner than that." She said waiting for the airport expansion plan to begin, the moving the dirt there was too far in the future.

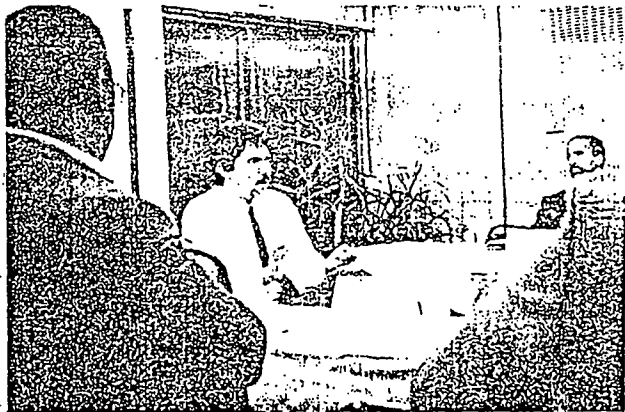
Mayor Miller told the DOE officials, "Reuse (placing it under the runways) isn't going to fly. Just taking it from one place to another (here isn't right).

"Our cities are being punished enough for something that happened many years ago. It's not our problem."

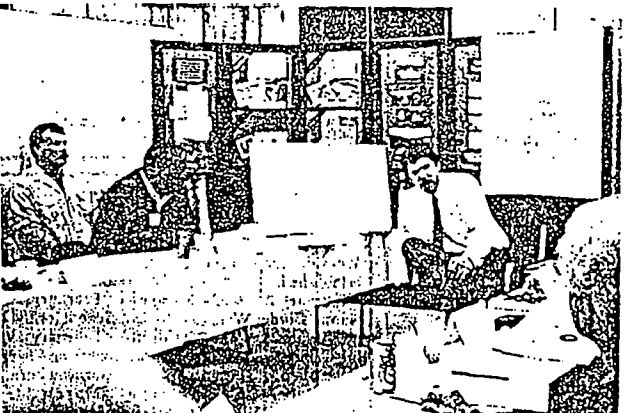
"Let's move it out of here and make the area safer. Think about the general public," he stressed.



Listening to DOE sit manager David Adler's discussion of site-wide alternatives being considered for cleanup of the St. Louis FUSRAP sites are, from left to right, Hazelwood mayor David Farquharson; Mollie Rickey, Hazelwood city council; Joe Williams, deputy manager of the St. Louis FUSRAP site Carol Stroker, Hazelwood city council; and Edwin Carlstrom, Hazelwood City Manager.



David Adler (center), U.S. Department of Energy site manager, discusses the site-wide alternatives being considered for cleanup of the St. Louis FUSRAP sites at a workshop on Feb. 8 for mayors and city councils of Hazelwood and Berkeley. This was the first workshop in the community. Adler would be pleased to do similar workshops for other community groups of 10-12 individuals. To request a workshop, contact Patti Hazel at the DOE Information Center on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood, telephone 524-1083.



David Adler (center), DOE site manager, discusses site-wide alternatives being considered for cleanup of the St. Louis FUSRAP sites. At left is Theodore Hoskins, Berkeley council member, and at right is Arbon Hairson, Berkeley City Manager.

WIDE-AWAKE AWARDS, INCLUDING MISSOURI BLUE RIBBON NEWSPAPER

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73 - NUMBER 3

(USPS 202-520)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1993

8 PAGES - 40 CENTS PER COPY

Berkeley Selects City Manager



Arbon Hairston, Berkeley City Manager

The City of Berkeley has announced the selection of Arbon Hairston as city manager effective

January 7, 1993. Hairston has served as finance director for the city since December of 1989.

After reviewing more than 175 applications for the position, the City Council conducted interviews and determined that Hairston was the most qualified, and his familiarity with the city was an additional attribute. In a letter to city employees, the Mayor and Council noted that Hairston brings professionalism, interest and energy to the position. They also stated "We have placed complete confidence in Mr. Hairston's ability to manage the city."

Prior to joining the City of Berkeley, Hairston served as district manager for the Department of Commerce. He had previously worked as corporate planner for Houston Lighting and Power, and assistant director of finance for the

City of Springfield, IL. Hairston is a graduate of the University of Illinois, with a bachelor of science degree in finance.

As finance director for the City of Berkeley, Hairston has been recognized as a recipient of the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, presented by the Government Finance Officers Association. Hairston's goals for the administration include a long range plan, maintaining financial stability and close working relationship with business and residents in the city.

As city manager, Hairston will oversee all municipal departments including police, fire and public works. He is also responsible for maintaining the \$6.9 million annual budget.

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VOLUME 73 - NUMBER 2 (USPS 202-520) TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993 12 PAGES - 40 CENTS PER COPY

Officials Predict a Bright Future for St. Louis County

Corcoran Says, "Voice of the People Will be Heard"

By Jeanette Eberlin, Special Correspondent for the Florissant Valley Reporter



Happy smiles for a happy occasion...County Council members, from left, Jerry Corcoran, Deborah Kersting and Jim O'Mara pose for the camera as they greet friends and relatives immediately following their swearing-in ceremonies. (Photo by Jeanette Eberlin)

Smiles were the order of the day, and predictions of a bright future for St. Louis County abounded as three new County Council members, seated in a standing-room-only ceremony, took the oath of office. County Councilman John New Year's Day, Democrat, George M. R. Shear, District 1, was the

master of ceremonies, the featured speaker was Robert F. McCulloch, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, and the invocation was given by the Rev. Robert Jovanovic, pastor of St. Kerstan's church, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church. Before last November's election Corcoran had served on the council 14 years, O'Mara two years and Kersting was elected to her first term in office. Each council member was sworn in by county judge of Judge Dennis J. Quillin, O'Mara by Judge Daniel J. O'Toole and Kersting by Judge Susan A. Block.

The ceremonies were traditionally brief and impressive. However, some of the light-hearted remarks obviously pleased the crowd, such as when Judge O'Toole asked that all the members of O'Mara's family come to the podium to stand with him.

SEE CEREMONY, PAGE 5

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FLORISSANT VALLEY REPORTER

CEREMONY, FROM PAGE 1

while he was being sworn in. No doubt every member of the O'Mara clan was there, as a very large group came forward and filled the front portion of the chambers.

"Now you can see why it's easy for me to be elected," O'Mara said with a smile.

After being sworn in, Corcoran said, "When you have had a complete turnaround (the Democratic party in St. Louis County) and you are near the top, there is only one direction you can go - up."

"I will continue to hear the voice of the people."

In an interview later, Corcoran said, "I am very optimistic about the

future of St. Louis County. We have the confidence of the people and this cooperation will bring about solutions to our problems."

He said there are plans for a bond issue early this year for a new jail and other improvements, with no tax increase. "This will show how the people feel," he said.

McCulloch also expressed optimism about the future in his address.

"We are starting a new era in our county, the state and the nation. We certainly will be better off as this new decade leads us into the next century," he said.

"There are many issues facing us: our highways, infrastructure, jobs, the jail situation and tax redistribu-

tion."

Referring to Corcoran, McCulloch said, "Jerry is the dean of the council. His leadership has always been ahead of his time."

"O'Mara has brought us ideas, and lead us where we haven't been before. Debbie (Kersting) is typical of the new generation, fresh with new ideas."

As to the number of Democrats now on the county council, he said, "Although there are five, there will be five different opinions. This will make for great debate."

Summarizing the feeling predominant at the occasion, he said, "St. Louis County will be in good hands for a long, long time."



Newly sworn in County Councilman Jim O'Mara and his wife, Pat, smile for the crowd as Judge Daniel J. O'Toole, on right, looks on. (Photo by Jeanette Eberlin)

Quarry Release Delayed

Weldon Spring Awaits EPA's Thorium Test

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Key Drey may not be able to prevent the discharge into the Missouri River of treated water from the quarry at the Weldon Spring chemical complex, but she has won a delay until later this week.

Drey is the anti-nuclear activist who has argued that the water should be stored rather than dumped into the river nine miles upstream from the public water intakes for St. Louis and St. Louis County.

The Department of Energy held a news conference Monday afternoon to announce the result of tests done on treated water taken from the quarry. The quarry is contaminated with radioactivity, arsenic, heavy metals and explosives.

The scheduled climax of the news conference was to be the immediate release of the water, but Drey, who arrived late, objected.

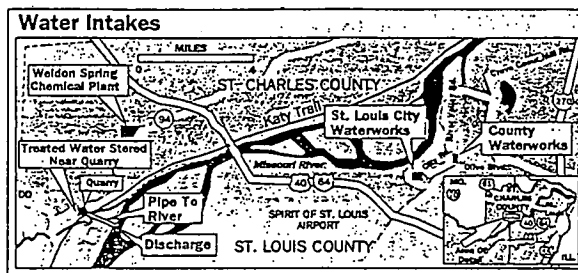
Drey said old inventories indicate that a large amount of thorium, a radioactive element, was dumped into the quarry. She said the water should not be released until the Environmental Protection Agency completes tests for thorium.

Steve McCracken, manager of the \$650 million cleanup of the Weldon Spring site, then asked Drey: "If we See WATER, Page 7

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Water

From page one

get this analysis in from EPA, will you agree this is a safe discharge, yes or no?"

She did not reply. "When John Broadway, an EPA official who took part in the news conference through a telephone hookup, said the EPA's thorium testing should be ready by Wednesday afternoon, McCracken agreed to postpone the release until then."

"There's no compelling reason why I can't wait another day or so," he said. "There's not a technical expert in this room or on the phone who thinks that's necessary, but I do believe it'll help alleviate fear."

Some 42 gallons of the treated water were distributed Nov. 19 to the EPA, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and representatives of St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

McCracken said the four government agencies had reported back with laboratory results that confirmed the water was safe to release.

"The contaminants in the water have been removed to where they are at, or below, drinking water standards," McCracken said. "All questions that have been raised have been answered."

The four government agencies had representatives at the news conference, and McCracken asked if any had objections to the release of the water. None spoke up.

A reporter questioned why the EPA's lab results were incomplete in that the tests for radium, thorium and uranium were missing. The three elements were included in the radioactive waste dumped into the quarry by the Atomic Energy Commission.

Broadway replied that the EPA's labs had been working on a holiday schedule. He said the results were delayed, but would be ready later this week.

However, he added that the tests

had been completed for overall radioactivity — known as gross alpha and gross beta — and indicated the treated water was well below permit limits.

"Since the numbers for these indicators are so small, we would expect the individual analysis would be less," he said. "Even under the worst case scenario, I cannot see it being significant."

Drey said after the news conference that she had "made a mistake" in not taking a sample for testing. She said she would use her own money to have additional testing done because the Coalition for the Environment, which she represents, could not afford the \$1,000 lab for such testing.

However, McCracken refused Drey's request that the discharge be halted until she obtained results of her own testing, a process that could take six weeks or more.

"I will not wait for her results," McCracken said. "All she's trying to do is delay this thing a few more months. The opportunity was given for anyone to test this water in November,



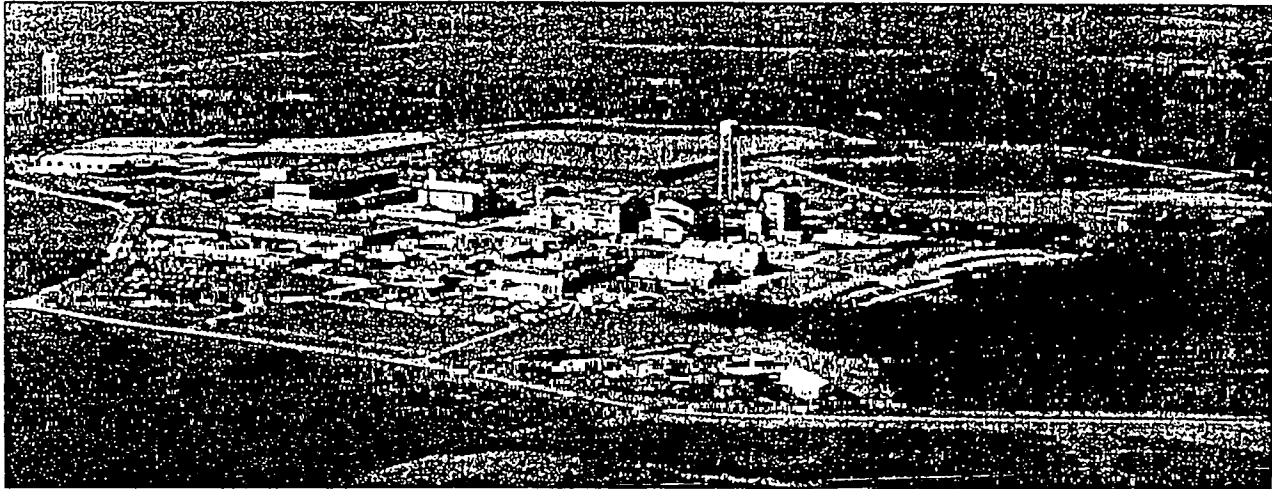
Key Drey (right), who won a delay Monday in the release of water from Weldon Spring. Roberta Gutwein of Clayton is at left.

upon receiving the EPA results. "When I get that information, it's my intent to go to the quarry to discharge that water," he said.

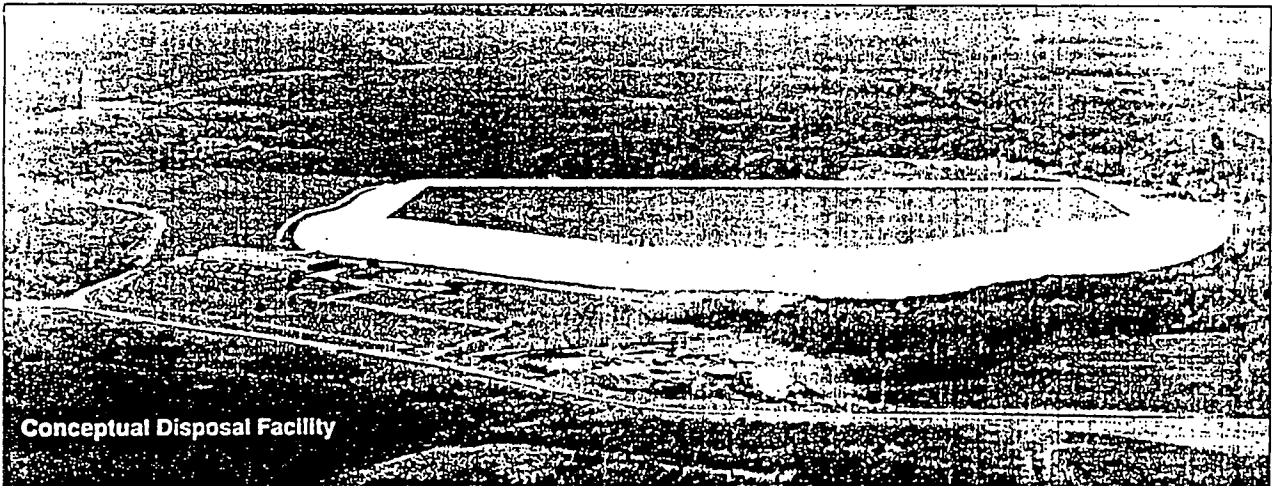
ST. LOUIS

SECTION D

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1993



ABOVE: The uranium processing plant at Weldon Spring being dismantled by the Department of Energy, which wants to build a "disposal cell" on the site to hold radioactive rubble and other debris. BELOW: The disposal cell would be about 42 feet high and cover some 100 acres directly over the site of the razed plant. The remaining building near the cell is the department's office.



Conceptual Disposal Facility

Plan Set For Radioactive Debris

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Department of Energy has a monumental problem: How to dispose of a mound of radioactive debris that's almost large enough to fill Busch Stadium.

"I think it's a little shy when you hit the upper deck; it doesn't quite make the cheap seats," says Ken Warbritton, a geological engineer working on the cleanup of the abandoned uranium processing plant at Weldon Spring.

The department's answer: Building a "disposal cell" that would reach 42 feet high and cover 100 acres on the site of the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works plant on Highway 94 in St. Charles County.

The cell, or bunker, would be the final resting place for the steel beams, siding, concrete foun-

Weldon Spring Is Cleanup Target

dations, asbestos and equipment used in the 40 buildings now being dismantled.

It also would hold contaminated soil, sludge and sediment from the ponds used as dumps on the site — and the barrels of radioactive waste and other debris excavated from the quarry that is being drained.

"To date, our best estimate is we've got nearly one million cubic yards," said Jerry Van Fossen, deputy manager of the cleanup. "We're talking about a tremendous number of drums from the quarry."

The cost estimate of building the cell is \$157 million, which is included in the \$800 million

projected as the total cost of cleaning up the Weldon Spring site. That's in 1992 dollars, meaning that inflation could pump up the price.

If START II is the death knell to the nuclear arms race, the Weldon Spring bunker would serve as a costly memorial, built at the place of its birth.

Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, working under a contract with the old Atomic Energy Commission, processed the uranium used in the first atomic bombs and later by the nuclear industry.

But not all the radioactive waste and debris produced under the contract will be housed in the Weldon Spring bunker. A twin cell may be

built in St. Louis County for wastes that lie at other sites in the area.

"Because of the very significant negative reaction by people in St. Charles County, the Department of Energy has made a commitment not to take in outside waste," said Steve McCracken, manager of the Weldon Spring cleanup.

Public meetings still must be held before a final "record of decision" will allow the department to build the bunker. That decision is expected by late this summer, but it could be held up by opposition from the public.

"The state is taking the position that no outside waste comes in," said McCracken. "It's our intent to put that in the record of decision."

Left out in the cold will be David Adler, who is looking for a home for a like amount of radia-

See BUNKER, Page 3

Bunker

From page one

tive debris. Adler is the department's manager of the cleanup for the so-called St. Louis sites.

"We have a little less than Weldon Spring, about 900,000 cubic yards," Adler said. "That's at Lambert Field, on Latty Avenue, at the Mallinckrodt site (in north St. Louis) and on associated properties."

Adler said the Department of Energy would keep the debris from St. Louis and St. Louis County away from the Weldon Spring bunker "primarily because of the possibility that the controversy could kill that project."

Thus, a similar disposal cell may have to be built in St. Louis County.

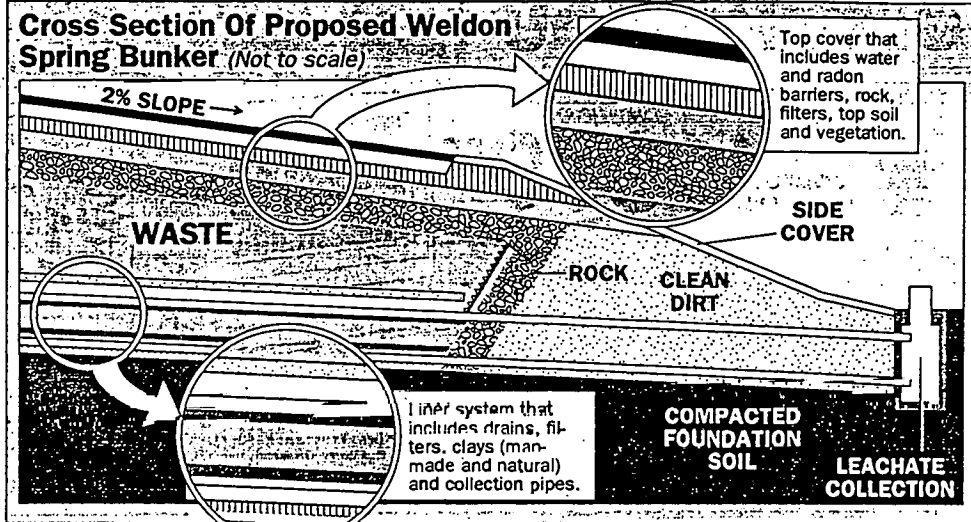
"We expect to publish a proposed plan, exactly what Steve just did," he said, referring to Steve McCracken, director of the Weldon Spring cleanup. "One option we're considering is consolidating all the waste at one site, as is being done at Weldon Spring."

The reason the Department of Energy wants to build the twin bunkers is simple. More than 50 years after the first nuclear waste was generated, the country still has no national disposal site licensed to take the hodgepodge of wastes produced at Mallinckrodt.

"Not at this point, there isn't," said Van Fossen.

With no place else to go, the department wants to build a Weldon Spring bunker with gently sloping top and sides, meant to shed water and prevent erosion. The top will be planted, and the sides lined with limestone rock.

The bottom will have a multi-layered floor with clay and plastic liners



and a system to collect, drain and treat any leaking fluids or invading water.

"It will not be below grade; in other words, we won't dig a hole and dump things in it," Van Fossen said, "the idea being you avoid the bathtub effect, where water could leach down into it and be held there."

The walls also will be lined with clay and surrounded by dikes filled with "clean" soil. "A key point in this is: The majority of the material is natural, because it lasts longer," said Van Fossen. "Concrete cracks."

The roof also would be multi-layered and include a radon barrier, a layer of clay topped by plastic and a "biointrusion" layer of rocks and

boulders to prevent man, animals and vegetation from digging into the cell. The roof will be covered with topsoil and planted with prairie grasses.

Inside, the beams, barrels and other contaminated material will be compacted and stacked. A grout-like mixture that includes cement will be poured over each layer to "encapsulate" the debris and fill in any voids. The result will be a solid chunk of radioactive rubble.

Construction is expected to start next year, with the top going on and the cell sealed by 1999.

"There would be a fence around it, a small building for maintenance staff and a water-treatment facility," Van Fossen said. "With the prairie grass on

top blowing in the breeze, maybe we could get some buffalo up there."

The bunker is meant to last from 200 to 1,000 years, Van Fossen said.

The radioactivity inside will not decay for hundreds of thousands of years.

"You're not doing away with the radioactivity," said Van Fossen. "It's still radioactive until it decays down to lead."

"But one of the things to keep in mind is the materials we're encasing are low-level. We're not talking about something you'd find at a nuclear power plant. If someone digs into it in the future, it's not going to kill them."

ST. PETERS

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Member of the Suburban Newspapers of Greater St. Louis.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1993
ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI

First batch of quarry water flows into river

By Dennis Miller
Staff writer

WELDON SPRING — After two delays, the first batch of treated water from the contaminated Weldon Spring Quarry was sent flowing to the Missouri River on Thursday.

The release of 541,000 gallons was expected to take about 48 hours. The water has been treated to remove uranium, thorium, arsenic, heavy metals and other contaminants.

Treatment of a second batch of water from the quarry is expected to begin in late January, said Steve McCracken, manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's \$650 million cleanup of the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant site.

Before a crowd of reporters, photographers and television-camera crews, McCracken and James Powers, project

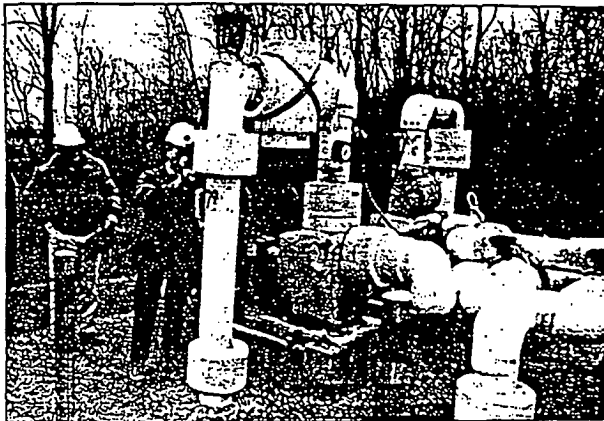
director for MK-Ferguson Co., unlocked the pumps, sending the water to the river. MK-Ferguson is a general contractor at the plant site.

Officials had delayed the release Monday after Kay Drey of the Coalition for the Environment objected to discharging the water before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency completed its tests for thorium in samples of the water.

The EPA had expected to complete its testing on Wednesday, but the results were delayed by a power failure at the agency's laboratory in Montgomery, Ala. McCracken said he received the EPA's final data on Thursday.

"Their uranium and thorium analytical data is the same as everyone else's," he said.

(See WATER, Page 6)



Journal photo by LINDA KINZEL

Steve McCracken of the U.S. Department of Energy unlocks a valve to release treated water from the Weldon Spring Quarry into the Missouri River. James Powers of MK-Ferguson Co., contractor for the DOE, looks on.

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JOURNAL, Sunday, January 10, 1993

Water

(Continued from Page 1)

Samples of treated water were analyzed at various laboratories for the EPA, DOE, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Charles and St. Louis counties, and the city of St. Louis. All of the agencies said the tests show the water safe for release.

"This water has been treated to levels actually below drinking-water standards. There is less radioactive material in this water than exists naturally in the river, so it will not harm anyone downstream," McCracken said.

From 1942 to 1969, debris from the production of explosives and uranium processing at the chemical plant site was dumped into the quarry, which is near St. Charles County's drinking-water wells. The DOE has said the quarry is leaking but that so far no contamination has been detected in the wells.

Ken Gronewald, president of St. Charles Countians Against Hazardous Wastes, said he was pleased that the quarry is being cleaned up. "Every day that this is prolonged, the contaminants are getting closer to our wells," he said.

The quarry is about 10 miles upstream from intakes for St. Louis city and county water-treatment plants. But McCracken said, "It's such a small discharge, compared to the river's total volume of water, that it's hard to say whether they will get any of our water or not."

The treated water was being pumped at a rate of 200 gallons per minute.

"For perspective, the river is flowing at about a million gallons per second right now," said Ken Meyer, deputy environmental safety and health manager for Jacobs Engineering Group, a contractor for the DOE.

Officials expect to discharge about 20 million gallons of treated water into the river in the next four or five years. The DOE's permit from the state requires testing before each release as well as monitoring of samples from the river.

Browner Urges EPA-Business Partnership

Nominee Vows To End Adversarial Relationship

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON

CAROL BROWNER, chosen by President-elect Bill Clinton to head the Environmental Protection Agency, said Monday that she wanted to end the agency's "adversarial relationship" with the business world.

Although her appointment was cheered by environmentalists, Browner assured a Senate hearing that "I have not been dictated to or driven by the alarmists."

"I also hope my tenure will mark a new era in communication between the EPA and America's business community, between environmentalists and business people," she said.

Browner declared that pollution prevention would be her top priority, along with developing new technology to achieve it.

"I think there are many pro-business environmentalists," she added. She said her tenure as director of Florida's Department of Environmental Regulation showed that "we can ease the regulatory burden on businesses without compromising the environment."

In Florida, Browner was considered a strong environmental advocate who worked with the federal government to require sugar cane growers to protect the Everglades with a costly network of manmade marshes. She also was credited with forging a landmark agreement with the Walt Disney Co. in which Disney won a permit to develop 400 acres of wetlands in exchange for spending \$40 million to buy and restore an 8,500-acre ranch to wetlands status.

Browner underwent a friendly hearing before the Senate Public Works and Environment Committee. Members questioned her gently on thorny problems, including wetlands, hazardous chemical spills, Superfund waste cleanup sites, clean water and safe drinking-water laws, and gasoline taxes.

She said she wanted the EPA to make decisions more quickly on such matters as Superfund sites, to recognize the special problems of small businesses and to listen more to special concerns of communities and businesses trying to comply with environmental laws.

The EPA also should promote, encourage and reward pollution prevention and recycling efforts, she said.

"We must restore voluntary compliance with the nation's environmental laws by making them fair and efficient, by forcefully executing them and by increasing public disclosure of environmental practices," she said.

She also pledged to use cost-benefit analyses to ensure that environmental protection programs achieved

Most praised Browner and supported plans to transform the EPA into a Cabinet-level Department of the Environment.



Agence France-Presse

Carol Browner, nominated to lead the EPA, testifying Monday before a Senate panel. She said pollution prevention would be her top priority.

the greatest benefit for the least cost.

Browner said that reviewing the Superfund law, which covers the clean-up of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites, would be one of her first projects.

She gave the Superfund program a passing grade of seven on a scale of one to 10 but said it had not been as successful a program as many had hoped.

Browner echoed Clinton's stance on nuclear energy, saying that no further nuclear power plants should be built until adequate disposal of the resulting wastes had been ensured.

But Browner declined to comment on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the EPA's decision Friday to allow a test burn at a toxic waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio, in direct defiance of the new administration.

Every Senator on the committee praised Browner and welcomed Clinton's designation of her for the top EPA post. Most also said they supported Clinton's plans to transform the

EPA, an independent agency, into a Cabinet-level Department of the Environment.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, a Democrat from New Jersey, the state with the most hazardous waste clean-up sites, said, "The selection of a committed environmentalist with a knack for aggressively crafting creative solutions to environmental problems sends an unmistakable signal that this administration means business on the environment."

Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., called the EPA "one of the most critical balancing responsibilities" in government. He said Browner should ask herself daily not only "What have I done for the environment?" but also "What have I done to the nation's economy?"

and to make Missouri's workers better equipped to meet the competition from Illinois, Kansas, California, Germany, Japan and other places around the globe. Those points are central to his success as governor and, more important, the success of Missouri in the first half of the 21st century.

elsewhere and never return to be productive here.

Mr. Carnahan has rightly chosen to lead the charge to reverse those two debilitating trends in the state's public affairs. May he do well by doing good. Missouri needs such leadership more than anything else now. Its future hinges on changing direction.

St. Louis Post
1/13/93
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Testing The Waters

Treated water from the Weldon Spring uranium-processing complex has at last begun to be released into the Missouri River. Testing of the water by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and officials of St. Louis and St. Charles counties all indicate it is safe. Steven McCracken, manager of the cleanup for the Energy Department, asserts the water is cleaner than normal drinking water. Is it?

Government routinely makes mistakes. The Energy Department, in particular, has a dim record when it comes to guarding the public against toxic waste. Even EPA has sometimes endorsed as safe some cleanup methods in the environment that subsequent scientific findings indicate were inadequate.

Though procedures are available that were not employed — such as building a full-scale pilot plant to test the technology used to treat the water — the cleanup and study of the purity of the water contami-

nated many years ago by the weapons-manufacturing plant appear to have been quite thorough. The Energy Department has not been permitted to retain sole control of the process. The counties affected have examined the water, as has the EPA. All tests indicate the water is pure.

The Missouri River flow is 800,000 gallons a second, and the St. Louis city water division takes in 100 million gallons a day. Releasing 20 million gallons in relatively small amounts simply can't threaten the health of city and county residents unless it was highly toxic. It isn't.

Despite the concerns of some that not all conceivable questions regarding the water-treatment process have been answered, the Energy Department was right to proceed. All questions can never be answered when it comes to science. But in this case, enough of them have been, by a variety of different individuals and agencies, to justify the release.

The U.S. Response To Haitian Refugees

Bill Clinton is right smack between the proverbial rock and a hard place. During the campaign, he quite justly criticized President Bush's heartless policy of returning Haitian refugees to their island home. He noted that this policy gave Haitians no chance to apply for asylum in the United States or anywhere else. President Clinton cannot retreat from candidate Clinton's position on this issue without appearing profoundly hypocritical and unethical.

But neither does President Clinton wish to be overwhelmed in the pivotal first months of his term by a flood of up to possibly 100,000 Haitian refugees. Jan. 20, Inauguration Day, has become in Haiti a kind of D-Day, or departure day, for the unknown number of Haitians who have sold all they own to book passage on one of the rickety vessels that they hope will carry them away from their hellish existence.

How can President Clinton discourage Haitians from embarking on a mass exodus? Ultimately, only by restoring democracy — and Jean-Bertrand Aristide, that country's first democratically elected president — to Haiti. That, of course, won't happen

overnight, but President Clinton must give Haiti more attention than President Bush ever did.

At the very least, he should enlist the involvement of the United Nations. Fortunately, U.N. participation is shaping up. And since the Haitian military hasn't been starved out of power by the embargo, perhaps it's time to consider buying them out — with promises of development aid for one of this hemisphere's poorest nations.

The prospect of a real turnaround in their nation's fortunes may inspire some Haitians to stay home. But, realistically, President Clinton will have to be prepared for an upsurge in refugees. On a practical level, he must ensure that their applications are processed swiftly and humanely. On a moral level, he should consider that the United States has an obligation to shelter these people until Haiti is a less treacherous place to live.

In recognition of the fuzzy line dividing political oppression and economic repression, the United States should extend to Haitians the same treatment it now offers Cubans.

Wipe The Slate Clean

The Illinois Supreme Court has rightly struck down a law that required all motorists to take an alcohol or drug test if they were involved in an accident that resulted in death or personal injury. Refusal to take the test led to suspension of their licenses, and about 400 drivers currently under suspension are getting their licenses back. But the state says it will not wipe clean the records of more than 950 drivers whose suspensions were completed. That decision is wrong. The law in question should never have been passed. If drivers who are involved in an accident give police reason to suspect they are under the

search and seizure. The state Supreme Court came to that conclusion in a 5-2 decision last month.

In reaction, Secretary of State George Ryan said that 400 Illinois drivers who had lost their licenses for refusing the tests should have them restored. But another 950 drivers who had already served their penalty will not be able to clear their driving records. Mike Murphy, a spokesman for the secretary of state, said the penalty was legal when it was imposed and served, and the state has no obligation to change the records for those drivers involved.

Drivers who were caught in that unfair trap fear

goes in St Louis
not needed

JANUARY 5, 1993

FLORISSANT VALLEY REPORTER

PAGE THREE

Hazelwood Appoints Board Member



Bernard Nachtmann and Mayor Pro Tem Jeanette M. Eberlin.

At a recent Hazelwood City Council meeting, the Oath of Office was administered by City Clerk Norma Caldwell to Bernard Nachtmann, 7815 Guhman Court, who was appointed to the Hazelwood Civil Service Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Jeanette M. Eberlin presented Nachtmann with a Certificate of Commission and a memento bearing the emblem of the City and thanked him for his willingness to serve the community in this capacity.

DOE delays release of water from quarry

By Dennis Miller
Staff writer

ST. CHARLES COUNTY — The U.S. Department of Energy is waiting for more test results before releasing treated water from the contaminated Weldon Spring Quarry into the Missouri River.

The Environmental Protection Agency expected to have those results available today (Wednesday, Jan. 6).

If the additional tests show the treated water is safe, then the first batch of 540,000 gallons will

be released into the river, said Steve McCracken, DOE's project manager at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant site.

Besides the EPA, the DOE, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Charles County, St. Louis County and the city of St. Louis have tested samples of the water after it was processed through a treatment plant built near the quarry.

"The results show that both the chemical and radioactive

(See WATER, Page 11)

Water

(Continued from Page 1)

contaminants have been removed to levels well below the standards set by the state or below standards necessary to protect the human health," McCracken said.

"I am 100 percent confident that this water will not harm any downstream users of Missouri River water."

The DOE had planned to begin releasing the water on Monday following a meeting with representatives of the various governmental agencies.

Kay Drey of the Coalition for the Environment objected to releasing the water before the EPA completed its testing for thorium levels.

John Broadway, chief of the EPA laboratory in Montgomery, Ala., said in a telephone hook-up

at the meeting that he does not expect the thorium tests to produce any surprises.

"There is no way that I could imagine thorium being a problem," Broadway said.

David Bedan of the DNR agreed with that assessment.

But McCracken said, "There is no compelling reason why we can't wait another day or two." He said he wanted to give the public "an opportunity to understand and perhaps relieve their fear" about release of the water into the river.

Drey asked McCracken to delay the discharge even further so that the Coalition could have samples of its own drawn and tested.

McCracken responded: "She had an opportunity, like everyone else, to do that in November

and chose not to. All she's trying to do is delay this for a few more months when everybody else who did the analytical work said (the treated water) is safe."

The nine-acre quarry is four miles south of the chemical plant site and near St. Charles County's drinking-water wells. Water-treatment plants for St. Louis and St. Louis County are about 10 miles downstream from the quarry.

From 1942 to 1969, the quarry was a dump site for debris from the production of explosives and processing of uranium and thorium at the chemical plant site.

Water must be removed from the quarry so that the debris can be hauled to a temporary storage area on the chemical plant site. Officials have said the

quarry is leaking and threatening St. Charles County's drinking-water wells, but so far no contamination has been detected in the wells.

McCracken said the DOE had agreed to maintain an average 30 picocuries, or radioactive particles, per liter of treated water and to never exceed 100 picocuries per liter. The tests show levels 30 times better than that, he said.

Stanley Remington, a consultant hired by St. Charles County, agreed that the tests show the treated water is safe for discharge into the river. Remington said St. Charles County's test results are remarkably similar to the other agencies' results, "especially considering the very low detectable limits required by the DNR."

Journal News

St. Charles County Journal
Wednesday 1/7/93

St. Charles Post Dispatch 1/20/93

● PUBLIC NOTICE ●

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES A 30-DAY EXTENSION TO THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE WELDON SPRING SITE REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT CLEANUP.

The Weldon Spring Chemical Plant, located on Highway 94 South, approximately two miles south of Highway 40/61, and the Weldon Spring Quarry, on Highway 94, six miles south of Highway 40/61, are designated for cleanup as part of the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project. The treatment and final disposal alternatives for the waste from the chemical plant and the quarry are discussed in documents which comprise the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study-Environmental Impact Statement (RI/FS-EIS) for the Weldon Spring Site. These documents are:

- Remedial Investigation for the Chemical Plant Area of the Weldon Spring site, Volumes I-II — provides site characterization data
- Baseline Assessment (BA) for the Chemical Plant Area of the Weldon Spring Site — describes the risks associated with the site as it currently exists and under hypothetical future conditions
- Feasibility Study for Remedial Action at the Chemical Plant Area of the Weldon Spring Site. Volumes I-II evaluates cleanup alternatives, risks and environmental impacts of taking or not taking remedial action
- Proposed Plan for Remedial Action at the Chemical Plant Area of the Weldon Spring Site — summarizes key information from the RI, BA and FS and identifies the preferred alternative which includes treatment using chemical solidification/stabilization followed by on-site disposal

These documents, which have been prepared in accordance with the comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), will form the basis for a Record of Decision, (ROD) that will define the selected alternative for managing the site's waste. The documents were made available November 20, 1992 for public review and comment.

The initial 60-day comment period has been extended for an additional 30 days. Comments postmarked or facsimiled by February 19, 1993 will become a part of the Administrative Record and will be considered in the Responsiveness summary for the RI/FS-EIS. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Written comments should be sent to:

Mr. Stephen H. McCracken, Project Manager
Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project
U.S. Department of Energy
7295 Highway 94 south
St. Charles, Missouri 63304
Fax: 314 447-0739

An Informational Bulletin outlining plans described in the documents and copies of the documents is available for review at the Spencer Creek Library, the Kathryn Linneman Library, the Kisker Road Library, the Francis Howell High School Library and the Public Reading Room at the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project.

Callers are wary of treated Weldon Spring quarry water

PARTY LINE

1-800-
477-NEWS



Most callers to the Party Line this week opposed the release of water treated at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant into the Missouri River. Some comments:

"I love that idea. I think it's a great idea. I think we should do that."

Andrea, Lake Saint Louis
"It scares me to death, but I guess they have to do something with it. Any which way you slice it, it's a hazard. They went about it all wrong; they should have given it a name and told us it would be good for us; prevent blindness or hearing loss or something. After all, the aluminum fertilizer companies have been paid dearly to have their waste products drift into our drinking water for nearly half a century, and the people bought that deceit."

Mary, St. Charles
"I think this is horrible. I'm not drinking this water. Why do we have to pay a water bill when we can't even drink the water? What are they trying to do, kill us all?"

Kathy, St. Peters
"I'm totally against it. I'm no scientist, but they can't convince me that water that has been radioactive in the past is totally safe to put in the Missouri River for us and our children to be drinking."

Diann, St. Peters
"I think there should be more testing done. Specifically, testing done when the water is put in the river and it mixes up with what's already in the river, what is it going to produce? They say it's safer than the levels in the river, but if you take a certain level that's present and add to it, if you add two components

you get twice as much. I believe people need to study this and there's no excuse to be putting it that close to inlets of water intakes for our cities. It could be taken farther downstream and dumped to where it could be filtered out better. If this turns out to be another failed government experiment, we've got a catastrophe on our hands because we've got a poisoned water system."

Alan, St. Peters
"It's just like everything else. Government of the people, for the people, for the government."

No name given, St. Peters
"I think it's ludicrous to dump that Weldon Spring wastewater into our intake valves in the Missouri River. The unexplained cancer rate in the Weldon Spring area is already out of proportion according to the national average. To dump these pollutants into our drinking water is beyond anybody's comprehension. It ought to be stopped and there ought to be a governmental investigation. EPA ought to have a hearing on this."

No name given
"I think it is not right unless they can totally prove that there's nothing wrong with the water they're putting in because right down the river is our water plant. I live in St. Peters, and I don't think it's right unless they can totally confirm that there is nothing wrong with the water."

No name given

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Agency Director Approved

'Positive Attitude' Pledged For DNR

By Virginia Young

JEFFERSON CITY — After he promised to bring "a positive attitude" to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, David Shorr won Senate approval Thursday to lead the regulatory agency.

Shorr said all employees who deal with the public would take a course in public relations. The department also will hire more staff members whose job will be solely to "give a helping hand" to businesses trying to comply with environmental laws.

"Like any enforcement agency, we've got some people who need an attitude adjustment," Shorr said. He said he wanted to eliminate complaints that people had been "treated like dirt."

Shorr made the comments after members of the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee demanded such a change. Senate President Pro Tem James Mathewson, D-Sedalia, led the charge.

"The attitude of people at DNR has reached a new low," Mathewson told Shorr. "The perception is that people at DNR are there to get you, rather than to resolve the problem. You're people more than the IRS."

Gov. Mel Carnahan nominated Shorr, who has been director of the Division of Environmental Quality, to head the department. Shorr replaces Ben Kucera, who took over last summer when Director Tracy Mehan left for a job in Washington.

Shorr has said that he hopes Kucera will remain in the department. If so, Sen. Mike Lybyer, D-Higgins, Kucera should be the first to take the course in interpersonal relations.

Lybyer said that when he disagreed with Kucera last year, Kucera was "very crude, very profane. I've never been talked to by a director like that before." Kucera was ill Thursday and



David Shorr
Appointment confirmed

could not be reached for comment.

The Senate has long had antagonistic relations with agency directors. Last year, senators censured Mehan, complaining that he was dictatorial.

One bone of contention has been whether the Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules should have the power to review and overturn environmental regulations. A lawsuit contesting the committee's power is pending.

Shorr told the committee that he questioned whether the committee was constitutional. But he softened his comments by pledging to open communications with legislators so that regulations mirror legislative intent.

Sen. Fred Dyer, R-St. Charles, defended the role legislators play. Regulators "look at us as being people who protect the crooks. We represent constituencies that run into problems" with unreasonable rules or actions by the department, Dyer said.

The committee voted unanimously to confirm Shorr's appointment. The full Senate later followed suit.

Curt Long, a lobbyist for Associated Industries of Missouri, said he supported Shorr. "We really believe he'll be a welcome change."

The Senate also confirmed Dora Schriro as director of the Missouri Department of Corrections and Richard Hanson as commissioner of the Office of Administration. Schriro has been superintendent of the City Workhouse in St. Louis. Hanson has been assistant state treasurer.

Carnahan Picks Chief Of Natural Resources

State's Chief Environmental Regulator Tapped

By Virginia Young

Post-Dispatch Jefferson City Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov.-elect Mel Carnahan promoted the state's chief environmental regulator Wednesday to be director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

David Shorr, 37, will head the department. He is director of the department's Division of Environmental Quality.

Both Carnahan and Shorr stressed that they wanted to change the department so that it co-operated more with the businesses it regulates.

Instead of being punitive, Carnahan said, the department will try to provide "technical assistance" so that companies can comply with environmental standards.

Shorr has "the uncommon ability to work with the business people he regulates, and yet be able to preserve the environment and enforce the rules," Carnahan said.

As a Cabinet official, Shorr will be paid \$72,327. He will replace Ron Kucera, a longtime department employee who became director last summer. Shorr said he hoped to keep Kucera on the staff. "I would be lost without his advice," Shorr said.

Sen. Wayne Goode, D-Normandy and chairman of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, said he had worked with Shorr on several major pieces of legislation.

Goode predicted a smooth working relationship between Shorr and the Legislature. He noted that this wasn't the case with Kucera's predecessor, Tracy Mehan.

"Tracy Mehan was kind of flamboyant, and that led to confrontational situations," Goode said. "David appears to be more of a hands-on, nuts-and-bolts person. He's been well-received."

Shorr, who lives in Columbia, began working at the Department of Natural Resources in 1990. His previous jobs included assistant general counsel to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and environmental planner for an engineering and consulting firm in Ohio.

He has a law degree and a master's degree in urban studies and planning, both from Cleveland State University. His bachelor's degree is in conservation and environmental sciences from Kent State University.



David Shorr
DNR nominee

Hazelwood City Council Filing Opens

Persons interested in filing as candidates for election to the Hazelwood City Council may obtain nominating petitions from Mrs. Norma Caldwell, City Clerk, at the Hazelwood City Hall, 415 Elm Grove Lane. Council positions to be filed for full three year terms at the election on Tuesday, April 6, 1993, are for Wards 2, 4, and 6.

Candidates must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter. They must also have lived in the City or in area annexed to the City for at least two years immediately prior to the election, and must reside in the Ward for which the office is sought.

Filing for the election opens on Tuesday, January 5, 1993, at 8 a.m., and closes on Tuesday, February 2, 1992, at 4:30 p.m.

Nominating petitions for Ward Council members shall be signed by not less than 25 and no more 50 registered voters eligible to vote for the candidates. These petitions must then be filed with the City Clerk by February 4.

Council members whose terms will expire in 1993 are Ward 2 Councilwoman Carol A. Stroker, 527 Holiday Avenue; Ward 4 Councilman Joseph H. Eulentrop, #3 Mary Rose Court; and Ward 6 Councilwoman Jeanette M. Eberlin, 7314 Boellner Drive.

St. Louis Post Dispatch
Wed. 12/16/92

Reid Beats Steinmetz For Senate

GOP Candidate Posts Win In Special Race

By Phil Sutin

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

State Rep. Michael J. Reid, R-Hazelwood, continued his career of political upsets Tuesday when he narrowly defeated a Democrat in a state Senate district that traditionally has been Democratic.

Reid defeated Rep. Kaye H. Steinmetz, D-Florissant, by 151 votes, according to final but unofficial results. The totals showed Reid with 4,903 votes, and Steinmetz, 4,752.

Reid will serve the remaining two years of the unexpired term of state Sen. Edwin Dirck, D-St. Ann, who resigned to take a state job. Reid and Steinmetz have adjoining legislative districts.

The district includes all of Hazelwood, St. Ann and Edmundson and parts of Berkeley, Breckenridge Hills, Bridgeton, Calverton Park, Florissant, Overland and St. John.

On Nov. 3, Reid was elected to a second term in the House. In 1990, he ousted veteran Rep. James "Jay" Russell, D-Florissant, by 2,300 votes. Russell had been in the House 28 years.



Michael J. Reid
Defeats Democrat

Steinmetz also won re-election to her House seat Nov. 3. She will remain in the House, where she has served since 1977.

Reid and Matthew B. Weyerlich, his campaign manager, said a last-minute spurt of telephone calls and door-to-door visits by volunteers played a key role in the victory.

Heavy rain Tuesday and confusion about the election because of redistricting kept down voter turnout and helped Reid, Weyerlich said.

"We didn't get the huge voter turnout that would have crushed us," Weyerlich said.

He said the campaign sent out 25,000 letters to Republicans in the

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Wayne Crosslin/Post-Dispatch

State Rep. Kaye H. Steinmetz addressing supporters Tuesday night after losing. Her husband, Bob, is in the background.

Senate

From page one

district and a special mailing to the elderly discussing Reid's proposals for health care and services for the elderly.

Reid also noted support from the "Christian community that knew I was strong for family values and liked my

ideas on jobs and the economy." He said he would carry out his commitment to family values by promoting an increase in the state income tax exemption for dependents.

Steinmetz said that Reid's placing of leaflets on cars in church parking lots last Sunday "may have made a difference. But that's not my campaign style." She said, "I respect the privacy of those who go to worship."

Steinmetz said she would not seek a recount. The margin between the candidates was greater than the 1 percent that triggers an automatic recount.

She said she would turn to getting ready for the Christmas holidays. And she said "I still have a job to do."

She said she plans to continue her efforts on behalf of children by working on legislation on day care and a family court system.

The election was in the 24th state Senate district before it was changed by reapportionment. The state Supreme Court had canceled an election in September in the redrawn district after Democrats complained that using the new district to replace a senator selected in a different area was unfair. The new district is in central St. Louis County.

Suburban
Trends
Newspaper

Sunlight more dangerous than soil, study says

By DONNA ROLANDO

Staff Writer

WAYNE — Recent testing shows that sunlight is more dangerous than the potential human exposure from the Wayne Interim Storage Site (WISS) for radioactive soil.

The site, managed by the federal Department of Energy (DOE), is a temporary storage area for thorium left over from the W.R. Grace plant on Black Oak Ridge Road.

Tests are conducted yearly to ensure that Wayne-area residents, air and water supplies are in no way endangered by the monitored storage of tainted soil at WISS.

Even with these assurances, Wayne officials are eager to see the soil removed from the township. And Pequannock municipal leaders, with their own tainted soil in some Pompton Plains yards, share this concern.

DOE efforts to group the soil from both townships at WISS to hasten ultimate disposal have not been successful, with Wayne leaders resisting such a move.

While the wait goes on for a permanent solution, Wayne residents are being assured that no threat to their health exists.

The federal Department of Energy (DOE), in unveiling the results of 1991 testing, concludes that potential human exposures are well below protection guidelines established by the National Council on Radiation Protection and DOE.

The report goes on to say that

"predicted potential human exposures are less than 1 percent of the dose that all of us receive from naturally occurring sources present in our environment, such as sunlight, natural soils and bedrock."

DOE makes this conclusion on the basis of sampling and analysis of ground water, surface water, air, and sediment samples for various radiological and chemical parameters. Also considered are meteorological data, local land usage and site monitoring data.

A complete report on 1991 results consists of 150 pages. While for the past six years DOE has mailed this report to many Wayne residents, this year only summary information will be sent.

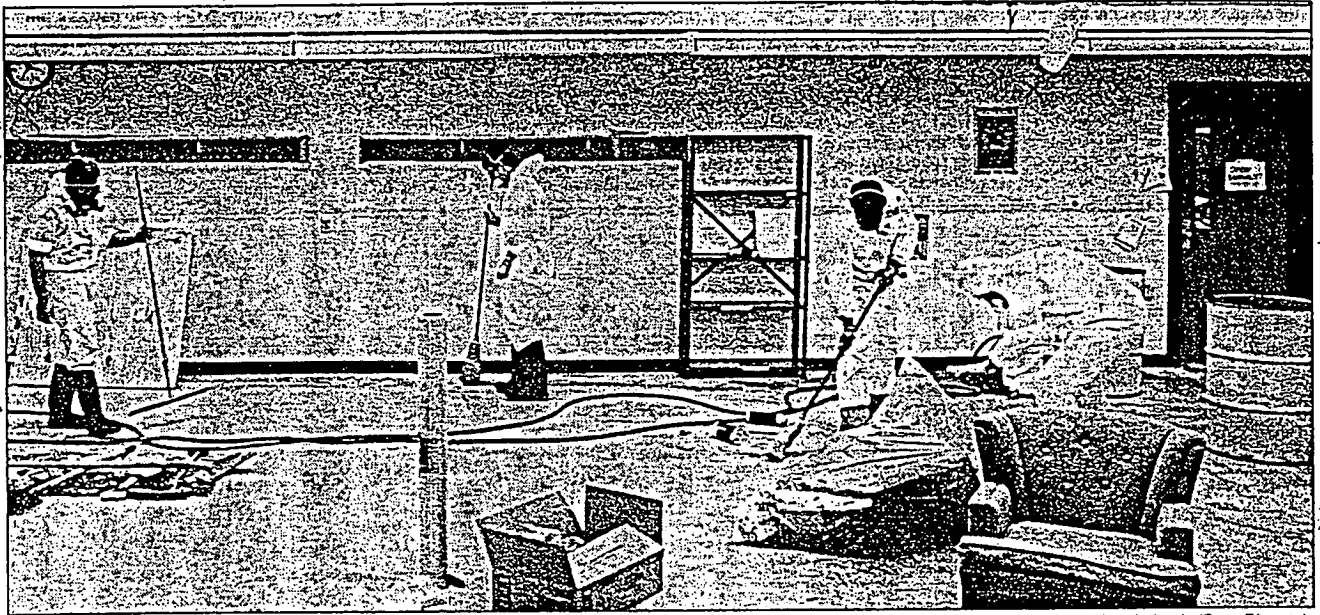
Susan M. Cange, DOE site manager, explains that the change is intended as a "conservation effort."

Anyone interested in receiving more detailed information on the WISS environmental monitoring program (including copies of this report) can write to the DOE Public Information Center, 43 West Pleasant Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607 or call (201) 843-7466. DOE's toll-free information number is (800) 253-9759. The complete title of the report is Wayne Interim Storage Site Annual Environmental Report for Calendar Year 1991.

The public is still waiting for the results of a separate study conducted to evaluate the extent of contamination and cleanup alternatives.

Mike Redmon, deputy project manager for Bechtel, a contractor to DOE, could not give a date for final results. But he said the study will address concerns that the tainted soil may have spread to other Wayne properties.

The study, completed in February or March, will be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency before its release, Redmon added.



Jerry Naunheim Jr./Post-Dispatch

Environmental technicians working Monday at Wirtz School, 1832 Schuetz Road, where a test revealed asbestos fibers near a repair project. The school, which serves 180 disabled students, is closed for the week.

Asbestos Found; School Shut For Week

By Virginia Hick
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Special School District of St. Louis County has closed one of its schools all this week because a test found a few asbestos fibers near a repair project.

Engineers were testing on Monday to see if the asbestos got into the school's ventilation system.

Ronald Rebore, Special District superintendent, said the situation caused him to question whether a consultant's audit four years ago really found all of the asbestos in the district's buildings.

The problem is in Wirtz School, 1832 Schuetz Road in West County, which serves 180 disabled pupils. School officials learned late Friday of the

possible release of a low level of asbestos.

An air quality test Thursday measured 15 asbestos fibers or bundles per square millimeter in one part of the building, Rebore said. That is well below the 70 per square millimeter that is considered dangerous, he said.

No classes have been held in that part of the building since repairs began, and tests in two other areas turned up negative for asbestos, Rebore said.

But Rebore was waiting for the results of more extensive tests Monday before saying with assurance that no children had been exposed to asbestos.

"We decided to play it safe and call off school," Rebore said. School officials hope to reopen the

school by Monday.

School officials estimated that the tests and any necessary cleanup could cost \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The problem began when workers broke up some tile and concrete with a jackhammer to get at a ventilation duct in the floor. The 1988 audit of all of the district's 11 buildings incorrectly showed that the tile had no asbestos.

"Now we have to question the audit in all our buildings," Rebore said.

Special School District provides services for disabled students in 23 school districts in St. Louis County, including 1,500 who attend schools operated by Special District.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS/TUESDAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1992

3A

Early-Bird Candidates Get Top Spots In Ballot Filings

By Tim O'Neil

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Early-bird candidates claimed top spots on the ballot Monday as filing opened for St. Louis mayor, comptroller and half the aldermanic seats.

The more difficult task of winning the hearts of voters will be decided in party primaries on March 2. The general election will follow one month later, but the Democratic primary traditionally is the big show in the city.

Filing for the primaries opened Monday and will continue until Dec. 31. On Monday, 22 candidates signed on.

In Missouri, candidates' names are listed on the ballot in the order in which they file. The St. Louis Election Board allows candidates to claim spots in line by warming chairs daily in a designated room on its fourth floor.

State Rep. Anthony D. Ribaud, D-St. Louis, secured first place on the mayoral ballot when he arrived at 7:30 a.m. to

take over the spot held faithfully for 8½ months by Rochelle Froese, a campaign worker.

"It shows we are well-organized," Ribaud said of Froese's long wait. "In a multicandidate race, it's a lot easier to sell yourself with the top spot."

Former alderman Steven C. Roberts was the second Democrat to file for mayor. He claimed a chair in the waiting room last Friday afternoon.

Aldermanic President Thomas A. Villa and Circuit Clerk Freeman Bosley Jr. also have said they will file for mayor.

Comptroller Virvna Jones assured himself first place in the comptroller's race by having taken first place in the waiting room on Sept. 9. Alderman James F. Shrewsbury, D-14th Ward, his only announced challenger, had maintained the second spot since Sept. 19, hoping fortitously that Jones' slip-in would slip and miss a day.

"If you believe what the pundits say, the top spot is worth

one to five [percentage] points," Jones said. "I think it's more useful as a psychological advantage."

Shrewsbury said he happily settled for second berth because, "Given that we're going to have a busy political season, I didn't want to be seventh in a field of 10."

Shrewsbury also announced he had raised \$100,000 in campaign contributions. Jones said he would wait until Jan. 13, when candidates must file their first disclosure reports.

"I don't care what he has," Jones said. "Money isn't everything."

Voters in 14 of the city's 28 wards will elect their aldermen next April.

As of Monday, five incumbents had filed without opposition. They were Aldermen JoAnne Wayne, Dist. 1st Ward; Phyllis Young, D-7th; Marie J. Aboussie, D-9th; Alfred Wessels Jr., D-13th; and Geraldine Osborn, D-15th.

Aldermen who didn't file Monday but who already have

challengers were Freeman Bosley Sr., D-3rd Ward, and Velma Bailey, D-19th. The Rev. Albert E. Anderson Jr. filed against Bosley, and Calvin Harris, who barely lost two previous attempts to become 18th Ward alderman, filed against Bailey.

Here are the contests that already have formed:

11th Ward: Edward W. Koster, who ran for alderman in 1981, filed first, followed five hours later by Alderman Donald M. Crum.

17th Ward: Alderman Joseph G. Brady filed first. James E. Carlson, who unsuccessfully challenged the Brady family political organization in the Greenview race last August, filed next.

21st Ward: Beverly Jones filed first, followed by Alderman Willie Williams Sr. and Bryant T. Butler, a son of 21st Ward Commissioner Jackie Butler.

23rd Ward: Alderman Francis G. Slav filed first, followed by Joseph A. Vaccaro Jr., owner of a service station and car wash.

27th Ward: Gregory A. Carter filed first, followed by former alderman Jennifer Matthews. Carter is a son of slain Rep. Paul Carter. Matthews was evicted from office in a racial re-election in 1988.

Alderman Claude Taylor is not seeking re-election.

Tests Begin On Treated Water At Weldon Spring Site

Treated Water: Samples of treated water drawn Thursday from a treatment plant at the Weldon Spring chemical plant complex in St. Charles County showed uranium levels far below that which the state of Missouri allows.

U.S. Energy Department officials are treating radioactive waste water in a preliminary test at the plant. Eventually, 15 million to 20 million gallons of the treated water will be flushed into the Missouri river over the next five to six years.

Officials of the U.S. Department of Energy have begun treating radioac-

tive waste water in a preliminary test of a treatment plant at the Weldon Spring chemical plant complex in St. Charles County.

On Thursday, the treated water was being channeled back into the contaminated quarry where it originated. The quarry was used as a dump for government-managed plants that produced explosives in the 1940s and processed uranium in the 1950s.

Butch Freeman, a process and start-up engineer at the plant, said early samples showed the radioactivity in the treated water to be far below acceptable levels.

For instance, the state of Missouri

will allow 100 picocuries of radioactive particles per liter of treated water to be released into the river.

The first sample of treated water drawn at 6:35 a.m. Thursday had 6 picocuries of uranium per liter; at 7:35 a.m., the reading was 7 picocuries; at 8:30 a.m., the reading was 1.5 picocuries and the sample pulled at 9:30 a.m. contained 1.3 picocuries per liter, Freeman said.

"We're extremely happy about that," Freeman said.

McCracken said that levels of other target contaminants in the treated water will not be known until sometime today. Managers of the cleanup site

expect the draining of the quarry to take from five to six years. Workers will then begin disposing of the contaminated equipment and building materials mined at the quarry bottom.

Steve McCracken, cleanup manager, said engineers were fine-tuning the processing equipment in the water treatment plant. When all systems are named, the treated water will be collected in one of two containment ponds.

McCracken expects that inspectors from St. Charles County, St. Louis County, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Missouri will be able to draw samples of the pro-

cessed water by next week.

If the agencies agree that processing has reduced the levels of uranium, arsenic, manganese and nitroaromatics in the water below the maximum levels established by the state, plant operators will begin dumping the water into the river, McCracken said. That could begin as soon as early December.

Kay Drey, an environmental activist and spokeswoman for the Coalition for the Environment, said she was concerned about the plan to dump treated water into the river.

"This is all of real significance for those of us who live downstream,"

Drey said. "If they put contaminated water in the river, you don't take it out again."

She noted that the Missouri River was the primary source of drinking water in St. Louis County. The city's primary intake for water is on the Mississippi River near and below the river's confluence with the Missouri, she said.

The St. Louis County Council commissioned Anderson and Associates, an engineering consulting firm based in Rolla, Mo., to study the waste water decontamination plant.



AP
Charles Springer (left), and Merle Brewer of St. Joseph, Mo., are among the residents concerned about a high cancer death rate in the Kirschner-Purtell neighborhood.

By Maria Sudekum Fisher
Of The Associated Press

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — "Nobody grows old in this neighborhood," says one resident. "Everybody dies of cancer before his time."

Merle Brewer has been in the Kirschner-Purtell neighborhood 20 years. And he's giving his view of the five-block area, with about 40 small homes, where a Missouri Department of Health study recently found a cancer death rate twice that of the rest of the state.

Residents say the cause is the heavy industry that surrounds the homes, that the people living there are being robbed of the "right to a healthy life."

"I can take you to each house around here and show you someone who's died of cancer," says another resident, Charles Springer. "This is a question of jobs being more important than people, and officials telling us we don't have a right to a healthy life."

But officials for St. Joseph and the state Department of Natural Resources dispute those claims. They say the factories that surround the neighborhood comply with federal and state regulations on hazardous waste

and pollution.

The companies say they cannot be blamed for elevated cancer rates.

City officials also point to claims that the high incidence of cancer in the area could also be attributed to lifestyle and genetics.

Kirschner-Purtell's homes are an quiet, narrow streets, situated on a flood plain about one mile from the Missouri River. Some of the homes appear to have been built within the last 20 years. Others were constructed well before 1972, when the city zoned the land around the homes for heavy manufacturing.

Most of the 300 residents are middle-aged or elderly. Only a handful worked for the 14 nearby plants, which include Farmland Industries, a

chemical manufacturer; St. Joseph Light & Power Co.; Stone Container Corp.; Albaugh Chemical Co.; and Schurpack, which makes plastic packaging.

The state Health Department's study was coordinated by Kathleen Anger for the agency's bureau of smoking, tobacco and cancer. Anger said the study found 18 confirmed cancer deaths from 1980 to 1990. Given the size and age of the population, 8.8 such deaths would have been expected, Anger said.

The study also found more than twice as many deaths from leukemia and breast cancer as expected, more than three times the number of expected cases of lung cancer among men and more than three times the

expected cases of colorectal cancer in women.

The comparison area was the state of Missouri for death data, and a combination of several areas in the United States for the new cases.

Some of the residents say they want the government to buy their homes.

One such plan, which would have given residents \$35,000 an acre, was turned down by the Chamber of Commerce and the city last year, Halford.

City Manager R. Pat Lilly said St. Joseph hopes to find a way to determine what is causing the elevated rates, but without a cause the city doesn't plan to buy the homes. St. Joseph has about 75,000 people and is about 50 miles north of Kansas City.

Cancer Rate High In Area Of St. Joseph

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS/THURSDAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1992

Out-Of-Court Settlement Reached In Dioxin Suit

By William Allen
and Tim Bryant
Of the Post-Dispatch staff

Several hundred former residents of dioxin-tainted areas in eastern Missouri have settled a lawsuit with companies that handled the toxic substance, lawyers for the residents said Wednesday.

Those involved in the case, including former residents of Times Beach, declined to give the amount of the out-of-court settlement. All parties to the settlement signed a confidentiality agreement, they said.

The residents are "just happy that

it's over," said Marilyn Leistner, former mayor of Times Beach and one of the plaintiffs.

"I've always said that there isn't any amount of money to compensate for what they've been through," Leistner said. "We will never put it behind us. But this makes it a little bit easier."

Dioxin is an industrial waste product that has been linked in cancer in animals and other illnesses.

The defendants in the suit were Syntex USA, Syntex Agribusiness Inc., Northeastern Pharmaceutical and Chemical Co., and Independent Petro-

chemical Co.

The 381 former residents of Times Beach and other areas charged that the companies had been negligent in handling dioxin, resulting in "health problems and other personal tragedies," said Gerson Smoger, a lawyer in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Smoger and St. Louis lawyer Mark Bronson represented the residents.

Jan Pons, a spokeswoman for Syntex in Palo Alto, Calif., declined to comment on the case.

"All I can tell you is that the terms were confidential," she said.

The settlement involved 17 separate lawsuits against the companies since 1987, Smoger and Bronson said.

More than 2,000 residents of Times Beach were evacuated in 1983 after dioxin was discovered on town roads.

Syntex inherited the dioxin problem in the late 1960s when it bought Hoffman Taff Inc., manufacturers of the herbicide Agent Orange. Hoffman Taff had rented a building to another company, Northeastern Pharmaceutical and Chemical Co.

Northeastern produced dioxin as an unwanted byproduct of the manufac-

ture of hexachlorophene, an ingredient in toiletries.

The dioxin became mixed with waste oil that later was sprayed on dirt roads in Times Beach and 27 other sites in eastern Missouri to control dust. Independent Petrochemical was accused of disposing of dioxin-laced waste oil.

The case was scheduled to go trial in July in St. Louis Circuit Court. But Judge Robert H. Dierker Jr. urged the parties to reach an out-of-court settlement, Bronson said.

Bronson said that among the cases

included in the settlement was one involving the cancer death of a truck driver, Alvin J. Overmann of north St. Louis County.

The case had been on appeal since St. Louis Circuit Court jurors in July 1991 awarded Overmann's family \$1.5 million in damages.

Overmann died in 1984 of soft-tissue sarcoma, a cancer alleged to have resulted, at least in part, from his exposure to dioxin at the north St. Louis truck terminal where he worked.



Jerry Naunheim Jr./Post-Dispatch

Chemical Spill

Firefighters waiting Wednesday night for word on a chemical spill at the Mallinckrodt Inc. plant at 3600 North Second Street. Four people were evacuated; none was injured. From left: Michael Gerran, Mike Merchant, Ron Schroeder and Kevin Sheer.

The spill occurred at night and the St. Louis Downtown Site was in no way affected.

Key Panel Rejects Dump Site

Nuclear Storage Choice Laid To Politics Alone

By Charles Bosworth Jr.
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

MARTINSVILLE, ILL. — A state agency that recommended a farm field in Martinsville for a dump for low-level nuclear waste was so determined to put the dump there that it conducted a safety review that was "fraught with errors, sloppiness and carelessness," the chairman of a special state commission said Friday.

The three-member commission voted unanimously Friday night to overrule the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety and reject Martinsville as a site for the dump. More than \$80 million had been spent on the selection process that recommended the site.

Martinsville is in eastern Illinois, about 140 miles from St. Louis.

The commission's vote followed a blistering critique by the commission's chairman of the actions of the Nuclear Safety Department. The chairman, former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Seymour Simon, said in a two-hour opening address Friday morning that:

■ The state had settled on Martinsville as the dump site and then tried to rule the site safe. Simon said Martinsville was the only community in Illi-

See DUMP, Page 4

St. Louis Post Dispatch
Saturday, 10-10-92

Dump

From page one

nois where local officials had agreed to accept the dump.

"Politics presented a site that science was asked to justify," Simon said. "Politics was the engine that drove the site selection."

■ Scientists and companies working on the safety study had been pressured to submit favorable findings and "toe the company line," Simon said. Scientists and companies apparently had succumbed to the pressure.

"Portions of the scientific work, I submit, should fail to earn the confidence of this commission," he said.

Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar said Friday night that the state has abandoned efforts to put the dump in Martinsville.

"We will now begin considering what the next step should be in our efforts to provide a safe and secure disposal site for low-level radioactive waste generated in Illinois," Edgar said in a statement. "I will assure the people of our state that we will not repeat the ineffective, outrageously expensive siting process that was set in motion before I became governor."

Priscilla Wieck of Martinsville, who was among the leaders of those opposing the plan, said she was surprised by the decision and had gone to the commission's meeting Friday prepared to hear that the site had been approved.

"I really have had my faith restored

in government," she said. "I guess the system does work sometimes ... It's taken five years of my life, and I kind of resent that."

She said she had been conditioned to expect the worst because of the way the process had been handled by the Nuclear Safety Department.

Mayor Truman Dean of Martinsville called the commission's decision a loss for his community of about 1,300 people. The City Council had approved the site in return for more than \$1 million a year in income and more than 100 jobs.

Thomas Ortiger, director of the Department of Nuclear Safety, said he was surprised by the decision; he, too, had expected approval — with conditions to address safety concerns.

Ortiger said the process for choosing a site would be reviewed in light of the commission's criticism about the way it was handled.

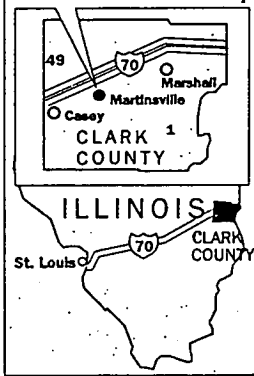
The three commissioners took almost 11 hours Friday to review the evidence they heard in 71 days of hearings that produced 20,000 pages of transcripts.

In the end, they said, the site failed to provide a safe storage site for radioactive waste because it was over underground water supplies, because it was almost surrounded by water and because it was too small.

Commissioners also expressed fear that the design of the dump and its use of concrete bunkers would not contain the waste safely.

Commissioner Carolyn Raffensperger, former director of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Sierra Club, said

Proposed Site Of Nuclear Waste Dump



Post-Dispatch Map

"I will assure the people ... we will not repeat the ineffective, outrageously expensive siting process."

JIM EDGAR,
governor

Department was "oversimplified and misleading."

He said he was unconvinced by experts' assurances that the concrete storage structure proposed would withstand leaking and earthquake damage for the 500 years required by federal law. He said the site had water on three sides and was not far above the underground water table.

The battle over the site has gone on for almost five years and has included the resignation of the previous director of the Nuclear Safety Department. A disclosure that damaging information about the link between the site and the underground water supply was omitted from a department report was among the reasons criticized by a state Senate study. That study had harshly criticized the department's conduct.

Ortiger, the state official, said that the process had cost more than \$80 million; some of the money came from Commonwealth Edison Co. and Illinois Power Co., which operate a total of 13 nuclear reactors in Illinois.

contradictory testimony presented by scientists about the degree to which underground layers were cracked left her convinced that the layers were "fractured" enough to allow radioactive contamination to leak into underground water supplies.

Commissioner William Hall, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Illinois, also complained that some of the evidence provided to the commission by the Nuclear Safety

Congress Passes Major Energy Bill

2nd Bill Targets Water In West

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON — The 100th Congress finished its work Thursday, passing measures on water usage in the West and energy.

Later, the Senate sent the White House a stack of other bills on voice votes — including measures to make armed auto hijackings a federal crime, to raise the ceiling on Federal Housing Administration mortgages and to aid Desert Storm veterans experiencing environmentally related illnesses.

Then, shortly before 9 p.m. St. Louis time, the Senate adjourned for the year. The House is scheduled to meet in "pro forma" session today, but leaders in both parties have said it will adjourn, too, with no more action on legislation this year.

Supporters called the energy bill the most important energy package to be approved since the 1970s. It is the first since then to address the need to improve energy efficiency and gradually shift from oil and coal to renewable and other energy sources.

Bush was expected to sign the bill. The water bill will affect 17 Western states. It would limit sales of federally subsidized water to Western farmers, while allowing extra supplies for wildlife and drought-parched California cities. The vote in the Senate was 83-8. Bush's stance on the measure isn't known.

Energy Secretary James Watkins said in a statement that the energy bill could reduce oil imports by 4.7 million barrels per day by 2010.

"This is the most comprehensive energy bill that has ever been passed," said Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., who began crafting the package nearly two years ago.

The bill, which covers nearly 1,300 pages, was the result of months of negotiations to try to balance the concerns of dozens of interest groups, from environmentalists to power companies and independent oil and gas producers.

At the heart of the package are several measures to foster energy conservation and make it easier for alternative energy sources to compete with traditional fuels.

The measures:

- Require new efficiency standards for lights, electric motors and commercial heating and cooling systems and efforts to encourage utilities to provide energy conservation rebates.
- Provide tax incentives for developers of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.
- Let private companies own the government's uranium enrichment program.

The Energy Bill

Key energy bill provisions:



Streamlines licensing of commercial nuclear power plants, allowing "one-stop" permit for construction and operation.



Establishes new energy efficiency standards for lights, electric motors, shower heads and other products.



Provides tax breaks for the development of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.



Requires federal and private fleets to buy more vehicles that run on fuels such as natural gas or on electricity; provides tax breaks for purchase of alternative fuel vehicles.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Knight-Ridder Tribune graphic

■ Require utilities with nuclear power plants to help pay for environmental cleanup.

■ Force government and private auto fleets to buy vehicles that run on fuels other than gasoline, or on electricity and give them tax breaks for buying such vehicles.

The legislation gives the nuclear power industry a long-sought streamlining of reactor licensing, which utilities have argued is the only way any



Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., (left) and Sen. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., discussing the energy bill, which was passed Thursday by Congress. The bill promotes conservation.

nuclear power plants will be built. In the past, companies first got a federal license to build a reactor, then a license to operate it. Now they will need approval just once.

The bill also eases the way for the eventual approval of a permanent storage site in Nevada for highly radioactive used reactor fuel.

The water reclamation bill may face problems. Several of Bush's advisers, including Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, have urged him to veto it.

Bush, while courting California farmers, had criticized the change in the state's water policy, but a veto might raise strong criticism in several other Western states where important water projects are held in the balance.

The bill authorizes spending for water projects throughout the West, including an additional \$922 million for completion of the huge Central Utah Project, critical to meeting water needs in that state. It also imposes water flow controls through the Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona to protect the nearby Grand Canyon from erosion.

But the thorniest issue involved billions of gallons of water distributed

through California's massive Central Valley Project, a series of dams and canals that provides one-fifth of the developed water in the state and is vital for irrigating thousands of farms.

The legislation requires the government to shift more water to municipalities, to end the practice of automatically renewing long-term water contracts and to impose new pricing policies that encourage water conservation.

The bill also requires that 800,000 acre-feet of water go to help wildlife. An acre-foot is the amount of water that will cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot. Critics have charged that too much cheap, subsidized federal water has been provided in large corporate farmers, while municipalities suffer through water shortages and little water is provided for fish and wildlife protection.

On another matter, Congress has sent Bush a bill designed to ban the sale of scanner radios that can pick up cellular telephone conversations. It has been illegal to listen in on cellular phone calls since 1986, but sale of scanners used for that purpose continued.

St. Louis Post Dispatch Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1992

Pollution Bias

It is shocking, though not surprising, that the Environmental Protection Agency moves far more slowly and assesses significantly lower fines on polluters in non-white communities as opposed to majority white communities, as reported in a Sept. 14 article.

The *National Law Journal* found that penalties for hazardous waste violators are an incredible 500 percent higher in predominately white areas versus minority communities.

That's no surprise to north and south St. Louisans who are living in the midst of toxic waste. We deserve better protection from heedless corporate polluters.

We challenge the EPA to account for such differences and to make environmental cleanup a priority for all communities, not just white and upper-class communities.

Dominique Dalimayr
Staff member
Missouri Public Research
Interest Group
Alversie Mitchell
Chairperson
Association of Community
Organizations for Reform Now
St. Louis

HAZARDOUS WASTE

EPA Drops Hazardous-Waste Plan

The Environmental Protection Agency backed away Monday from a proposal that critics charged would have allowed tons of hazardous wastes to go into common garbage dumps.

The proposal, which would have changed how hazardous waste is defined, was withdrawn after sharp critics maintained it would have gutted federal hazardous-waste laws.

The EPA said it would develop a new hazardous-waste proposal after further public hearings and comment in an effort to address concerns by industry that the definition is too broad.

Under current regulations, the EPA requires that hazardous wastes such as refinery wastes, heavy metal sludge, pesticide residues and toxic solvents, be given special treatment and not disposed of in landfills used for conventional garbage.

AP

Nuclear Family



Scientists at Mizzou call their research reactor one of the state's best-kept scientific secrets.

By William Allen
Post-Dispatch Science Writer

COLUMBIA, Mo.

CALL IT the land of the neutron. A neutron is one of the components of the atom's nucleus. Its name comes from the fact that neutrons have no electrical charge. The neutrons of Columbia are produced in the university's nuclear reactor.

The reactor, known as MURR (Missouri University Research Reactor), has been controversial at times during its 23-year history. Opponents have charged that the reactor and its programs are hazardous and threaten the surrounding area.

But scientists at the reactor say the facility and its research projects are safe and tightly regulated. They add that the public isn't aware of or doesn't understand the reactor's research and education mission.

"MURR is one of the major success stories among research reactors anywhere in the nation," said James Rhyme, director of the reactor and a physicist. "It is the highest power, most versatile and most reliable research reactor on a university campus."

Rhyme and other scientists said the story of the reactor's research programs hasn't been told. In recent interviews, they talked about what they described as one of Missouri's best-kept scientific secrets.

MURR began operating in 1966. It has become a scientific magnet, drawing hundreds of researchers from many scientific fields. Research ranges from archaeology and chemistry to materials science and veterinary medicine.

"This center has developed a breadth of research programs unequalled anywhere, even the national labs," Rhyme said.

The reason: neutrons.

"You just can't do many of the same things without this source of neutrons," Rhyme said.

Where do neutrons come from and what do they do for researchers?

Neutrons are a product of the reactor's nuclear fission process. When atoms are split in the reactor during this process, among the components they release are neutrons.

Neutrons are useful because when they strike other atoms, they cause desirable changes or produce telltale particles that help scientists unlock the secrets of unidentified materials.

Objects are exposed to neutrons in three main ways.

They are lowered to a point in or near the reactor core. They are moved into the same region via a system of pneumatic tubes. Or they are placed at the end of one of six "beam tubes" that carry neutrons from the reactor core to a nearby research bay.

The neutrons of MURR are used in four ways: as activators and probes, for chemical fingerprinting and to introduce beneficial impurities in materials.

Activators. Neutron exposure puts a material into an "excited state" so that it emits beneficial radiation, scientists said. These excited materials are called isotopes.

One of the most practical examples of this use is production of radioactive drugs that deliver radiation to cancer sites. These drugs have been used to kill cancer cells in liver, bone, ovarian and other kinds of cancers.

The idea is to get the radiation to the tumor cells and

The core of the University of Missouri Research Reactor. Hundreds of scientists around the nation use the neutrons produced by the reactor for study in fields from archaeology to veterinary medicine.

away from normal cells," said Gary Ehrhardt, a chemist working on the problem.

Among other inventions, Mizzou scientists developed tiny glass spheres, called microspheres, which are irradiated in the reactor. They are now used commercially in Canada to treat liver cancer. Human trials of a related bone-cancer treatment are scheduled to begin soon.

The fact that the radioactivity dissipates within a few days allows doctors to give a higher dose of radiation more rapidly, said Alan Ketting, a chemist.

"The main advantage is that the cancer cells don't have a chance to recover as rapidly," Ketting said.

The reactor's neutron exposure produces 70 percent of the radioactive isotopes made in the United States for medical and other research purposes, Rhyme said.

Chemical fingerprinting. Also known as trace analysis, this technique helps scientists determine the composition of unknown materials, even revealing the tiniest traces of unusual impurities.

Impurities are often the key. Archaeologists match the impurities in a newly discovered piece of pottery or other artifact with impurities in known specimens. This helps them find out where the artifact originated, since clay

See REACTOR, Page 4

Reactor

From page one

rocks and other materials contain impurities found only in the area where they were made.

"Using this information, we are able to trace ancient trade routes," said Michael Glascock, an MURR nuclear physicist who works with archaeologists. "This method gives you information about prehistoric man that isn't written down anywhere."

Researchers from more than 50 institutions around the world use the reactor to analyze samples of pottery and other ancient materials, Glascock said.

"This is a tremendous tool for archaeologists," said Hector Neff, an archaeologist with the reactor's National Archaeometry Center.

Among its accomplishments, the center maintains a data base of obsidian, a volcanic glass, found at thousands of archaeological sites from Mexico and Central America.

"It's so good that when someone sends us an artifact of obsidian, there's better than a 99 percent

chance of success in sourcing it," Glascock said.

Probes. In this case, neutrons are used to study materials in a similar fashion as X-rays, only they're better than X-rays, MURR scientists said.

The way a neutron behaves as it passes through and out of a material helps scientists find the arrangement of atoms in the material.

"We use neutrons to find what strains and stresses in a material may lead to its failure," said Andy Winholtz, a materials scientist.

One focus of such studies is finding how welds weaken a material.

A weld is basically a hot, liquid area that solidifies as it cools. During the cooling process, the material contracts, and stresses build near the weld. Neutrons allow researchers to measure these stresses.

That's just what Missouri scientists will do in a NASA-funded study announced July 20. They will study

stresses in a new generation of space shuttle booster rockets.

The space agency plans to re-use the rockets several times, and agency officials fear that exposure to salt water after the rockets fall into the ocean may lead to corrosion and cracking.

Researchers will expose scaled-down sections of the rocket to a small beam of neutrons from the reactor, Winholtz said. That will allow scientists to analyze how much stress exists in the material before and after a heat treatment that they think may prevent the problem.

The result will help NASA determine the best way to build the rockets.

Introducing impurities. In research that benefits the microelectronics and computer industry, MURR researchers have pioneered techniques that use neutrons to change the properties of materials.

MURR is now the main source of what is called "neutron-transmuta-

tion-doped silicon." This is the starting material in the manufacture of many kinds of computer chips and other electronic devices.

The reactor also is helping to improve electronic materials called high-temperature superconductors. These materials — which can carry electrical current with no resistance — may be the key to producing high-speed levitated trains, faster computer chips and better medical-imaging devices, researchers say.

In February, MURR physicist John Farmer reported progress in using the reactor's neutrons to introduce defects into tiny crystals of superconducting material. The technique neutralized the magnetic fields that hamper the material's performance when electricity moves through it.

"Figuring out the right defects to put into these materials may allow them to carry more current," said David Bradford, a physics graduate student who works with Farmer.

Anniversary, Opposition Can't Stop Reactor

By William Allan
Post-Dispatch Science Writer

COLUMBIA, Mo.

SCIENTISTS at the Missouri University Research Reactor say they were just plain too busy doing research and teaching to stop and celebrate the reactor's 25th anniversary last year.

Nor has opposition from anti-nuclear groups stopped them.

MURR runs seven days a week, 24 hours a day, except for a 12-hour maintenance shutdown each Monday.

The annual budget for the reactor is about \$7 million. About one-fourth of the money comes from the state, another fourth from federal grants and contracts, and half from "service applications," said MURR director James Rhyne said.

Service applications involve exposing materials to the reactor's neutrons. They include:

- Supplying radioactive materials for medical use, which earns about \$1.5 million a year.
- Changing the composition of materials for the electronics industry, which earns \$1 million.
- Irradiating gemstone to produce blue topaz, which earns about \$1.5 million. Gem dealers pay the university to put

inexpensive white topaz near the reactor core, which turns them dark blue.

Questions were raised a few years ago about whether university employees profited from the gemstone program. A 1989 state auditor's report concluded that two reactor officials were involved in

"significant instances of potential conflicts of interest" and "apparent violations of state laws," but no charges were filed.

Controversy also surrounds TRUMP-S, an acronym for a continuing study of ways to separate spent nuclear fuel.

Reactors: Research Vs. Commercial

COLUMBIA, Mo.

WHAT MAKES the Missouri University Research Reactor different from a commercial nuclear reactor, like Union Electric Co.'s Callaway nuclear plant?

The bottom line is the purpose to which the nuclear reaction is put, scientists say.

Callaway's reaction exists to heat water, producing steam that drives turbines and generates electricity. MURR's reaction exists to produce neutrons for research and education.

"For us, heat is a nuisance," said James Rhyne, MURR director. "For them, neutrons are a nuisance."

Said J. Charles McKibben, MURR associate director: "Comparing Callaway to MURR is like comparing an 18-wheel semi to a Ferrari. They both roll down the road on tires, but there's a great difference in how you use them."

Rhyne emphasized that "this is not a safety comparison. Callaway is clearly one of the best operating nuclear reactors in the country."

Here are other major differences between MURR and the Callaway nuclear power plant:

- Temperature. The water temperature in the core of the Callaway reactor is 600 degrees Fahrenheit, while MURR's is about 120 degrees.
- Pressure. The water pressure in Callaway's core is about 2,250 pounds per square inch, while MURR runs at 80, or "city water pressure," Rhyne said.
- Energy output. Callaway puts out 3,300 million watts of heat energy, while MURR puts out only 10 million watts. Callaway puts out 1,100 million watts of electrical energy, while MURR produces none.

— William Allan

The project is paid for by the Japanese nuclear industry. Its goal is to reduce the volume of hazardous nuclear reactor waste that must be stored in isolation for thousands of years.

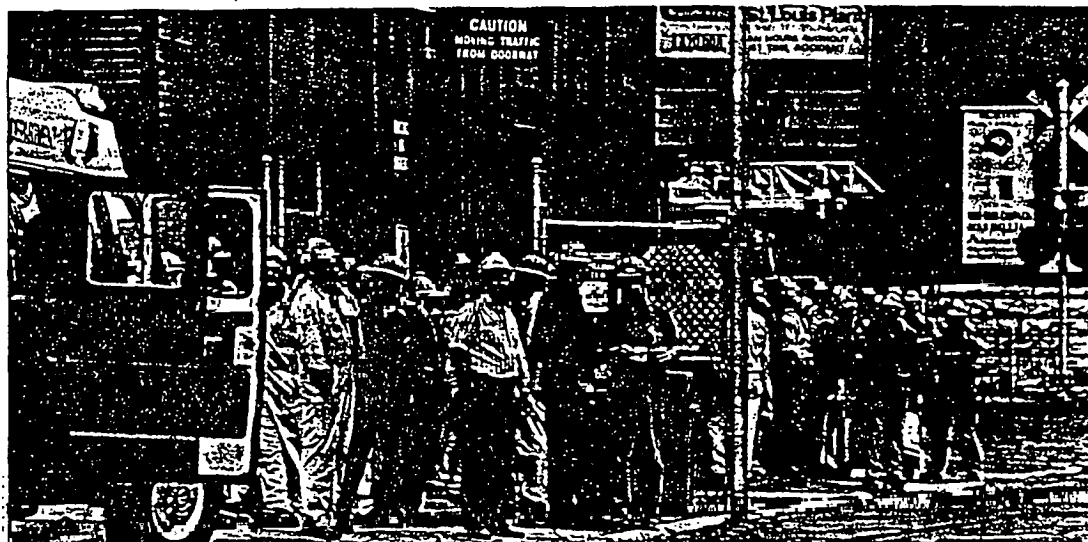
The project, announced in April 1990 by the university, was tied up for several months. Opponents, fearing a release of radioactive material, appealed to an administrative judge with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The judge first shut down the project. But he later reversed that decision, saying the university had satisfied concerns about safety.

Asked whether Missourians are getting from the reactor what they pay for, Rhyne said:

"The record — in publications, patents, research output and numbers of students — speaks for itself. Missourians are getting more than their money's worth. They're putting in one-quarter of the money and getting most of the pie."

"In many ways, this reactor is much better known outside the state of Missouri than it is inside," Rhyne said. "The international scientific community knows of MURR, even if some in the community don't know about the university or the state."



Workers standing outside the Mellinckrodt chemical plant near downtown where a cloud of escaping chlorine gas injured five people early Friday. Ted Dargatz/Post-Dispatch

5 Injured By Chlorine Gas Leak At Plant

By Margaret Glickman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A cloud of escaping chlorine gas at a Mellinckrodt chemical plant near downtown injured five employees early Friday and forced the evacuation of about 30 to 40 workers at the plant.

This was the 24th time the city Fire Department responded to an accident at the plant this year, said Fire Capt. Ralph Break. Last year, the department responded to calls at the plant 18 times. The plant, which has about 4,000 employees, is on Mallinckrodt Street and Broadway.

Break said that while the chemical release Friday was "the largest in recent memory" at the plant, it posed "no threat to the community outside the plant."

"I don't want to be alarmist — the vast majority were insignificant releases — but we requested Mallinckrodt notify us of all spills because we're responsible for public safety," said Break.

The gas leaked Friday from a valve on a one-ton cylinder that stores the chemical, he said. Mallinckrodt uses the chlorine in making pharmaceuticals.

Break said the chlorine gas was washed out of the air with water sprays after the gas settled. Because chlorine gas is heavier than air, it seeks low spots and stays in those spots rather than spreading throughout the neighborhood, he said.

About 40 city firefighters helped Mallinckrodt's own fire department. They were able to contain the gas and cap the leak within a half hour, Break said.

Keith Pickert, the company's director of communications, said that Mallinckrodt maintains its own fire department on the site and that the company's firefighters work very

close with the city. He said that very few of the calls to which city firefighters had responded to were emergencies.

The five workers injured Friday were taken by ambulance to Barnes Hospital. Four were in stable condition and remained for observation at least through Friday, said Pickert. A fifth person had some respiratory difficulties and was admitted to the hospital for a longer stay, he said.

Denver Holt, area director in St. Louis for the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said his agency was investigating the accident.

Sat., Sept. 14, 1992

Pg. 3A St. Louis Post Dispatch

Law Group's Study Shows EPA Action And Fines Lessen In Non-White Areas

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government moves more slowly and imposes lesser penalties against polluters in minority communities, a published report said Sunday.

The National Law Journal reported that penalties imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the speed in which the problems of hazardous-waste sites are addressed varied widely, depending on whether the communities involved were populated by whites or by minorities.

The publication outlined its findings after examining thousands of environmental lawsuits filed by the U.S. government over the last seven years, as well as administrative enforcement actions by the EPA and the agency's record in dealing with 1,777 Superfund toxic-waste sites.

EPA officials could not be reached for comment.

Among the publication's findings were:

- Penalties under the hazardous-waste laws were as much as 500 percent greater at sites in largely white communities than at sites in largely minority neighborhoods.

- "The average fine in areas with the greatest white population was \$333,558 versus \$53,318 in areas with the greatest minority population," the report said.

- The differences were not so dramatic for penalties

involving other pollution laws, but fines still were on average 48 percent greater in largely white communities than in minority areas.

- Under the Superfund law, hazardous-waste sites in largely minority areas took 20 percent longer to be placed on a national priority action list than sites in largely white areas. The start of Superfund cleanup efforts also generally were delayed longer in minority areas.

- The EPA more often chose less-preferred methods of dealing with hazardous-waste sites when the sites were in minority areas.

For example, the report said, the so-called containment method of dealing with a hazardous-waste site was used 7 percent more frequently in minority communities than in largely white communities. The so-called treatment procedure, where wastes would be eliminated altogether, was used 22 percent more often in sites in white communities.

"The life-threatening consequences of these policies are visible in the day-to-day struggles of minority communities throughout the country," the report said.

The National Law Journal is the most widely distributed general-interest publication for lawyers in the United States.

St. Louis Post Dispatch Monday, 9-14-92 Pg. 6A

Deal Worth \$43 Million To Wetteraus

By Jeff Stroud

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Wetterau family will receive at least \$43.9 million for its stock in Wetterau Inc. when the company merges with SuperValu Stores Inc., according to documents filed recently.

The Wetterau family founded the company in 1889, and Wetteraus have led the company throughout its 123-year history. Ted C. Wetterau, the current chairman and chief executive, is a grandson of the founder.

Wetterau and SuperValu, two giant food distributors, plan to merge in October, pending approval by shareholders and federal regulators. SuperValu will pay Wetterau shareholders \$30.25 a share, a total of \$1.2 billion, for their stock.

Wetterau directors and officers, including the family members, will receive \$120 million for their 3.97 million shares, which represents about 10 percent of the shares outstanding. The stock holdings and certain payments to officers and former directors are listed in the company's Form 10K annual report, which was filed this month. Wetterau and SuperValu signed a definitive agreement to merge on July 27.

The documents also show that:

■ One Wetterau executive will retire with a special pension payment of more than \$6 million before the merger becomes effective.

■ The company paid more than \$9 million to a trust controlled by a former director in April, about two months before the merger was announced on June 9.

The report shows that Wetterau family members own 1.45 million shares either individually or as beneficiaries of various trusts. Together, those shares are worth \$43.9 million.

Ted C. Wetterau, chairman and chief executive, owns 646,478 shares

Wetterau Inc. Officers					
Shares owned 1992, salary and stock options					
Officer and title	Ted C. Wetterau Chairman and chief executive	Robert K. Crutsinger Vice chairman	Robert E. Mohrmann Vice chairman	Robert J. Livingston Executive vice president, chairman of Hazelwood Farms Bakeries	William M. Mohrman First vice president (1978-1990)
Shares owned	1,144,360	164,956	205,727	97,863	118,648
Value	\$34.62 million	\$4.99 million	\$6.22 million	\$2.96 million	\$3.55 million
Stock options	0	6,000	10,002	4,500**	3,000
Salary	\$1,038,000	\$350,000	\$230,000	\$341,000	\$284,200

* Fiscal year ended March 28, 1992, options granted at \$14.50 a share.

** Livingston also gained \$200,441 on options exercised during the year. No other officers exercised options in the fiscal year.

Source: Wetterau, Inc. reports

Post-Dispatch graphic

outright plus 6,170 shares held through an employee stock plan. In addition, he has voting power over 404,206 shares held in a trust for his mother. His wife, Helen, owns 87,506 shares.

The total comes to 1.144 million shares or 5.3 percent of Wetterau's stock, worth \$34.6 million in the merger.

Wetterau's two sons, T. Conrad Wetterau and Mark S. Wetterau, are both corporate officers. Conrad Wetterau, senior executive vice president, owns 141,299 shares worth \$4.2 million. Mark Wetterau, who is president and chief operating officer, owns 146,649

shares worth \$4.4 million.

In addition, Conrad and Mark Wetterau are beneficiaries of a trust that owns 18,112 shares worth \$548,000. Their sister, Elizabeth Wetterau Harrison, also is a beneficiary of the trust.

Other significant shareholders listed in the report are Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., which owns 2.42 million shares or 11.4 percent of the stock, and the Wetterau employee stock plan, which owns 2.27 million shares or 10.7 percent. Metropolitan's shares are worth \$73.2 million. The stock plan shares are worth \$68.7 million.

John B. Higdon, a director and former employee, owns \$39,994 shares or 4.4 percent of the stock. His shares are worth \$28.4 million under the merger agreement.

The merger agreement says that Ted Wetterau will stay on with SuperValu for a couple of years as vice chairman and a director.

But little has been said about the future of other corporate officers and directors. Analysts and other observers believe that the corporate staff of 360 is most vulnerable to layoffs after the merger.

At least one officer plans to leave. See WETTERAU, Page 8

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 1992

Wetterau

From page one

the company before the merger occurs, the report shows.

Robert K. Crutsinger, vice chairman, will retire on his 62nd birthday, Sept. 2. Under Wetterau's supplemental pension plan, Crutsinger will receive \$6.3 million as a lump sum when he retires. The payment was included in a footnote in the 10K report.

The supplemental pension plan covers only Ted Wetterau, Crutsinger, Robert E. Mohrmann, who also is a vice chairman, and Robert J. Livingston. Livingston is executive vice president and chairman and chief executive of Hazelwood Farms Bakeries Inc., a Wetterau subsidiary that makes frozen dough and baked goods for supermarkets.

The supplemental plan provides for a lump-sum payment as soon as possible after the covered employee leaves the company. Payments are based on an employee's service with the company and the employee's monthly salary.

As of March 28, the present value of the four executives' benefits under the supplemental plan was \$10.7 million.

In addition to the supplemental plan, Crutsinger will be eligible for regular pension benefits of at least \$125,000 to \$150,000 a year, according to a table of estimated retirement benefits in the annual report. Crutsinger has been with the company for 22 years.

In another matter, the report says the company paid \$9.15 million on April 1 to redeem 338 preferred shares owned by a trust for its former director, Raymond A. Bartolacci and his wife, Emily R. Bartolacci. The price does not include accrued dividends on the shares, which the company also paid.

Raymond Bartolacci was chairman of Laneco Inc., a regional retailer that Wetterau bought in 1983. He retired from Laneco in 1990 and left the board last year.

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8/12

... OF THE STATE - LOCAL AND REGIONAL ...

DOE preparing for lab-site cleanup

By RAYMOND FAZZI
Home News staff writer

NEW BRUNSWICK — The U.S. Department of Energy will be taking soil from the site of a former Jersey Avenue nuclear chemistry lab this week to prepare for an environmental cleanup.

It will still be years, however, before the industrial property is cleansed of the low-level radioactive material that is contaminating the soil.

"The actual cleanup is a ways down the road. It probably wouldn't be until the end of this decade," said Steven Liedle, a project manager in Oak Ridge, Tenn., who will be overseeing the work for the DOE.

The site of the cleanup is 904 Jersey Ave., a five-and-a-half-acre piece of land near Triangle Road that was used for a nuclear chemistry laboratory between 1945 and 1977. The lab was demolished and decontaminated between 1981 and 1983, but officials say there are still contaminants at the fenced-in site that emit low-level radiation.

City Business Administrator Gregory Fahrenbach, who has been updated on the DOE's cleanup, said that as the situation has been described to him, a person who camped out overnight in a tent on the worst section of the site would be exposed to the same amount of radiation as someone flying from New York City to Los Angeles.

Yet an early DOE estimate of the cleanup puts the total project cost at \$18.4 million, much of which would involve the removal of tainted soil at the site.

Liedle said the cleanup is not expected to take place until the latter part of the decade, because the New Brunswick site is not considered to be a threat to the community, and because the DOE has still to establish a national facility for the disposal of such active wastes. The site is in the city's industrial zone and not in the immediate vicinity of any residences.

"The material that's on that site right now does not represent an imminent health risk to anyone at the site or anyone adjacent to the site," he said.

Five sites in N.J.

Susan Grange, the DOE's New Jersey site manager, said the department is responsible for cleaning 13 sites across the nation, including five in New Jersey. One of these sites is the former Middlesex Serpiling Plant, a Middlesex site that was used for sampling, weighing and storing uranium ores between 1945 and 1953.

The other sites are in Maywood, Wayne and the Deepwater section of Pennsville, Salem County, Grange said.

Liedle said radiological testing was done at the site when the lab was demolished in the early 1980s and the samples taken from the New Brunswick site this week are for a "broad sweep" of laboratory tests that will determine if there is chemical contamination of the soils.

The work is expected to take several days and will involve some drilling work by crews clad in protective clothing, officials said.

Weight Loss Surprises Researchers

WASHINGTON — A nutrition organization was hopeful that a nutritionally complete "in-tech" food tablet would help ease world hunger problems, until a study revealed that one of the ingredients could cause significant weight loss.

Although other studies and scientists may not agree, researchers in Europe found that the ingredient, a natural plant colloid, actually caused people to lose weight, even though specifically instructed not to, after

Director's portrait joins predecessors

By TED SERRILL
Home News staff writer

NEW BRUNSWICK — A photograph of Middlesex County Freeholder Director Ronald Roman of Metuchen was unveiled yesterday at a 6 p.m. reception conducted in the

"For the first time in 62 years, we have a portrait of a Republican

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WIS/SAT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1992

St. Charles Firm Fencing Off Area With Tainted Soil

By Susan K. Brown
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

St. Charles Metal Finishing Co. is fencing off a block of overgrown hillside where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found hazardous levels of metals in the soil.

The fence will keep people out until the area can be cleaned, said Ruben B. McCullers, a scientist who headed EPA testing at the plant.

Metals detected in this soil include lead, chrome, cadmium and antimony, McCullers said Thursday. In May, the EPA collected samples from the soil and from old drums at the metal finishing company.

The hillside lies behind the plant in an industrial

area along an unpaved stretch of Fifth Street north of Olive Street in St. Charles. Old beer cans and trails show that people use the hillside, even though it is full of poison ivy. Other parts of the plant also have high levels of hazardous materials, but they have been fenced, McCullers said.

St. Charles Metal Finishing so far has agreed to meet the cost of the cleanup, but negotiations are still going on with the company and officials from St. Charles, McCullers said. "We're trying to draw the line on how clean is clean," he said.

J. Quince Parker, who founded the company in a garage in 1966, declined to comment Friday on the cleanup.

As a finisher of aircraft parts, the company generated many kinds of hazardous waste. It was fined \$8,750 by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources after an inspection in September 1986 turned up repeat violations of hazardous-waste regulations.

In May, three of Parker's sons, who ran the company, were sentenced to prison after the company falsified inspection reports for parts used on 1,000 fighters built by McDonnell Douglas Corp.

During the federal investigation of the company, the U.S. attorney's office notified the EPA that the old drums were on the property, said Dale Armstrong, an EPA spokesman.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch 8/16/92 P. 20

Toxic Liquid Spills At Warehouse; No Injuries

Most of the contents of two 55-gallon drums containing a toxic, inflammable liquid were accidentally spilled Saturday on the concrete floor of a warehouse at Mallinckrodt Specialty Chemicals Co., 3800 North Second Street, the St. Louis Fire Department reported.

The drums were inadvertently punctured by a forklift about 10 a.m. No one was injured, and there was no evacuation, a company spokesman said.

He said the spilled chemical, fluoro-aniline — an intermediate agent used in the manufacture of other chemicals and toxic to the eyes and mucous membranes if inhaled — was contained and cleaned up by the plant fire department. Several city Fire Department vehicles responded and stood by but were not needed, according to the department spokesman, Capt. Ralph Break.

ST. LOUIS/TUESDAY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1992

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Under Way Near Downtown

By Tim Bryant

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Environmental Protection Agency began Monday to remove about 1,000 barrels of hazardous waste from a condemned building just north of downtown St. Louis.

The building is in an industrial area, although a supermarket is about two blocks away. An EPA official said his main concern was that the waste could ignite.

Removal of the metal barrels will begin this week, said Donald Sandifer, an engineer from the EPA's regional office in Kansas City, Kan.

The drums are stored inside a brick building in the 1500 block of Hadley Street. Fire heavily damaged the two- and three-story building twice last year; city officials condemned the structure in March 1991.

Workers entered the building to put plywood on floors weakened by fire and water. Barrels of waste will be stored temporarily on a vacant lot just

The government will complete the cleanup and then try to recover the expense from Neese Coated Fabrics Inc.

west of the building.

Sandifer said the government would complete the cleanup and then — under authority of the federal Superfund law — try to recover the expense from Neese Coated Fabrics Inc.

Cleanup work is to be done by Riedel Environmental Services Inc. Sandifer estimated the job could cost more than \$1 million.

Documents that have been filed in U.S. District Court said Neese made tents and other equipment at the site until Jan. 10, 1991.

Waste material at the site includes toluene, ketone, xylene and other sol-

vents, according to the EPA. The waste is stored in barrels and vats.

Steve Schrang, identified in court documents as the president of Neese, was unavailable for comment.

Sandifer said the EPA began investigating at the request of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

In April, department workers sampled the waste and found that it could catch fire. Many of the drums were deteriorated, court records said.

No evacuation of neighborhood residents will be necessary unless fire breaks out again at the Neese site, Sandifer said.

Neese owns the southern portion of the site and leased the northern part from Hadley Street Development Co., officials said.

Officials of the development company are negotiating with the government over paying for part of the cleanup. Neese did not respond to the EPA's request about payment, Sandifer said.



Donald Sandifer, an EPA engineer, inspecting drums of hazardous waste on Monday that are being removed from a condemned building in the 1500 block of Hadley Street.

Wendy Fitzgerald/Post-Dispatch

8/1/92
Toxic Waste Incinerator Is Safe, EPA Says

MARION, Ill. (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is defending the safety of plans for a toxic waste incinerator about three miles from Marion.

Schulmberger Corp., which is responsible for the cleanup of PCBs in Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, wants to build the incinerator as a

means of destroying the toxic chemicals.

At a meeting Wednesday night, area residents questioned the safety of the incinerator. But EPA spokeswoman Mary Logan said the incinerator would be safe and the most effective method of disposing of the 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

P. 5A

Cancer Cause Not Found In EPA Test

By Robert Kelly

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

No toxic PCBs have been found in soil tests conducted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in the Alta Sita neighborhood in East St. Louis, an EPA official said Tuesday.

A community activist has said he feared an apparently high rate of cancer in the neighborhood was linked to chemical contamination from an abandoned industrial site.

Even so, Brad Benning, an emergency response coordinator with the EPA, said Tuesday that tests conducted by his agency on soil taken from around six homes in the neighborhood had found no trace of PCBs.

He said earlier this month that some ground water at the old Lanson Chemical Co. plant site had been contaminated with PCBs, but that contamination appeared to be contained on the site and had not leaked into the surrounding neighborhood.

He said he could not explain why the rate of cancer might be much higher in the area near the Lanson plant, at Piggott Avenue and 31st Street.

A community activist, the Rev. Beck Jones, said Tuesday that he had some doubts about the EPA's soil testing. "I'm really not convinced that there's not a serious problem there," Jones said.

He said a recent survey of the neighborhood done by volunteers for his Project HOPE organization indicated that 22 people who lived on just one block near the plant site had died of cancer in 10 years.

He said the survey also showed that 42 percent of the residents of the Alta Sita neighborhood who participated had indicated that at least one family member had developed cancer.

Jones has speculated that the incidence of cancer was caused by toxic PCBs leaking from the abandoned industrial site.

In June, the U.S. EPA began an emergency cleanup of a recent spill of hazardous resin and PCBs at the Lanson plant site. That spill was said to have been caused by vandals.

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1992

Lobbyists Are Too Powerful, Mehan Asserts

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

G. Tracy Mehan III, who resigned last week as Missouri's top environmental official, says the state suffers because veteran legislators spend too much time listening to lobbyists instead of constituents.

Mehan quit to take a position as associate deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He will begin his new job on Monday.

"They are more receptive to lobbyists, who are there day in and day out."

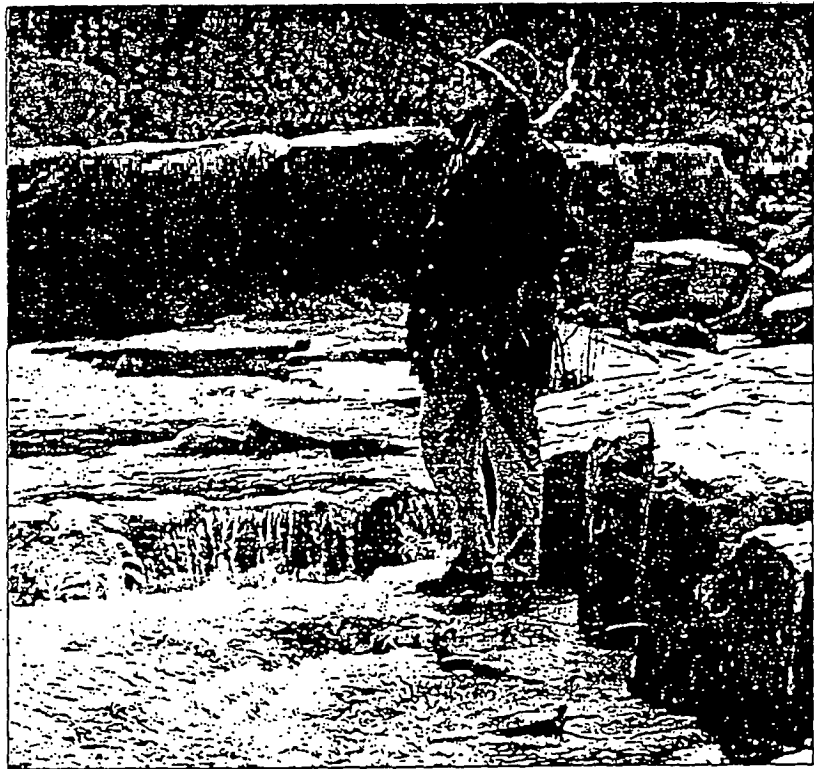
G. TRACY MEHAN III
Leaving for Washington

could serve.

"We have a system made up of long-tenured legislators, who are insulated from public input," he said. "They are more receptive to lobbyists, who are there day in and day out, year in and year out."

Mehan often butted heads with lawmakers during his four years as director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

"The fact is, you've got entrenched committee chairmen,"
See MEHAN Page 3



Post Dispatch Photo

G. Tracy Mehan III, former director of the Department of Natural Resources, in Pickle Creek at Hawn State Park. Mehan, who resigned last week, says the state suffers because legislators listen more to lobbyists than to constituents.

Mehan

From page one

entrenched leadership — these people are not going to go away," Mehan said.

"I've come to the conclusion that the only way to change this is term limits on state legislators and national legislators as well."

State Sen. Roger B. Wilson of Columbia, a Democrat who has served 13 years in the Senate, said in response: "I think Mr. Michel would be interested in hearing that."

Wilson said he was referring to Rep. Robert H. Michel, R-Ill., who is in his 18th term in Congress and has served as the minority leader.

"I would encourage Tracy to contact him directly after he gets to the EPA," Wilson said.

"Actually, I introduced a term-limitation bill twice," said Wilson. "Unfortunately, the bill made me as popular as leprosy, and it never got out of committee."

Mehan said, "When I'd go out around the state, I found high interest in environmental and natural resource issues. Yet when you come to the Missouri Legislature, it is a very low priority."

"There is an outright hostility to environmental and natural resource issues in some quarters of the Missouri Legislature."

Mehan was censured by the Missouri Senate in May because of his objections to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

He said the committee had the power

Mehan said the department's mission was to protect natural resources — not to build recreational facilities.

er to veto environmental rules and regulations that it found objectionable.

Often, those objections are first raised by lobbyists for the businesses that would be regulated, Mehan said.

The committee, Mehan said, is "clearly unconstitutional; it's a kangaroo court. Right now, you've got a Gang of 10 who, in a relatively low-profile meeting, can undermine a whole body of regulations."

Mehan also wrangled with legislators over appropriations to expand state parks or create new ones.

Although the Department of Natural Resources has a dedicated sales tax for such purchases, it first must get legislative approval.

The department's requests were rejected last year, when one veteran legislator pushed for a golf course in his district and another argued that a man-made lake in his would make a dandy state park.

Mehan said he "jumped through all the hoops" this year to get legislative approval of the department's requests.

The problem, Mehan said, is caused by a misconception of what the department is supposed to be doing.

He said the mission is to protect the state's natural resources and not to

build recreational facilities.

"A lot of people confuse us with municipal parks," Mehan said. "They think of the state park system and think of ball diamonds, tennis courts, things like that."

"We allow recreation, but recreation consistent with our mission as opposed to, say, putting in go-cart tracks."

Despite the differences, Mehan said, the state parks had fared well under his tenure.

"The bottom line is the Legislature has added 7,000 acres since I've been here, and there's more coming down the pike from the last appropriations run," he said. "We've been successful in expanding Hawn State Park and Johnson Shut-ins despite the conflict, despite the debate."

Mehan also listed among the department's recent victories the establishment of the Katy Trail and passage of the Clean Air Act and solid-waste law.

"On the unfinished side of the agenda, we're still behind the curve on drinking water." The department doesn't do as much water testing as it used to, he said, "because our department really doesn't have the resources to do adequate testing and monitoring."

Mehan also pointed to so-called non-point source water pollution — the herbicides and pesticides that come from farm fields, and the heavy metals and other toxins contained in runoff from municipal areas.

"It's becoming more complex because you're not talking about point source — a pipe in the water," he said. "In the long run, water quality will be our biggest challenge."

Mehan has been in this post for 10 years.

"Firm"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1992

5A

Mehan Quits State Job For Washington's EPA

He Ran Natural Resources Dept.

By William Allen
Post-Dispatch Science Writer

G. Tracy Mehan III, rebuked by state senators but praised by environmentalists, resigned Tuesday as director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Mehan, Missouri's chief environmental official for the past three years, said he would join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington.

He will begin Monday as associate deputy administrator, one of the agency's top jobs.

"The position that was offered is at a very high level in the agency," Mehan said in a telephone interview. "For good or ill, EPA drives national environmental policy, and this was an opportunity that I just could not say 'no' to."

Mehan, a lawyer and GOP activist, was appointed by Gov. John Ashcroft to head the Department of Natural Resources in 1989.

Ashcroft praised Mehan's efforts in gaining passage of the Missouri Clean Air Act, Solid Waste Law and other "major environmental achievements."

In May, the Missouri Senate issued a rare "remonstrance" — a censure — against Mehan. Some senators said Mehan was arrogant and uncooperative in enforcing the department's rules and should quit or be fired.

Mehan denied that the Senate censure had played a role in his departure.

"Politics is a contact sport," he said. "I'm a player. I enjoyed it. I'm not going to a 'lower 40' pasture here."

This is probably going to be more of a firing line than I've been on to date."

In a statement announcing Mehan's resignation, Ashcroft said Mehan had been "an effective leader in a department that faces numerous and difficult challenges each day."

Mehan has done "an outstanding job of fulfilling the mandate I gave him to protect Missouri's natural resources" while reconciling that mandate with the need for economic growth, Ashcroft said.

Mehan's resignation becomes effective Friday. Ron Kucera, deputy director of the department, will serve as acting director.

Roger Pryor, executive director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, said, "I'm sorry to see him leave Missouri, but EPA can certainly use a shot in the arm. He set the pace for engaging communications among all sides on these issues."

Senate leaders who mounted the attack on Mehan could not be reached for comment. In May, Senate Minority Leader Tom McCarthy, R-Chesterfield, accused Mehan of running the department "ineptly" and "dictatorially."



Mehan

Cleanup May Need 2nd Pipeline

Way Is Sought To Discharge Treated Water Safely At Weldon Spring

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The cleanup of the radioactively contaminated Weldon Spring chemical plant complex in St. Charles County may include a second pipeline to discharge treated water into the Missouri River, a Department of Energy official says.

The state already has granted a permit that allows the department to treat water from a nearby quarry and release it into the river. The quarry, which is four miles south of the plant and a short distance from the river, was used as a dump for wastes from the uranium processing.

A second water-treatment system also is being built at the plant, and originally was to discharge into a drainage ditch at the southeast corner of the site. The ditch, which normally is dry, runs a mile and a half to the river.

However, the department asked the state this week to modify its permit and allow for the possibility of building a pipeline to carry the water from the plant directly to the river.

Steve McCracken, who is managing the cleanup, said the pipeline is being considered because tests have shown the drainage ditch is contaminated with uranium. He said the uranium could dissolve and enter the treated

water as it moves through the ditch to the river.

"We knew there was some uranium in the ditch," he said. "Will our discharge dissolve the uranium and pick it up and carry it downstream?"

He said further testing would be done to determine whether the uranium found in the ditch is coming from rain runoff from the plant. If it's from rainfall, the contamination would decrease once a water collection system is built at the plant site to treat runoff, he said.

"The question is whether we're getting a constant contamination or if it's left from the last rainfall, and thus would go rapidly down," McCracken said.

Once the plant site is cleaned up, the department will decide whether the ditch also should be excavated, he said. "We haven't concluded yet that the drainage is contaminated enough that would require cleanup," he said.

"It isn't clear whether that actual cleanup would be worse than leaving the contaminants alone," he said. "From a cost standpoint, it isn't any big deal to clean that valley up. But it certainly would destroy a lot of natural area."

The valley runs through the Weldon Spring Wildlife Area, which is operated by the Missouri Department of

Conservation. If a pipeline is built, McCracken said, construction crews will "go out of their way to stay on existing paths, so we don't have to rip the forest up."

The Coalition for the Environment has pointed out that the release sites for the treated water are upstream from the intakes for the St. Louis City Water Division and St. Louis County Water Co.

"We still have problems whether the stuff can be treated properly to the point that it can be safely discharged into the river," said the coalition's Roger Pryor.

"One of the issues we raised before was the contamination of the ditch," Pryor said. "We wondered whether they'd clean the water and it would pick up lots of contamination in the sediment in the creek valley, negating the whole cleanup process up above."

"This seems to be confirming that," he said of the pipeline proposal. "This is probably an improvement over what they were planning to do before."

McCracken said the treatment plant at the quarry should be ready for testing with clean water next week. Testing with quarry water to determine whether the contamination is being removed could begin in September, he said.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

7/23/92

Curbs On Waste Struck Down

Supreme Court Rules Against 2 States On Restrictions On Dumping

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court made it more difficult in two decisions Monday for states to keep out garbage and hazardous waste from other states.

The court voted 8-1 to strike down a disposal fee that Alabama has imposed on out-of-state hazardous waste while exempting such waste generated within its borders.

By a 7-2 vote, the justices invalidated a law in Michigan that barred private landfill operators from accepting solid waste generated anywhere but in the county where a dump is located.

The court said both states had unconstitutionally interfered with interstate commerce.

Alabama has imposed the fee on out-of-state waste shipped to the nation's largest hazardous waste dump, a privately owned site near Emelle, Ala.

The court said Alabama may not charge a \$72-a-ton fee on hazardous waste shipped from outside the state if the same fee is not charged for in-state hazardous waste.

"No state may attempt to isolate itself from a problem common to the several states by raising barriers to the free flow of interstate commerce," Justice Byron R. White wrote for the court.

The court said state officials should have considered "less discriminatory alternatives," such as "a generally applicable per-ton additional fee on all hazardous waste disposed of within Alabama or a per-mile tax on all vehicles transporting hazardous waste across Alabama roads, or an even-handed cap on the total tonnage landfilled at Emelle."

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist was the sole dissenter.

The decision was a victory for Chemical Waste Management Inc., which is based in Illinois and runs the Emelle facility.

OTHER SUPREME COURT ACTION

- **The Supreme Court took action Monday in other areas:**
- **Redistricting:** The court agreed to study a tangled legislative redistricting battle in Ohio, a dispute that could lead to an important ruling on minority voting rights. The court will consider reinstating for the rest of this decade a redistricting plan adopted by a Republican-controlled board for the Ohio General Assembly.
- **Holocaust Suit:** The court refused to kill a suit against Jewish groups and Los Angeles officials accused of preventing a man who claimed the Holocaust was a hoax from taking part in a library conference.
- **Racketeering:** The court rejected an appeal by Minnesota consumers who accused Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. of racketeering by bribing public officials to secure phone rate increases. The court without comment let stand a ruling that said the company is shielded from such allegations by a doctrine aimed at protecting the independence of agencies setting public utility rates.
- **Labor Bargaining:** The justices rejected an attempt by the Chicago Tribune Co. to avoid bargaining with a union that the newspaper accused of racial bias.
- **Nuclear Shipments:** The court rejected an Idaho challenge to the shipment into that state of spent nuclear fuel from a now-inactive reactor in Colorado. The justices rejected arguments that shipping the waste from Fort St. Vrain, Colo., to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory in the state's south-central desert area violated federal law.

The justices told the Alabama Supreme Court to determine what remedy Chemical Waste Management should receive, raising the possibility that refunds could be ordered.

Writing for the court in the Michigan case, Justice John Paul Stevens said the state law was prohibited under a Supreme Court ruling of 1978.

In it, the court barred New Jersey from discriminating against out-of-state solid waste — garbage — by banning its shipment into the state.

The 1988 Michigan law barred counties with privately owned and op-

erated landfills from accepting any solid waste generated outside the county. The law, Stevens said, effectively authorized "each of (the states) 83 counties to isolate itself from the national economy."

The law must fall "in view of the fact that Michigan has not identified any reason, apart from its origin, why solid waste coming from outside the county should be treated differently from solid waste within the county," the court said.

Rehnquist and Justice Harry A. Blackmun dissented.

Plaintiffs In Monsanto Case Collect From Other Firms

By Robert Steyer
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Texas residents who received \$39 million from Monsanto Co. last week to settle a legal dispute over a toxic waste site also have collected \$168.5 million from other companies.

None of the companies admitted wrongdoing in settling suits filed by residents of — and workers in — a suburban Houston subdivision built near the waste site.

The biggest settlement — \$128 million — was paid by Farm & Home Savings of Nevada, Mo., a savings and loan institution that financed a subdivision built near a former refinery for chemical wastes.

The settlement was revealed Thursday by Farm & Home's insurer, Crum & Forster of Basking Ridge, N.J., which will cover the full amount. Crum & Forster also is covering a \$32 million settlement made by Farm & Home late last year.

The insurer said the settlement resolves claims of approximately 1,300 people. Last week, Monsanto said that its settlement and agreements made by others in the disputes covered more than 1,700 people.

Plaintiffs include homeowners, children who attended school near the waste site and people who worked at the school or the subdivision. They said the toxic wastes nearby damaged

their health and hurt property values.

In addition to Monsanto, several other companies paid a total of \$8.5 million to the plaintiffs. They are: Atlantic Richfield Co., Chevron Corp., Cos-Mar Co., Amoco Corp., Union Carbide Corp. and Hoechst Celanese.

Farm & Home also agreed to a \$32 million payment in late 1991, according to the Houston Post. Farm & Home agreed to buy the mortgages of homeowners so they could move, the newspaper said.

Monsanto and several dozen companies sold chemical wastes to the Brio Refining Co. and several predecessor companies between 1957 and 1982. Then, the refinery went bankrupt and closed.

The Brio site was later declared a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency, identifying it as one of the worst U.S. toxic dumps.

Monsanto and 20 other companies are responsible for cleaning up the Brio site, a task that Monsanto says could be completed by late 1995.

Last week, a Monsanto spokesman said companies have spent \$6 million to \$7 million for the clean-up. The final bill will be another \$40 million to \$60 million.

Monsanto will take an after-tax charge of \$27 million, or 21 cents, in the quarter ending June 30 to account for the Brio settlement.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 6/22/92

Monsanto, Other Companies Settle Houston Toxic-Waste Suit

Two Missouri companies, Monsanto Co. of St. Louis and Farm & Home Savings Association of Nevada, Mo., are part of a \$207.5 million settlement in Texas that is believed to be the largest ever made in a toxic-waste case.

Monsanto agreed to pay \$30 million to settle suits involving more than 1,700 residents of a subdivision near Houston who contended that the company's involvement with the defunct Brio Refining Inc. toxic-waste site damaged their health and the property values of their nearby homes.

Monsanto and six other chemical firms that sold byproducts to the company also agreed to pay to clean up the site.

The \$207.5 million payout is the sum of the agreement reached Thursday — just as the suit consolidating most of the claims was about to go to trial — and previous settlements with companies involved in the dispute.

As part of the separate settlement, Farm & Home and its insurer, Crum & Forster Inc., agreed to pay their homeowners \$128 million, including the buyout of mortgages of 212 families still living in the subdivision, plus their moving costs and annuities to pay for the college educations of 700 children in the subdivision.

Farm & Home financed the subdivision's development.

The homeowners contended that they and their children suffered health problems, including leukemia and birth defects, after being exposed to toxic chemicals leaking from the site.

They charged that Farm & Home was negligent in failing to inform them that the subdivision was next to a toxic-waste refinery. The fate of the other 430 houses in the subdivision is uncertain.

Officials of Farm & Home could not be reached for comment.

The Brio site is on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list for cleanup.

The settlement brings to a close one of the most contentious disputes in the history of the Superfund program,

The homeowners contended that they and their children suffered health problems, including leukemia and birth defects.

which was set up by Congress to clean up the nation's worst toxic sites.

The \$207.5 million total is the largest ever in a pollution case, according to Lois Gibbs of the Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Waste. Residents of upstate New York's Love Canal, including Gibbs, received \$20 million in 1985.

Loren Wassell, a Monsanto spokesman, said the company would have preferred to settle only on the matter of the cleanup, which he said has been estimated will cost Monsanto and 20 other chemical companies up to \$60 million.

He said Monsanto admits to no wrongdoing and maintains that there was no evidence that anyone was injured by exposure to the chemicals from the Brio site.

Wassell said Monsanto wanted to avoid the costs of protracted litigation and to "get on with cleanup."

Although Monsanto won a Texas appeals court decision last month against 222 homeowners near the Brio site and four developers of a subdivision near the site, the tort system is such that the company could not apply this finding and would be required to defend itself over and over again

Monsanto admits to no wrongdoing and says there was no evidence that anyone was injured by exposure to the chemicals from the site.

against each new plaintiff, he said.

The legal costs could end up nearly as much as the settlement, Wassell said.

"Monsanto concluded it was prudent to settle for a reasonable amount," he said.

Wassell said the Monsanto chemical byproducts shipped to the Brio site were refined substances from petroleum, such as styrene tars.

The other companies brought plastic and chemical wastes. By law, Monsanto as a contributor was liable with them for any toxicity, Wassell said.

The companies have already paid \$6 million to \$7 million toward the cleanup.

The additional \$40 million to \$60 million will be used to hire a waste-disposal company to build an incinerator at the site that will burn the plastic, chemical and petroleum wastes.

"There isn't any happiness in this," said attorney Joseph D. Jamail, who represented many of the families. "How can they be happy with sick children?"

The EPA contends that there is no danger to residents or to students at a nearby elementary school.

"If there were any kind of contamination problem or public health threat, we would have been the first people to call for closure of the school and other actions," said Roger Meacham, an EPA spokesman in Dallas.

But the 10-year-old school was closed in March after experts hired by the school district found health risks to the children and teachers.

And the EPA reassurances still sound hollow to parents such as Donna Black, whose son has severe illnesses she associates with the toxic dump 250 yards from their house in the Southbend subdivision.

"We couldn't, in moral consciousness, sell this house to another family," said Black. "On top of that, we couldn't afford to move because of the tremendous medical bills for our son."

Some information for this article was provided by The Los Angeles Times News Service

Court Cuts Provision On Nuclear Disposal

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON — Striking down part of a federal environmental law, the Supreme Court said Friday that Congress cannot order states to deal with disposal of their low-level radioactive waste.

In a 6-3 ruling, the justices declared unconstitutional a provision that required states to "take title" of their own waste, if they have not joined federally endorsed regional disposal compacts by 1996.

But the court upheld parts of the 1985 law providing federal incentives for states to comply with the waste disposal plan.

"We conclude that while Congress has substantial power under the Constitution to encourage the states to provide for the disposal of the radioactive waste generated within their borders, the Constitution does not confer upon Congress the ability simply to compel the states to do so," wrote Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for the court.

Environmentalists and nuclear industry representatives agreed, however, that most of the federal law had survived.

The court upheld the provision establishing regional compacts in which states with disposal sites can raise the price of dumping in their sites and eventually deny access completely to states outside the compact. So states not in the regional groups will have to

find ways to deal with their own waste.

Most states formed regional compacts to build facilities. Missouri is in a compact with Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, with Ohio as the host state for the dump site. Illinois is in a compact with Kentucky in which Illinois will be the host state.

Director of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, Thomas W. Ortiger, said the court decision "strengthens Illinois' ability to prevent other states from forcing their waste on Illinois."

Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York, which had filed the suit, called the ruling a victory for all states.

Other actions by the court Friday:

Tax Collection: Ruled 6-3 in a victory for state tax collectors that the Wrigley chewing gum company must pay a Wisconsin state income tax.

Red Cross: Ruled that all suits against the Red Cross over transfusions of blood allegedly tainted with the AIDS virus must be filed in federal courts. The 5-4 decision barred a New Hampshire couple from suing in state court.

Mob Boss: Ruled 8-1, that a federal appeals court mistakenly overturned the 1988 racketeering convictions of reputed former mob boss Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno and seven other men. The court gave prosecutors more leeway in excluding from criminal trials evidence that could favor defendants.

Westfall Seeks \$29,600 To Test Equipment

St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall is seeking County Council approval for \$29,600 to test equipment used in cleaning contaminated water at the Weldon Spring quarry. Depending on what the consultant discovers, the county may spend as much as \$78,600 more on further tests, an aide to Westfall said.

At issue is a plan by the federal Department of Energy to clean 3 million gallons of water contaminated with radioactive chemicals and other substances, then to discharge the treated water into the Missouri River.

Westfall's proposal calls for Anderson & Associates of Rolla, Mo., to test the equipment.

JUN 17 1992

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ST. CHARLES POST

ST. LOUIS

Radioactive Cleanup Watch

Neighborhood Leaders Planning To Monitor Work At Old Chemical Works

By Mark Schilnkmann
Of the St. Charles Post

Community leaders in neighborhoods north of downtown St. Louis may form a new group to monitor radioactive waste from the old atomic bomb program at the nearby Mallinckrodt Chemical Works.

Representatives of North Side Concerned Citizens, the Trinity Square Association and Grace Hill Neighborhood Services met Thursday with David Adler, a U.S. Department of Energy official.

The group met in the district office of state Rep. Louis Ford, D-St. Louis.

Also present were Ford and Kay Drey of University City, who has led the fight to clean up various radioactive waste sites in the metropolitan area.

Drey noted that citizen groups in north St. Louis County had been the key to keeping the pressure on against development of a permanent storage site at Lambert Field.

Similarly, "It's got to be the people around here" who closely follow Mallinckrodt, she said.

Adler is in charge of coming up with a plan by 1993 to clean up the Mallinckrodt plant area near the riverfront and the other sites.

Drey and her allies want all the

material taken out of the St. Louis area to a low-population locale.

Adler said most contaminated soil and debris at the Mallinckrodt site was low risk and not a danger to nearby residents.

He said a safety program was under way to ensure that workers in the area were aware of the danger.

"On a normal workday, you're not going to run into significant exposure opportunity," Adler said.

"The potential exists [for danger] if

they ingest or inhale large quantities of soil."

Adler said a cleanup could cost as much as \$100 million.

That prompted Ford to ask: "Why spend \$100 million if it's no danger?"

Adler responded: "While there is not a significant current health threat, the area is sufficiently contaminated [that] we could not walk away" from the site to allow further development.

Drey disputed Adler's comments. "I don't think it's right for you to tell

people it's not dangerous," she said.

George Eberle, Grace Hill president, said he was interested in forming a new group but wanted to know first if it could have a real impact.

He asked Adler to provide a timetable for the federal agency's study.

"I don't want to get them more distressed about something they can't do anything about," Eberle said of residents.

He said he believed lead paint may be a more serious health problem in the immediate area.

In response, Drey said homes in the area near the plant might have radioactive lead paint.

Wednesday, June 17, 1992
North County Metro Post

7N

ST. LOUIS

Radioactive Waste May Be Monitored

By Mark Schlankmann
Regional Political Correspondent

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Same
article
as appeared
6/12/92

Warming Up To Ecoscars

The more you read and investigate to secure the truth about issues involving the environment, the more appalled you will become by all the misinformation being fed to the public by the media and environmental extremists. Nothing gets their creative juices flowing more than stories of impending catastrophes.

They overreacted and misrepresented the facts about such predicted disasters such as Alar, acid rain, asbestos, dioxin, nuclear reactor meltdowns, ozone depletion and now the latest, global warming.



There is no conclusive scientific evidence to support the theory of global warming. In fact, the opinion of the vast majority of the scientific community, along with studies by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, can find no evidence to support this premise. Most scientific evidence I've read or heard about actually proves the opposite. Over the past 38 years we have been getting cooler, not warmer.

A paltry 13 percent of the environmental scientists say there may be evidence of global warming. The Sierra Club and other environmentalists want us to come up with \$1 trillion (with our deficit problem), on a chance there may be global warming. President Bush wants to spend \$1.4 billion over the next two years to study whether the scientific evidence actually supports these claims.

However, the environmental extremists seem unable to wait for the facts. Why are they so afraid to wait to see if the scientific evidence proves there is global warming?

Americans had better wake up to what is happening if they cherish their current lifestyles. If the liberals in government and these environmental groups get their way, and if treaties like those at the Rio summit are signed, our sovereignty could be in jeopardy, with the United Nations telling us what to do to clean up the environment and then make us pay the lion's share of the clean-up costs. It's time Congress learned to spend our tax dollars more wisely.

Sara Hall
St. Louis

Lawmaker Alleges Dioxin Coverup

By Robert L. Koenig

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The chairman of a House panel charged Wednesday that industry and government groups have engaged in a misinformation campaign to play down the dangers of dioxin, the toxic chemical that spurred the evacuation of Times Beach, Mo.

"The public has been duped by an industry propaganda campaign and a handful of federal scientists who have carried the industry's message to the highest levels of government," said Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., chairman of a Government Operations subcommittee.

Weiss alleged, "The latest scientific research indicates that [dioxin] causes even more harm than previously believed. New studies have found it not only to be [cancer-causing], but toxic to the immune system, a cause of birth defects and an inducer of unhealthy biochemical effects."

But federal environmental officials and some House members took issue with Weiss' assertions at a subcommittee hearing Wednesday. They argued that conclusions about the dangers of dioxin should not be drawn until after an ongoing scientific review is completed.

"The toxicity to laboratory animals and human health effects of dioxin remain the subject of active scientific investigation," said Barry L. Johnson, vice chairman of the

See DIOXIN, Page 10

Dioxin

From page one

Public Health Service's environmental health committee.

Johnson said, "The agencies of the Public Health Service remain concerned about the human health implications of dioxins." But he added, "There remain some critical gaps in our knowledge."

The House hearing added fuel to the scientific and policy debate over the dangers of dioxin. A year ago, Dr. Vernon N. Houk — the public health official who recommended evacuating dioxin-contaminated Times Beach in December 1982 — said that in retrospect, the move was an overreaction to assessments of dioxin's dangers.

Houk argued last year that dioxin risks to human health, especially low doses, had been exaggerated. He is the director of the Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control at the Centers for Disease Control.

Federal regulators are now reassessing dioxin's risks and may consider lifting some restrictions on exposure to it.

But some scientists argued Wednesday that dioxin's risks may be greater — not less — than previously thought. Ellen K. Silbergeld, a toxicologist and dioxin expert, told Weiss' subcommittee that some recent studies have heightened her concerns about dioxin.

Silbergeld argued that evacuating Times Beach made sense in 1982 — and would be the right move today.

"Unless we devised other measures to contain dioxin under conditions similar to Times Beach, evacuation

would be a prudent choice," Silbergeld said.

"Nothing we have learned since 1986 provides any scientific basis for reducing our concerns over the potential hazards of dioxins."

Times Beach, a former town of 2,242 in southwestern St. Louis County, was bought by the government after the evacuation. Experts estimate that the cleanup of dioxin-tainted soil in Times Beach will cost about \$200 million by the time it is completed in 2000.

Citing the second-guessing about dioxin's dangers and Times Beach, Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, D-Conn., expressed concerns about "the influence of dioxin-producing industries in the decisions of federal agencies charged with protecting public health."

DeLauro argued that recent evidence "seems to indicate that dioxin standards should be strengthened — not relaxed."

But industry groups — and two Republicans on the House panel — contended that the risks of dioxin exposure had been exaggerated.

"We don't want this to be a political issue," warned Rep. Craig Thomas, R-Wyo.

Dr. Robert Wilson Morgan, an environmental health specialist, expressed "disappointment and concern about the [subcommittee's] rush to judgment regarding dioxin." He said studies of workers who had been exposed to dioxin-containing products had found no consistent health effect other than a skin condition called chloracne.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Monday, June 15, 1992

ST. LOUIS

Radioactive Waste May Be Monitored

By Mark Schlinkmann

Regional Political Correspondent

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6/10/92

8A

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Granite City Mayor Blasts Cleanup

EPA Accused Of Strong-Arm Tactics In Plan For Lead-Tainted Soil

By Robert L. Koenig

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The mayor of Granite City, Ill., accused federal officials Tuesday of using "ram-it-down-your-throat" tactics in pushing for a lead cleanup plan that he said could result in a "Mount Granite City" of contaminated soil.

Calling the federal Environmental Protection Agency "out of control," Mayor Von Dee Cruse told a House panel that the \$30 million EPA plan to clean up lead waste in Granite City "will likely increase the health, social and economic risks to our community."

But, EPA officials defended their plan to scrape away the top layer of soil across a wide swath of lead-contaminated land in Granite City.

The 160,000 cubic yards of soil would be added to a 20-foot-high

waste pile at the old Taracorp plant. The EPA plans to cover the waste pile with soil and grass.

"We have experienced problems, but we have tried to solve them in the spirit of protecting the people who live and work in the area," said Jo Lynn Traub, associate director of Superfund waste management at the EPA's regional office in Chicago.

Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Belleville, slipped into Traub and another EPA official at Tuesday's hearing of the House Public Works Committee's Investigations subcommittee. The hearing focused on problems in managing the EPA's Superfund cleanup programs at Granite City and two sites in other states.

"We cannot displace an entire community where the level of the health threat does not warrant it," Costello told Richard J. Guimond, a public

health expert who is the EPA's National Superfund Director.

"The people in [Granite City] will have to live with EPA's decision for many years to come. My constituents feel that their concerns about the proposed cleanup fall on deaf ears."

Much of the hearing focused on the EPA's techniques of assessing health risks. EPA officials have warned of risks from the lead contamination near the Taracorp site. But a preliminary health study by the Illinois Department of Public Health indicated that lead problems were no worse in Granite City than in many other urban areas.

"Lead in the soil, although perhaps a contributing source in some cases, does not per se explain elevated blood lead levels in young children in the Granite City area," said Dr. Renate Kimbrough, senior medical associate with the Institute for Evaluating Health Risks.

Kimbrough said that 78 children — out of the 827 children tested in the Granite City area — showed blood-lead levels above the present level of concern. She said the "predominant sources of lead were paint in houses and lead in soil."

Lead has been found to be the cause of developmental problems in children. Costello said the Illinois study had found that children in East St. Louis had a higher accumulation of



Mayor Von Dee Cruse
EPA "out of control"

lead in their bodies than children in Granite City, most likely from lead-based paint.

Guimond, of the EPA, said the health study was valuable but was only "a snapshot in time" — and did not reflect longer-term dangers from the lead contamination. "We're trying to protect people down the road," Guimond said.

Cruse takes the position that the level of lead contamination in the soil in Granite City does not warrant the action of the magnitude proposed by the EPA. He believes that normal precautions by residents can avoid health problems caused by lead.

5 Agencies To Test Water At Weldon Spring Quarry

Five agencies will test treated water from the quarry at the abandoned Weldon Spring chemical plant to make sure radioactivity and other contaminants have been removed before it is discharged into the Missouri River.

The discharge point on the river is in St. Charles County, about nine miles upstream from intakes for the St. Louis City Water Division and St. Louis County Water Co.

At a meeting Tuesday to discuss the discharge, the Department of Energy said the treatment plant would be completed by mid-June, with the first batch of treated water ready for sampling in late August.

A meeting to interpret the results will be held when all the laboratory

tests are back, which is expected to take two to three weeks.

Besides the Department of Energy, sampling also will be done by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and health officials from St. Louis and St. Charles counties.

The quarry contains about three million gallons of water contaminated by radioactivity, explosives, heavy metals and other toxic substances. That water, plus any seepage back into the quarry from the surrounding area, will be treated and released in batches of about 800,000 gallons, McCracken said.

The Energy Department also will test samples from the river upstream and downstream of the discharge.

Cleanups Should Begin At Home

Bush Plan To Aid Europe, Russia Overlooks 3,700 Contaminated Nuclear Sites Here

By Eugene J. Carroll Jr.

President Bush may soon order financial aid for a safety program to shut down and clean up dangerous nuclear reactors in Europe and the former Soviet Union. Commendable as his use of American dollars may be for this good cause in Europe, his action flies in the face of one of the best-known teachings of the gospels.

As Matthew wrote: "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ... First take the plank out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from our brother's eye."

One need look no further than the Savannah River site in South Carolina to find a huge plank — one of the most polluted, unsafe nuclear reactor complexes in the world. Five obsolete reactors there have been shut down since 1988 for safety reasons. Approximately \$3 billion have been spent attempting repairs to date with three restart failures as the only results.

An attempt to restart the L reactor in August 1988 resulted in an extremely hazardous condition and emergency shutdown due to technical and procedural errors. In December 1991, an attempt to restart the K reactor resulted in the release of radioactive contamination due to various equipment and safety procedure failures. The latest restart attempt in May 1992 was again shut down for a tritium leak. Now Energy Secretary James Watkins insists on yet another restart to demonstrate that it can produce tritium we don't need for nuclear weapons we plan to dismantle. Talk about a plank in your own eye!

Unfortunately, the Savannah River re-

actors are only a minimal part of the poisonous legacy of the nuclear arms race here at home. The Department of Energy has identified more than 3,700 hazardous sites at nuclear weapons production facilities spread among 13 states. Just within the past three years, the General Accounting Office has published nearly 100 reports on environmental, safety and health problems stemming from unsafe operation of these facilities.

In the course of producing nearly 70,000 nuclear warheads since 1943, the U.S. nuclear weapons industry has gen-

concluded that "the prospects for effective cleanup of the weapons complex in the next several decades are poor." Some sites, such as the Hanford Reservation in Washington state, are so severely contaminated that they may be sealed off and designated — euphemistically — "national sacrifice zones."

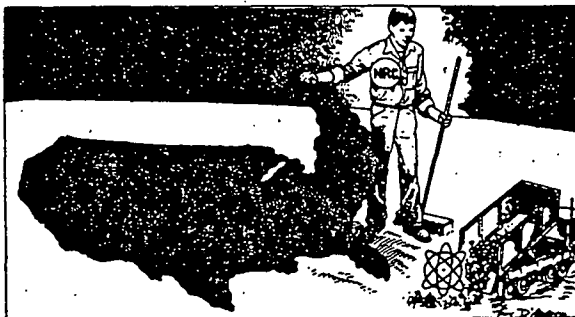
Perhaps the worst hypocrisy concerning nuclear safety and cleanup is Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's insistence on continuing nuclear testing, saying it is necessary for safety and reliability of U.S. nuclear weapons. His own descrip-

tion of the latest U.S. nuclear test, Diamond Fortune, conducted in Nevada on April 30, refutes that claim. Under "effectiveness," he states, that the test is "to better understand the airblast effects of nuclear weapons." Another test, Hunters Trophy, is reported under "survivability" as intended to "examine the survivability of sophisticated space systems in a disturbed

nuclear environment." These are pure war-fighting tests having nothing to do with safety or reliability. We are spending billions of dollars a year to design and test weapons that only add to nuclear danger and pollution in America.

It is bad enough to spend taxpayers' dollars to clean up Europe while we suffer the hazards of 3,700 contaminated nuclear sites. It is criminal to continue to add to that contamination with unnecessary nuclear tests and by operating unsafe reactors to produce unneeded nuclear weapons material. We desperately need to remove the plank in our eye before we look for specks in other eyes.

Eugene J. Carroll Jr., retired rear admiral, is deputy director of the Center for Defense Information, Washington.



erated and accumulated billions of gallons of highly toxic chemical and radioactive wastes. The Atomic Energy Agency and then the Department of Energy dumped, poured, released, baphazardly stored and injected these deadly materials into the ground, water and air. With the Cold War over, fears of death from a nuclear attack are being surpassed by fears of slow death from cancer due to exposure to military contamination.

Watkins recently told the Senate Armed Services Committee that cleaning up toxic and radioactive wastes and restoring the environment around nuclear weapons production facilities could cost \$150 billion to \$200 billion. The Department of Energy hopes to complete the cleanup in 30 years, but a recent report by the Office of Technology Assessment

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Curbs On Waste Struck Down

Supreme Court Rules Against 2 States On Restrictions On Dumping

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court made it more difficult in two decisions Monday for states to keep out garbage and hazardous waste from other states.

The court voted 8-1 to strike down a disposal fee that Alabama has imposed on out-of-state hazardous waste while exempting such waste generated within its borders.

By a 7-2 vote, the justices invalidated a law in Michigan that barred private landfill operators from accepting solid waste generated anywhere but in the county where a dump is located.

The court said both states had unconstitutionally interfered with interstate commerce.

Alabama has imposed the fee on out-of-state waste shipped to the nation's largest hazardous waste dump, a privately owned site near Emelle, Ala.

The court said Alabama may not charge a \$72-a-ton fee on hazardous waste shipped from outside the state if the same fee is not charged for in-state hazardous waste.

"No state may attempt to isolate itself from a problem common to the several states by raising barriers to the free flow of interstate commerce," Justice Byron R. White wrote for the court.

The court said state officials should have considered "less discriminatory alternatives," such as "a generally applicable per-ton additional fee on all hazardous waste disposed of within Alabama or a per-mile tax on all vehicles transporting hazardous waste across Alabama roads, or an even-handed cap on the total tonnage land-filled at Emelle."

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist was the sole dissenter.

The decision was a victory for Chemical Waste Management Inc., which is based in Illinois and runs the Emelle facility.

OTHER SUPREME COURT ACTION

The Supreme Court took action Monday in other areas:

■ **Redistricting:** The court agreed to study a tangled legislative redistricting battle in Ohio, a dispute that could lead to an important ruling on minority voting rights. The court will consider reinstating for the rest of this decade a redistricting plan adopted by a Republican-controlled board for the Ohio General Assembly.

■ **Holocaust Suit:** The court refused to kill a suit against Jewish groups and Los Angeles officials accused of preventing a man who claimed the Holocaust was a hoax from taking part in a library conference.

■ **Racketeering:** The court rejected an appeal by Minnesota consumers who accused Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. of racketeering by bribing public officials to secure phone rate increases. The court, without comment, let stand a ruling that said the company is shielded from such allegations by a doctrine aimed at protecting the independence of agencies setting public utility rates.

■ **Labor Bargaining:** The justices rejected an attempt by the Chicago Tribune Co. to avoid bargaining with a union that the newspaper accused of racial bias.

■ **Nuclear Shipments:** The court rejected an Idaho challenge to the shipment into that state of spent nuclear fuel from a now-inactive reactor in Colorado. The justices rejected arguments that shipping the waste from Fort St. Vrain, Colo., to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory in the state's south-central desert area violated federal law.

The justices told the Alabama Supreme Court to determine what remedy Chemical Waste Management should receive, raising the possibility that refunds could be ordered.

Writing for the court in the Michigan case, Justice John Paul Stevens said the state law was prohibited under a Supreme Court ruling of 1978.

In 1978, the court barred New Jersey from discriminating against out-of-state solid waste — garbage — by banning its shipment into the state.

The 1988 Michigan law barred counties with privately owned and op-

erated landfills from accepting any solid waste generated outside the county. The law, Stevens said, effectively authorized "each of the state's 83 counties to isolate itself from the national economy."

The law must fall "in view of the fact that Michigan has not identified any reason, apart from its origin, why solid waste coming from outside the county should be treated differently from solid waste within the county," the court said.

Rehnquist and Justice Harry A. Blackmun dissented.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

SECTION E

MONDAY, MAY 25, 1992

More Opposing Nuclear Dumps On Indian Land

Doubts Surface In Congress

By Bill Lambrecht

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

CHIEF GERONIMO AND Jim Thorpe came from different tribes a generation apart, but their descendants have teamed up to block storage of high-level nuclear waste on Indian land.

Some members of Congress are beginning to worry as much as the Indians that federal authorities are sniffing too close to home as they scout out space for used and dangerous nuclear-plant fuel.

The combination of defiant Indians and jittery politicians is presenting the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator with its first concerted outbreak of NIMBY — Not In My Back Yard.

Geronimo's Apache tribe in New Mexico and Thorpe's Sac and Fox Nation in Oklahoma were among 15 Indian councils or native corporations that accepted the government's offer to study the storage idea. The Sac and Fox backed out recently, after pressure from Grace Thorpe, 70, daughter of the famous Indian athlete.

"Nuclear waste is not the legacy that we want to leave to our future generations — if Indians have any future generations," Grace Thorpe said.

But the proposal remains alive elsewhere in Indian country, thanks to efforts of the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator and grants from the Department of Energy. Their aim is to find a home for a so-called monitored retrievable storage facility for the highly radioactive fuel from nuclear power plants. About 40,000 metric tons of that material stored at 70 nuclear power plants will become federal property in 1998.

Indian councils make up 15 of the 19 entities agreeing to study the plan. Tribes have been awarded the bulk of almost \$1 billion awarded by the federal government so far. If a tribe or a county agrees to take the waste, they could extract about \$100 million or more over a period of years.

Despite such a bounty, many Indians have become alarmed at the process. After seeing irradial lands taken away by the government or become polluted, they view the nuclear waste proposal as a potential capstone of a century of exploitation.

Some of them, like Lance Hughes, a

Creek Indian from Oklahoma and director of the Native Americans for a Clean Environment, worry that other Indians "are selling us down the river."

Critics traveled a week ago to Albuquerque, N.M., and formed the Native American Energy Network to fight the nuclear plan. Among them were Grace Thorpe and Harlyn Geronimo, great-grandson of the Apache Indian chief.

"Back when Chief Geronimo was alive, people would be shot or kicked out of the tribe if they had anything to do with desecration of the environment," said Harlyn Geronimo, 43, a sculptor on the Mescalero Apache reservation. The Apaches and Wendell Chino, their president for 23 years, are furthest along in studying the federal proposal.

At an Indian conference in Oregon next month, the nuclear waste plan is listed as the first order of business.

In addition, Congress, which gave the Office of the Waste Negotiator its power, has begun to pay closer attention. Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., labeled the overtures to tribes "tantamount to bribery and the worst type of policy for the United States to be involved in. . . . My concern is that Indian people will be abused here."

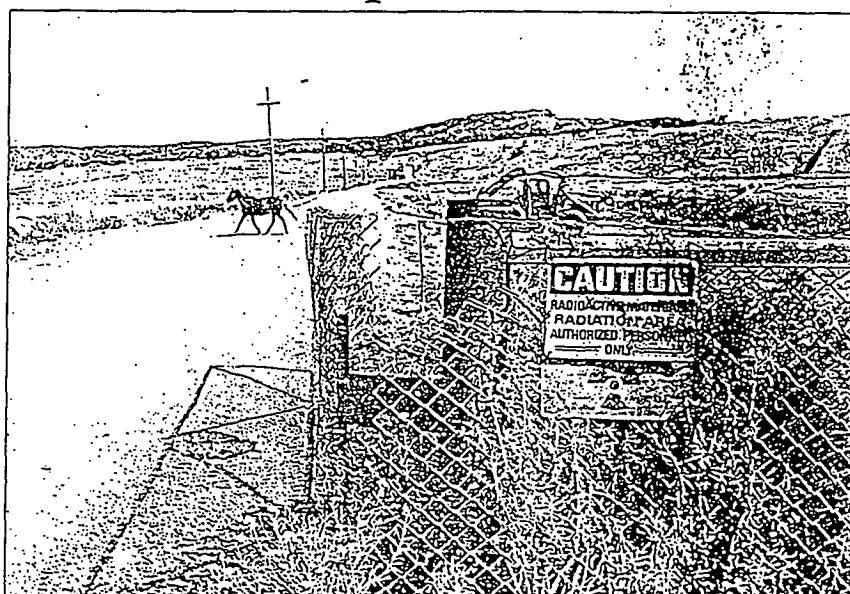
Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., liked that the Apaches have continued to plan, summoned Waste Negotiator David H. Leroy and Fredericka Pese, the Mescalero Apache secretary, to a meeting in Washington this month.

"It was an important moment intended to make it crystal clear for all parties where things stand," said Ari Fleischer, spokesman for Domenici.

Domenici and other members of New Mexico's congressional delegation promise to prevent the Apaches from becoming the waste repository. Leroy knows this and told members of Congress months ago that the Apaches would not advance to late stages in the grant process unless the delegation changes its mind.

Next week, on April 21, the Apaches were awarded an additional \$204,000 by the Department of Energy for so-called Phase B study of the proposal, bringing to \$300,000 the amount of money they have received. The next level of grants would bring them an additional \$2.8 million.

The Office of the Waste Negotiator also is coming under scrutiny in the



Gary Bonn/Post-Dispatch

A horse crossing a road near Church Rock, N.M., in an area still contaminated with low-level radiation from a uranium mine disaster in 1979. In the spill, 34 million gallons of contaminated water flowed onto Navajo grazing land.

House. Rep. Wayne Owens, D-Utah, has asked the House Interior energy and environment subcommittee to hold hearings next month on the office's activities.

"I find it degrading and debilitating to think of taking other people's waste. It should stay where it is," said Owens, who is a candidate in his party's primary for the U.S. Senate.

Such attitudes could be putting Congress on a collision course with self-governing Indian tribes, who expect to deal with the United States on a government-to-government basis. Congress is supposed to consider what

Leroy negotiates.

The Mescalero Apaches, especially, believe that they are well within their rights to proceed. "We can't help it that some people are opposed to it," said Pese, the tribal secretary.

In dealing with tribes, the federal government might succeed in minimizing red tape and dissent down the line, because tribes often are governed in authoritarian, undemocratic ways. In Grant County, N.D., by contrast, voters recalled commissioners this year after they had accepted a \$100,000 award to study the plan.

Pese declined to say whether the

Mescalero Apache tribe would submit the proposal to its 3,000 members for a vote if it decides to pursue the project.

For now, the Mescaleros are content to collect government money that comes from utility ratepayers and pass it on to consultants and public relations advisers. Among the consultants hired is Miller Hudson of Colorado, the former Denver Democratic chairman. In a telephone interview, Hudson blamed "alleged Indian groups and professional Indian objectors" for opposition.

"Clearly, the tribe thinks this still might happen," he said.

Despite the developing clouds, Leroy asserted that his mission was off to a "very, very strong beginning." In addition to the tribes and counties publicly studying the proposal, others are doing so privately, he said.

Leroy, 44, a former attorney general from Idaho who was almost elected governor in 1986, disputes those who say he is targeting Indians and speaks critically of growing opposition.

"We don't fear NIMBY, and we don't feel NIMBY is bad; we feel like it's a natural process. Our challenge is to use that emotion for involvement and participation," he said.

Waste storage plan worries local officials

By Dennis R. Heinze
Staff writer

Although the Department of Energy has proposed to remove radioactive waste from some area residential properties and temporarily store it in Hazelwood, local officials are worried the plan will be permanent.

Several St. Louis County and municipal officials and residents said at a hearing of the County Justice and Health Committee last Thursday that the plan would benefit the five Hazelwood and Berkeley residents who have radioactive waste on their property. But they expressed concern that the waste might be left in North County.

The department was collecting public comment about the plan to store the waste temporarily at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) on Latty Avenue. The plan would not be implemented if the public is dissatisfied with it, DOE officials say.

"I'm appreciative of the fact that we're going to finally see a shovel hit the ground and start picking up some of the dirt," said St. Louis County Councilman John Shear, who called the hearing. He added, however, that he is worried about "creating a permanent situation."

On Thursday, the County Council unanimously passed a resolution drafted by Shear and Councilwoman Geri Rothman-Serot, chair of the committee, urging the DOE to place the contaminated soil in double-hulled containers instead of on top of the existing pile of waste at HISS as proposed.

The resolution also urges St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall to establish an oversight committee within two weeks to seek a permanent solution in cleaning up all county sites and to oversee the interim cleanup. The DOE also would fund the oversight committee and an independent study of the radioactive sites, according to the resolution.

David Adler, a site manager for the DOE, said the department probably would accept the tenets established in the resolution.

Placing the residential waste, about 3,000 cubic yards, in a container would be technically possible, but Adler said the department's engineers would have to study such a plan.

A decision on what to do with the waste is not expected until 1995. Proposals range from storing the waste in a bunker at the airport site to trucking it out of state.

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY
Council Members Approve
Temporary Waste Cleanup**

Two members of the St. Louis County Council say they will go along with a plan for a temporary cleanup and storage of radioactive dirt in North County if the material is stored in double-walled containers.

At a meeting of the council's Justice and Health Committee, John R. Shear of Ferguson and Geri Rothman-Serot of Frontenac also told a representative from the federal Department of Energy that they wanted the material taken out of the St. Louis area permanently.

At issue is radioactive dirt on Latty Avenue, at Lambert Field and at other sites in the St. Louis area.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

U.S. To Pay Consultant To Monitor Cleanup

By Virgil Tipton
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

St. Louis County will get enough money to pay for a private consultant to monitor a cleanup of radioactive waste in the county, but the federal government will retain control of the cleanup, a federal official said Monday.

The news is a mixed response to a request from County Councilman John R. Shear of Ferguson, D-1st District, the council's chairman. Shear had asked the federal Department of Energy for promises regarding its interim cleanup of sites in Berkeley and Hazelwood that are contaminated with radioactivity.

The federal official, David Adler, said the Department of Energy would give the county money for a consultant, as it has done in other areas of the country. Typically, the Energy Department gives local officials about \$50,000, Adler said.

"It's a good idea, and we'd like to

proceed with setting it up," said Adler, the Energy Department official managing the cleanup of the St. Louis sites.

Adler said he also was willing to help set up a local committee to monitor the cleanup. The committee would be a more formal version of a local group that Adler called the St. Louis County Roundtable.

Local officials or their representatives, health officials and others would serve on the committee.

But Adler said he would not grant the group the power to call a halt to the cleanup, as Shear had asked. Adler said that doing so would be an abdication of the department's oversight role. Adler also said he would reject Shear's request for the department to provide a bond of \$250 million to ensure that the waste eventually will be moved from the St. Louis area.

The interim cleanup will involve removing contaminated dirt in Hazelwood and Berkeley and storing it at a current storage area on Latty Avenue.

Shear Seeks Promises On Radioactive Waste

Consultant, Monitoring Of Cleanup Sought

By Virgil Tipton
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The chairman of the St. Louis County Council is asking for promises from the federal government on its plans to clean up radioactive waste in the county, but he doubts that Washington will agree to all of the requests.

An issue is the Department of Energy's plan to clean up the radioactive waste that is contaminating several sites in the area — including one near Lambert Field and one on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood. The Energy Department has been holding hearings and wants to decide by 1995 how the cleanup will be done.

The council's chairman, Councilman John R. Shear of Ferguson, D-1st District, has made three requests in a letter to the Department of Energy. He asks the department to:

- Give the county enough money to hire a consultant on the cleanup.

- Allow a group of local officials and residents to monitor the cleanup. Shear also wants the group to have the power to stop the cleanup.

- Provide a performance bond worth \$250 million to ensure that the waste will be moved from the St. Louis area.

Shear said he doubted that the Energy Department would put up the performance bond. But he said he thought it would consider the other measures.

Shear conceded that the county had no authority to force the Energy Department to meet the requests.

Although the Energy Department has said it is considering moving the material permanently out of the state or into rural Missouri, Shear said that he wanted more assurance than that.

"I still don't trust them," he said. "I'm sure they made promises and commitments 40 years ago."

The sites were contaminated by wastes produced by the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, which had a government contract to process uranium.

An Energy Department official in charge of the cleanup could not be reached for comment.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1992

Illinois Town Is Expected To OK Nuclear Dump

By Daniel R. Browning
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The city of Martinsville, Ill., is expected to sign an agreement Wednesday to allow the construction of a site for low-level radioactive waste in exchange for at least 100 permanent jobs, a new water system, price supports for local crops, products and real estate, and other economic incentives valued at more \$2.2 million a

year.

Thomas W. Ortclger, director of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, said in a telephone interview Monday that the final draft of the 36-page agreement would be presented to the Martinsville City Council.

"My indication, based on the way they had us write it up, with all their signature [lines] in place, was that they will sign it," Ortclger said.

Martinsville Mayor Truman Dean was quoted in a press release prepared by Ortclger's office as saying the proposal "gives the city the oversight we need, and will help us build a better city of Martinsville for future generations."

A copy of the document was obtained by the Post-Dispatch. It lists the prime contractor as Chem-Nuclear Systems Inc.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

BUSINESS

SECTION B

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

Sverdrup 'Disappointed' About Lambert Job

By Margaret Gillerman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Sverdrup Corp. officials say they believe their firm was "by far the best qualified" for the job of project manager for the \$1.5 billion expansion of Lambert Field, and that they are "disappointed" the company was bypassed for the job.

Top officials at the St. Louis-based company declined to speculate as to why they were overlooked by the selection committee, which was dominated by appointees of Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr.

Milton F. Svetanics, chief of staff to Schoemehl and a member of the selection committee, said the choice of New York-based Turner Construction Co. "says nothing derogatory about any of the other applicants."

Sverdrup is "an outstanding company and we had four very outstanding groups of com-

panies that were vying for this unique task," Svetanics said.

He declined to discuss allegations Turner was being rewarded for its support for Schoemehl in his gubernatorial race or for its involvement in any fundraisers.

Others on the Turner team are Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City and Unzelman-DuBose of Chicago. Four minority or women-owned firms have been proposed. The team will be paid about \$25.5 million.

The city selection committee rejected three other teams, including the one headed by Sverdrup. The team will help recommend firms to receive some of the millions of dollars in construction and engineering work for the expansion.

Sverdrup spokesman Jerry Bryan said Wednesday he did not want to discuss "reasons or motivations" for the committee's decision.

"So far as basic facts are concerned, we competed very strongly for this project based on our qualifications and our credentials," Bryan said. "Sverdrup is one of the largest program management firms in the United States in the field of airport development and airport expansion. We believe we were by far the best qualified firm in this competition ... and we are deeply disappointed that we were not selected."

Norbert Groppe, head of the city's Board of Public Service, said that the teams were evaluated fairly and that the mayor did not intercede.

"We followed our procedure and, as far as we're concerned, the best qualified and best experienced team was awarded the contract," he said.

Both Turner and Sverdrup had contributed to Schoemehl's campaign for governor. Some

have speculated Schoemehl has been trying to tap new money from firms in other cities.

Sverdrup and the mayor have a bumpy history over the last few years. They tangled in the mid-1980s when Sverdrup proposed developing a county football stadium at Riverport; that plan was backed by then-County Executive Gene McNary. Svetanics declined to comment on that history.

Michael Palumbo, with Turner's offices here, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

A spokesman for Comptroller Virvius Jones said the selection of any team as project manager was "premature and unwarranted."

The Federal Aviation Administration "has not approved any — I emphasize any — master plan for the expansion of Lambert Airport," said Ivy Neyland-Pinkston, strategic planning manager for Jones.

ST. LOUIS/MONDAY

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1992

State Gets Title To Times Beach Takeover Part Of Dioxin Cleanup

By Virgil Tipton
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The state of Missouri has become the owner of a contaminated ghost town that may someday become a park.

Earlier this month, the state acquired title to Times Beach, a one-time suburb in west St. Louis County that was abandoned in the early 1980s after the discovery that the town was contaminated with dioxin.

Having the state take title to Times Beach was part of an agreement with the EPA several years ago, said John Young of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The town had been held in trust by Marilyn Leistner, the last mayor of Times Beach, whom Gov. John Ashcroft had appointed as trustee.

Ownership of the town will give the state more control over the cleanup there, said Young, deputy division director of the department's division of environmental quality.

"It's especially important during the remediation phase for the state to

have control of the property so that we can make sure this remediation goes on in a safe manner," Young said.

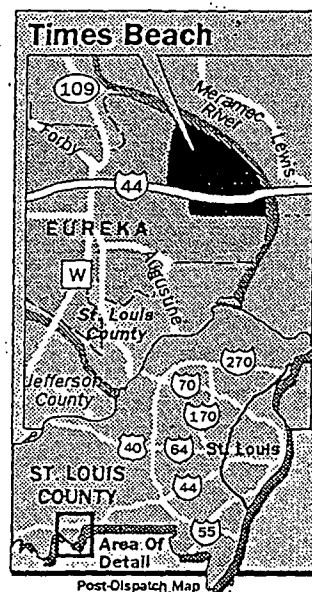
Lee Brotherton, director of transportation and environmental policy for St. Louis County, said the transfer simplified the questions of ownership and oversight.

"We're glad it's finally gone over to them," Brotherton said. "Now, in the future, we know who we're going to be talking to."

Agribusiness Technologies Inc., which has the job of cleaning up dioxin contamination at Times Beach, says the project is on schedule. Earlier this month, the company said it had completed demolition of buildings there.

The company is getting ready to choose a subcontractor to build a temporary incinerator to burn dioxin-contaminated dirt from Times Beach and 26 other contaminated sites in eastern Missouri. A levee also will be built around the incinerator to protect it from flooding.

The state says that after the seven-year cleanup, the town may be converted into a park.



Post-Dispatch Map

verted into a park.

Dioxin, a byproduct in the manufacture of other chemicals, has been linked to cancer and to liver, kidney, bladder and nervous system disorders in laboratory animals. Dioxin was in waste oil sprayed on Times Beach's unpaved streets in the 1970s to keep dust down.



**The U.S. Department of Energy is seeking public comment
on an
Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis-
Environmental Assessment (EE/CA-EA)
for the
proposed decontamination of properties in the
vicinity of the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS).**

The EE/CA-EA report has been prepared in support of the removal of radioactively contaminated soil from residential, commercial, and municipal properties in the communities of Hazelwood and Berkeley in the North County area.

The report analyzes the waste control alternatives for cleanup of the Hazelwood and Berkeley properties and the rationale for selection of removal/excavation of the contaminated soil as the preferred action.

The removal action currently being proposed is an interim action pending completion in 1995 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 interim plan and the long-term review are part of DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

Implementation of comprehensive cleanup measures will be preceded by a complete environmental review process including preparation of a remedial investigation/feasibility study-environmental impact statement. This review is required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The properties slated for cleanup 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 properties included in the cleanup were contaminated during the 1960s and 70s 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.

The DOE proposal includes transporting the contaminated soils to the Hazelwood Interim

Storage Site 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.

During the next 30 days through May 8, 1992, DOE is looking forward to receiving written comments. The address is:

David G. Adler, Site Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Field Office
Former Sites Restoration Division
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723.

The EE/CA-EA report may be viewed by the public in the administrative record along with other documents related to the environmental review process. The administrative record is available during normal business hours at the following locations:

Government Information Section
St. Louis Public Library
1301 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO

St. Louis County Library
Prairie Commons Branch
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO

DOE Public Information Center
9200 Latty Ave.
Hazelwood, MO

Copies of the EE/CA-EA may also be requested through the DOE Public Information Center at 9200 Latty Avenue, Hazelwood, MO 63042, telephone (314) 524-4083. Or requestors may call the DOE toll-free information number, 1-(800)253-9759, and leave a message which will be answered promptly.

the SHOPPER NEWS

Zone 3: Lodi ▼ Hasbrouck Heights ▼ Wood-Ridge ▼ Maywood ▼ Rochelle Park

April 1, 1992

'Stop work' order lifted

By CHRIS NEIDENBERG
Of The Shopper News

MAYWOOD — Construction Code Official Joseph Mellone has lifted a stop work order he placed on a West Pleasant Avenue building, to be run by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), after developer George Haag took out the proper plumbing permits for the facility.

Mellone said the order, issued March 13, was lifted on March 20, after Haag cooperated by having a certified plumber take out the permit and inspect and correct work

which he said Haag performed as an unlicensed plumber.

"The plumber picked up the permit, visited the site and discussed with Mr. Haag what had to be done," Mellone reported on March 25. "He (plumber) opened up several walls, removed all the piping which was put in and put in new piping to conform with the code. I've met with Bechtel (representatives) and they're on top of the situation."

Mellone, who reviewed the situation with Plumbing Inspector Leonard Falato, said the borough is "very happy"

with the work the licensed plumber performed. He had contended that Haag engaged in improper plumbing installation work in connecting a sink and a toilet.

Haag could not be reached for comment last week. He previously denied that he did any extensive plumbing work requiring permits, and vowed to fight a \$175 Mellone has assessed by appealing to the Bergen County Board of Construction Appeals.

Haag, a school board member, has maintained that Mellone treated him unfairly

because he opposed his appointment. But Mellone has said he gave Haag time to correct the situation before levying the \$50 fine (the only amount Haag has paid), and could have levied a maximum fine of \$500.

At the council's March 24 meeting, Democratic Councilwoman Joan Winnie, denied Haag is being pestered.

"There was no harassment involved," said Winnie, liaison to Mellone's department.

Once all work is completed, the facility will be staffed by DOE contractor Bechtel National Corporation.

ST. LOUIS

SECTION.

• SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1992

35 Years Later, Radiation Worry Linger

'Cluster' Of Cancer Deaths Followed Contaminated Dust Spills

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Dale Lakenburger remembers the dump trucks that rumbled past his family's property on Hazelwood Avenue, dust billowing and debris dropping from the beds in back.

"They'd hit the railroad tracks right there — the tracks were higher then — and a lot of the dirt bounced off," Lakenburger said. "We didn't know what was in the trucks. We thought it was fill dirt."

The year was 1956, and the cargo was radioactively contaminated debris from the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works off North Broadway in St. Louis.

Some 35 years later, it still haunts Lakenburger.

The Department of Energy has announced plans about to clean up the contamination in Lakenburger's yard, on the corner of Hazelwood and Nyrlot avenues in Hazelwood, and at four other residential sites.

The contaminated soil from the yards and

"We recognize it was unusual to have that many [cancer cases] near a waste site, but it could be random chance."

JIM DAVIS,
Missouri Health Department

ditches will be excavated and added to another Mallinckrodt waste storage site monitored by the department. The areas then will be covered with fresh topsoil and replanted with grass.

That was the good news that came out of a meeting last month at Berkeley High School. David Adler, a department official, said the excavation of contaminated soil from the residential areas could begin this spring.

In the 1950s, Mallinckrodt Inc. had a government contract to process uranium for nuclear weapons. The trucks were taking low-level waste materials from that processing to a dump site north of Lambert Field.

The cleanup of the Mallinckrodt plant, the dump site near the airport and a third storage area on Latty Avenue, where covered piles are within eyesight of Lakenburger's field, is still more than three years off, Adler said.

Lakenburger is thankful for the quicker action on his property.

In an interview in his home, Lakenburger thumbed through a folder full of correspondence with the Energy Department.

Among the papers is a grid of a 200-foot-by-50-foot strip of his property closest to Hazelwood Avenue. The diagram was marked where 20 soil samples had been taken to depths of three feet.

Several had radiation levels of thorium-230 that exceeded the government guidelines for residual concentrations in soil.

See DEBRIS, Page 4



Gary Bohn/Post-Dispatch
Dale Lakenburger of Hazelwood standing on his contaminated land

Finding The Energy (Dept.) To Clean Up

By Henry D. Royal

The Department of Energy has earned the distrust of most St. Louisans and most Americans. Rather than serving as role models for the nuclear industry, the department's facilities have been run more like hoodlum organizations. Historically, the department has flouted the law and polluted our land. Understandably, St. Louisans are angry and they demand that the department's nuclear mess be cleaned up.

Anger can cloud our judgment. We may seek retribution or revenge and forget our real goals. To keep this from happening we must list the things that we hope to achieve by cleaning up St. Louis' nuclear waste. Two important goals should be protecting the health of the public and protecting the environment.

How is the health of the public being damaged by St. Louis' nuclear waste? To know what health effects to expect, we need to know the radiation dose to members of the public. The department estimates that the maximum credible exposure to a member of the general public would be less than 20 millirems of radiation each year. This maximum radiation dose from this waste compares to the 360 millirems the average American is exposed to annually from various sources. The department estimates that the average radiation dose to members of the general public is too small to measure.

If we believe the department's radiation dose estimates, the effect on the public health of the radiation from St. Louis' nuclear waste would be much less than the effect of radon on the public health. If we don't believe the estimates, our first priority should be to calculate a radiation dose that we can

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How is the environment being damaged by St. Louis' nuclear waste? How likely is it that animals and plants will be harmed by the radiation dose? How will this harm express itself? Will extensive excavation of the waste cause more environmental harm than good? What exactly are our environmental goals?

Some things are certain. The cleanup will be very expensive. Depending on the option that St. Louisans choose, the local cleanup could cost well over \$1.5 billion. After all is done, will there be any measurable improvement in the health of the public? If so, what will these improvements be? Will they be worth the cost? Could a greater improvement in our health be achieved by opting to spend less on the clean-up and more on health care for the poor?

If we are to prevent the most deaths and illnesses, we must spend our limited public health dollars wisely. Diverting a large share of our resources to protect ourselves from small risks will necessarily condemn many others to preventable deaths from much bigger health risks.

The cost-effectiveness of the different options for cleaning up St. Louis' nuclear waste sites is rarely discussed. The argument goes, "The Department of Energy is responsible for the nuclear waste. It should clean it up regardless of the costs."

The problem is that its money is our money. We should see to it that it is spent wisely and responsibly. We should not allow our anger to cloud our judgment.

Henry D. Royal, M.D., is an associate professor of radiology at Washington University School of Medicine.

THE FLORISSANT VALLEY REPORTER

"The oldest independently owned newspaper in North County, Now in Our 42nd Year"

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VOLUME 72 - NUMBER 5

(USPS 202-520)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1992

12 PAGES - 40 CENTS PER COPY

**DOE Gets the Message:
Move the Radioactive Dirt Out;
● "St. Louis County Tires Of It," Says Westfal**

By Jeanette Eberlin, Special Correspondent for the Reporter

More than 200 people crammed into Berkeley Senior High School auditorium last Tuesday to bombard Department of Energy officials with one strong message. Passions were stirred as the message was delivered: Stop the delays, and move the contaminated material out - now.

The public meeting had been called by DOE officials to air their plans for the cleanup of the radioactive waste stored on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood, some stored at a site near Lambert Field and the contaminated material at the Mallinckrodt Inc. complex in North St. Louis.

After a 30 minute presentation by David Adler, site manager for the DOE, the three member panel heard more than 50 speakers whose major complaint was that the agency "is taking too much time to solve the problem."

Adler told the crowd the comprehensive plan will be announced in 1995. "Then a plan will be decided upon," he said.

He listed three alternatives the agency might consider: permanently store the contaminated material on the site at the airport location; building a dedicated facility somewhere else in Missouri, in a rural area, or taking it out of state to a commercial facility.

In an interview later Adler said there is one more alternative, that is taking it out of state to an existing federal facility, or a commercial facility.

"We are also looking at the possibility of somehow treating the waste to remove the radioactivity; this would diminish the volume greatly, but at present there is no proven technology to do this. But, we are researching the possibility," he said. He added that this research won't stall the process.

"If the technology is not quickly available, we'll discontinue the option,"

Adler told the crowd the DOE also plans to clean up the yards in residences immediately in the vicinity of the Hazelwood site. Also, on the grounds of businesses in that area on an "as needed" basis; the soil has to be dis-

turbed for sewer work, or other kinds of activity. This soil will be taken to the Hazelwood site.

There are approximately one million cubic yards of material in the St. Louis area, Adler said. About 30,000 cubic yards are stored on Latty Avenue in the two large piles, and about 70,000 under the piles in the ground. At the airport site there are about 250,000 cubic yards, and at Mallinckrodt, 288,000 cubic yards.

All elected officials were given the opportunity to address the panel first. Some "big guns" from the state and county took aim at the panel and vented their frustrations.

Lee Brotherton, special assistant to St. Louis County Executive George "Buzz" Westfall read a statement from the executive who was in Jefferson City.

The statement charged, "The people of St. Louis County are adamantly opposed to any solution which leaves this waste in our community. Quite simply, this community will not accept the permanent storage of radioactive waste in a densely populated urbanized area. Any remedy that allows this waste to remain in the heart of St. Louis County is inappropriate and a threat to the health of our citizens. The county executive will oppose any such proposal."

"As everyone knows, this waste was produced as the result of wartime production on behalf of the United States government. This community played its part in the war effort, but the war has been over for decades and the federal government alone is responsible for the waste it produced."

"St Louis County is tired of waiting and requests that this process be accelerated as much as possible," the statement said.

St. Louis County Council President John Shear seemed to shake the walls when he thundered, "All you're doing is delaying, delaying and delaying. If you continue doing that, 100 years from now we'll still have those 'temporary' sites."

Shear had been active in organizing a referendum in St. Louis City and County in November 1990 in which 80

percent of voters asked that the material not be stored permanently in a bunker near the airport.

"Nine out of ten people voted to get rid of this stuff; it was a message from the people," Shear said.

When his turn at bat came, Berkeley Mayor Bill Miller pointed out to the panelists, "This type of hearing has been held at least five times. Now, if the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) does not agree with your plans, we could go on for 10 more years. This is unacceptable; we want it out of here so we can move on with our lives."

Miller called upon members of Congress and the U. S. Senate to initiate new legislation to "accomplish this goal."

Joan Bray, U. S. Rep. Joan Kelly Horn's district director, read a prepared statement from the Congresswoman that suggested the waste be moved to a commercial facility in a rural area of a western state. She pointed out that there is such a facility that has been used for this purpose, and it soon will come under the auspices of the EPA.

Horn has been working with U. S. and local officials for the past 13 months to solve this problem. On June 14, 1991 Horn had asked Admiral James Watkins, U. S. Secretary of Energy, that the target date for the complete feasibility study be moved forward from March 31 of next year to September 30 of this year; also, that the record of decision be moved to March 31 of next year instead of September 30, 1994.

Hazelwood Councilwoman Mollie Rickey gave her address on a softer note, but her message was as determined as the previous speakers.

She began by commending the DOE on the studies made as a prerequisite for the cleanup of the three groups of properties.

Quoting from the DOE's work plan dated December 1991, she said, "Because of the extensive amount of information already known about the St. Louis site, extensive additional sampling should not be required to begin evaluation of alterna-

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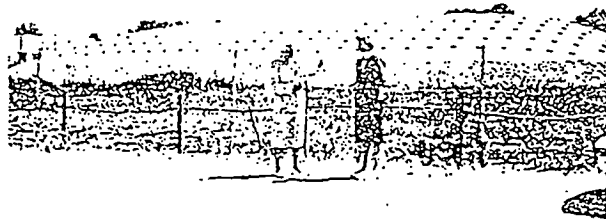
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Mollie Rickey and Congresswoman Joan Kelly Horn discussing radioactive waste pile (in background) on Latty Avenue site in Hazelwood

tives for remedial action.

"The time for study and discussion is passed," she stressed. "We must act now. Please, I implore you to reschedule the issuance of the record of decision from 1995 to 1992."

In a dynamic presentation, Gilda Evans, whose family

resides on a street in the immediate vicinity of the Latty Avenue site, told the panelists that there have been 14 cases of cancer reported in that area.

She said she feels that being exposed to the radiation since his birth has caused her son's Leukemia.

"For years this pile was exposed and this dirt has blown all over this area."

"My wish is that all the waste sites be transported in a safe manner to some 'No Man's Land' not to endanger anyone or ruin anyone else's neighborhood and be stored safely."

Jeanne Russell King Files for State Representative



Jeanne Russell King, Democratic Candidate for State Representative, 78th District

On January 14, 1992, Jeanne Russell King, filed for State Representative in the 78th district.

Jeanne King has lived in Florissant for 34 years and as the daughter of former State Representative James (Jay) Russell has spent the greater part of her life in the business of state government.

She is married to Richard King and is the mother of five children.

She attended St. Ferdinand Grade School, St. Mary's Academy, the St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, and the

University of Missouri-St. Louis where she earned her degree in Communication Broadcasting.

Her campaign opened on Thursday, January 30, at luncheon held at Sherwood Forest Restaurant in Hazelwood.

A large group of supporters and area business leaders were in attendance as Ms. King announced her candidacy and her goals for the residents of the district.

Foremost in her remarks were education and jobs for Missouri citizens.

Florissant Elks Host Drug Awareness Day

The Florissant Elks Lodge #2316 will host its third annual "Drug Awareness Day" Sunday, February 9, 1992 at the Elks Lodge, 16400 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant.

The events of the day are to arouse awareness in identifying drugs and the effects of drug abuse. Activities are

scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. for families and their children.

Many community leaders, including "Buzz" Westfall and Bob McCulloch, St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney, will officiate over the afternoon activities.

The Overland Police

Department will do a demonstration with "Smoke" the drug-sniffing dog. They will also display their drug identification kit.

Students from Brown Elementary School trained

SEE DRUG AWARENESS, PAGE 2

Finding The Energy (Dept.) To Clean Up

By Henry D. Royal

The Department of Energy has earned the distrust of most St. Louisans and most Americans. Rather than serving as role models for the nuclear industry, the department's facilities have been run more like hoodlum organizations. Historically, the department has flouted the law and polluted our land. Understandably, St. Louisans are angry and they demand that the department's nuclear mess be cleaned up.

Anger can cloud our judgment. We may seek retribution or revenge and forget our real goals: To keep this from happening we must list the things that we hope to achieve by cleaning up St. Louis' nuclear waste. Two important goals should be protecting the health of the public and protecting the environment.

How is the health of the public being damaged by St. Louis' nuclear waste? To know what health effects to expect, we need to know the radiation dose to members of the public. The department estimates that the maximum credible exposure to a member of the general public would be less than 20 millirems of radiation each year. This maximum radiation dose from this waste compares to the 360 millirems the average American is exposed to annually from various sources. The department estimates that the average radiation dose to members of the general public is too small to measure.

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believe so we can estimate the public health effects.

How is the environment being damaged by St. Louis' nuclear waste? How likely is it that animals and plants will be harmed by the radiation dose? How will this harm express itself? Will extensive excavation of the waste cause more environmental harm than good? What exactly are our environmental goals?

Some things are certain. The cleanup will be very expensive. Depending on the option that St. Louisans choose, the local cleanup could cost well over \$1.5 billion. After all is done, will there be any measurable improvement in the health of the public? If so, what will these improvements be? Will they be worth the cost? Could a greater improvement in our health be achieved by opting to spend less on the clean-up and more on health care for the poor?

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The problem is that its money is our money. We should see to it that it is spent wisely and responsibly. We should not allow our anger to cloud our judgment.

Henry D. Royal, M.D., is an associate professor of radiology at Washington University School of Medicine.

Debris

From page one

"The highest readings were right there near the railroad tracks," said Lakenburger.

Although the field was designated for cleanup because of the test results, an official follow-up letter told Lakenburger that "the contamination on your property poses no foreseeable hazard."

Said Lakenburger: "They told me I'd have to eat the ground for 50 years to die from it."

Radiation can cause cancer. Four residents on Nyflet — two adults and two children living in four houses in a row — have been stricken over the years by leukemia, which is cancer of the white blood cells. Two were related to Lakenburger.

He said his elderly mother was diagnosed with leukemia in the weeks before her death. But the most stunning blow to Lakenburger and his

wife, LaVerne, was the death of their son, Michael, 15, from leukemia in 1970.

Because only one in every 10,000 Americans develops leukemia, the Missouri Department of Health in 1989 began a study of the "cancer cluster" on Nyflet to see whether it was related to the Mallinckrodt debris.

"The numbers were too small to come to a firm conclusion on that issue," said Jim Davis of the agency's Bureau of Cancer Epidemiology and Control. "We recognize it was unusual to have that many near a waste site, but it could be random chance."

Lakenburger, 64 and retired, has three other grown children. He remains unsure about the health threat.

"I had horses in the field where the contamination is, and one lived to be 32 years old," he said. "Friends with horses would come out and ride down there where the piles are on Latty. The kids next door would dig caves in it."

"I had two friends who had boys die of the same thing, but they weren't

around here. But if there's one millionth of a chance...

Lakenburger owns two homes on 4.5 acres at the corner of Nyflet and Hazelwood. He tried unsuccessfully to sell the property a couple of years ago. He was required by law to disclose the radioactive contamination to prospective buyers.

"We had a lot of callers," he said. "I really don't know if that scared them off or not."

Much of the area nearby now is commercial. Warehouses, trucking firms and light industrial operations sit across the street from Lakenburger's fenced-in field.

"None of this was here when we first moved here," Lakenburger said. "It was all farm ground. I liked it the way it was."

And Lakenburger said he would be glad to have his property the way it was before the big trucks moved through decades ago — before the contamination.

"I'll be glad to see it go," he said.

"Everybody in the neighborhood will be glad to see it go."

Residents want waste removed

Dennis R. Heinze
Staff writer

Not long after one of the nuclear reactors at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island experienced a breakdown in 1979, Anne Kennedy decided to move home to Berkeley away from the threat of radiation.

"I was very frightened at that time," she said. "I had a newborn child, and I wanted out. I came back to what I called

home, but what I call home now scares me."

Kennedy's concern stems from living in the same area as two radioactive waste storage sites. At a public hearing organized by the Department of Energy last Tuesday at Berkeley High School, Kennedy was one of more than 35 local residents and public officials to demand the agency get rid of the waste.

See WASTE, Page 5A



Ted Faulhaber photo

John Shear, St. Louis County Council chairman, asking Department of Energy officials to remove radioactive waste stored at several sites in the St. Louis area.

Waste

From Page 1A

"I think it is the most incredibly lousy location for a temporary storage, permanent storage or any other possibility that you may come up with," Kennedy said. "I think it needs to be out of this state. It needs to be in an area that is not populated."

The radioactive waste, which was generated during the production of atomic weapons and fuel from the 1940s to the 1960s, is stored at three St. Louis sites: an industrial area in downtown St. Louis, a parcel of land adjacent to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and property located on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood. Some transportation routes and residences between the sites also are contaminated.

The DOE is studying the sites to identify the extent of the contamination and to evaluate clean-up alternatives. Comments from the hearing, which was attended by more than 200 people, also will be used by the agency to decide in 1995 what action it will take, said David Adler, DOE site manager.

If it were up to the residents, the DOE would move the waste either to a rural area in the state or to another state. Most citizens also vehemently opposed a proposal to consolidate the waste in a bunker at the airport site.

"My wish is that all the waste sites all over be transferred in a safe manner to some no-man's land not to endanger anyone or ruin anyone else's neighborhood," said Gilda Evans, who lives a quarter-mile from the Latty Avenue site.

Evans blames the radiation at the site for the breast cancer she is recovering from as well as her 6-year-old son's leukemia and Down's syndrome.

Lee Brotherton, special assistant to St. Louis County Executive George "Buzz" Westfall, said the cleanup has taken too long and the waste should be removed.

"The people of St. Louis County are adamantly opposed to any solution which leaves this waste in our community," he said. "The community will not accept permanent storage of radioactive waste in a densely populated, urbanized area."

John Shear, chairman of the County Council, added: "As you're doing is delaying and delaying and delaying. Put all the charts and graphs and plans aside and listen to what the people are saying in this area and get the stuff out of here."

However, Berkeley resident Martin Buchheit told the audience that other areas in the state and country will not want to accept the waste either. He said local residents should study the clean-up proposals instead of reacting negatively to them on a purely emotional level.

North County
Journal
February 2, 1992
P. 1

DOE organizing clean-up plan

The Department of Energy has developed a schedule for clean-up of the three radioactive contaminated sites in St. Louis and the other contaminated sites in the vicinity.

- Spring 1992: Complete clean-up proposal for some residential, commercial and municipal properties in Berkeley and Hazelwood. The public will have a chance to review and comment on the proposal prior to its implementation.

- Spring 1992: Complete the study of the sites concerning the extent of the contamination and the nature of the health risks at the three sites.

- Spring 1992 to late 1993:

Evaluate practical alternatives of cleaning up the sites, such as removal of the contaminated soil and debris to a site in rural Missouri or to a site elsewhere in the country. Another option would be to consolidate the waste at the airport site.

- Late 1993 or early 1994: Propose a plan for cleaning up the waste and give the public the opportunity to review and comment.

- 1995: Finalize the plan, continuing to work with other agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Natural Resources, and begin implementation.

Chairman Shear goads scientists

Not all opposition to a controversial proposal has to take the form of an angry demand.

It can be a light-hearted remark as well.

When 200 local residents and public officials had a chance to comment at a public forum about radioactive waste stored at three sites in the St. Louis area since the 1940s, most angrily asked the Department of Energy to remove the waste.

But John Shear, St. Louis County Council chairman, summed up the opposition with a facetious comment. Shear said the radioactive material has been in St. Louis so long that he wonders whether the

scientists working on the problem now are related to the original producers of the waste.

"Are those scientists and experts the sons and grandsons and granddaughters and daughters of the scientists who 40 years ago said it was OK to store this stuff out here and it would never be a problem?" he questioned, eliciting laughter and applause from the audience.

"If they are, then four years from now, they're going to have a solution that isn't going to work either," Shear concluded, demanding: "Get this stuff out of here!"

— Dennis R. Heinze



Hazelwood Councilwoman Mollie Rickey and Congresswoman Joan Kelly Horn discussing radioactive waste pile (in background) on Latty Avenue site in Hazelwood

tives for remedial action.

"The time for study and discussion is passed," she stressed. "We must act now. Please, I implore you to reschedule the issuance of the record of decision from 1995 to 1992."

In a dynamic presentation, Gilda Evans, whose family

resides on a street in the immediate vicinity of the Latty Avenue site, told the panelists that there have been 14 cases of cancer reported in that area.

She said she feels that being exposed to the radiation since his birth has caused her son's Leukemia.

"For years this pile was exposed and this dirt has blown all over this area.

"My wish is that all the waste sites be transported in a safe manner to some 'No Man's Land' not to endanger anyone or ruin anyone else's neighborhood and be stored safely."

1-25-92 8-A

U.S. Cancels New Nuclear Warheads

\$1 Billion May Be Saved

©1992, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's administration has decided to cancel production of the only nuclear warhead that had remained on the U.S. military's order books, halting the nation's nuclear bomb-building indefinitely, senior U.S. officials disclosed Friday.

The decision, scheduled to be announced Wednesday by Energy Secretary James D. Watkins, reflects what the officials described as waning concern about the nuclear threat to the United States and a desire to cut defense expenditures further.

The officials said the move to cancel production of the warhead, known as the W-88, was consistent with other recent steps to shrink the nation's nuclear weapons production complex. They said some of the savings, estimated at more than \$1 billion, was likely to be shifted to cleaning up environmental damage wrought by decades of nuclear bomb-building.

No U.S. nuclear warheads with new triggers have been manufactured since July 1990. Experts said cancellation of the W-88 marked the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age that the United States had no warheads in production, on order or under development.

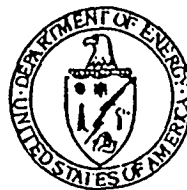
The officials said the move would lead to a partial shutdown of the nuclear weapons plant at Rocky Flats, Colo., outside Denver, where plutonium triggers for the warhead were to have been made later this year.

The government has spent more than \$1 billion since 1989 to repair environmental and safety problems there in the expectation that nuclear warhead manufacturing would resume.

Watkins said last month that "we've just about identified the (W-88) ... as the only thing left for Rocky Flats to do." But officials said Friday that some of the plant's operations, not directly tied to production of plutonium triggers, would proceed amid cutbacks there of more than 1,000 workers.

The W-88 was developed by Los Alamos National Laboratory, under Energy Department supervision, for use with the Trident II ballistic missile deployed aboard strategic submarines. It has a nuclear explosive force equivalent to 475,000 tons of TNT, compared with 15,000 tons packed by the U.S. atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

Officials said an existing, much less powerful warhead known as the W-76 now would be used on missiles slated for deployment aboard strategic submarines.



**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INVITES INTERESTED
CITIZENS TO A PUBLIC MEETING
for the
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
OF THE
ST. LOUIS SITE**

**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 1992
Berkeley Senior High School Auditorium
8710 Walter Avenue
Berkeley, Missouri**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a public meeting on January 28 to receive public comments on environmental studies of three radioactively contaminated sites in the St. Louis area.

Known collectively as the St. Louis Site, the three separate sites are designated for cleanup by DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The sites are located in an industrial area in downtown St. Louis, on land adjacent to the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, and on property located on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood.

The public meeting is an opportunity for residents living in these communities, as well as other interested parties, to participate and comment on the ongoing environmental studies. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Berkeley Senior High School, 8710 Walter Avenue, Berkeley, Missouri. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

FUSRAP is responsible for identifying and restoring sites contaminated with radioactive materials resulting from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. Contamination at the St. Louis Site resulted from uranium processing and waste management activities from the 1940s through the 1970s.

DOE's Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is a key step in the cleanup process. The RI/FS is intended to determine the nature, extent, and environmental impacts of existing contamination. The RI/FS will also identify and evaluate a variety of cleanup alternatives, ranging from no action to on-site or off-site disposal of contaminated materials.

DOE's environmental studies will combine the regulatory requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (CERCLA/SARA). The environmental impact statement requirements of NEPA will be addressed in the RI/FS documentation.

The St. Louis Site RI/FS is scheduled to be completed in 1995. Before a cleanup alternative is selected, DOE will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed action. Under the provisions of a Federal Facilities Agreement between DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the selected cleanup alternative must be approved by EPA.

Individuals and organizations may submit oral or written questions or suggestions at the January 28 meeting. Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting may either sign up during registration, send a written request to the following address, or call the toll-free number listed below:

Lester K. Price, Director
Former Sites Restoration Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Field Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723
(615) 576-0948 or 1-(800) 253-9759

Written requests to speak at the meeting should be received at the above address by January 22, 1992. Written comments pertaining to the meeting should be submitted to the above address not later than February 7, 1992.

Background information on the St. Louis Site is available in the *Work Plan for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study-Environmental Impact Statement for the St. Louis Site*. Copies of this work plan and other documents related to the St. Louis Site are available to the public in the information repositories and administrative record files located in the Government Information section of the St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103; the St. Louis County Library-Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042; and the DOE Public Information Office, 9200 Latty Avenue, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042.

The Energy Department Bungles Again

Two years ago, the Savannah River nuclear weapons plant spilled small but dangerous amounts of tritium into the river. The Department of Energy admitted at the time that it needed to develop a more effective way to monitor potential leaks. But last month, yet another tritium spill occurred — because the monitoring system failed yet again.

Energy Secretary James D. Watkins, who authorized restarting the plant's K Reactor after nearly four years of cleanup and repair, has now temporarily delayed its resumption while a new system for monitoring leaks is put in place. But given the department's record, why should anyone trust that the new system will be any better than the old one?

In fact, the source of the trouble was old-fashioned human error. While the tritium leaked because of defective heat exchangers within the reactor, the 150 gallons of highly radioactive tritium that spilled into the Savannah River went unnoticed for days because the employee responsible for testing the water was out with the flu. There was no back-up employee. As a result, a utility downstream and two food companies had to close their drinking water intake systems.

Secretary Watkins' new monitoring equipment may turn out to be only as good as the engineers who oversee the machinery itself — and the department's record in that regard has been poor for decades. The Savannah tritium plant had to be shut down several years ago for massive repairs because of the enormous contamination that existing monitoring procedures had failed to prevent.

Why restart the plant at all? The need for a massive nuclear arsenal has ended with the demise of the Cold War. In any case, enough tritium is on hand to last three to four years, and extracting tritium from deactivated warheads could extend the supply. The administration should address the need for restarting the plant before it lets the Energy Department experiment yet again with systems for monitoring leaks that never quite seem to work.

Editorials 2C
1-16-92

OUTDOORS

Volunteers Aplenty For Missouri's Stream Team Program



TIM
RENKEN

Sandy Delcours joined the Stream Team because she wanted to preserve the little patch of woods behind her house in Florissant where her kids liked to play.

Ron Kathman joined because he was looking for something his south county Indian Guides could do to "give something to the community."

John Headrick joined because he and his family enjoyed Castlewood State Park and wanted to do something to "make it even more beautiful."

There are among the dozens, maybe hundreds, of reasons that people have given for joining a volunteer program to do nice things for Missouri rivers and streams. Many people have "adopted" streams or stretches of streams. Delcours's adoptee is Coldwater Creek, which flows through the Florissant Valley. Kathman's South County YMCA Indians concentrate on Gravois Creek in Crestwood. Headrick's family patrols Kelfer Creek.

The efforts of these people and thousands like them from all over the state range from the bigly technical, such as chemical monitoring, to the basic, such as once-a-year cleanups; from the physical, such as planting trees, to the political, such as bounding city fathers to better manage local waterways.

Some of the groups are established organizations, such as the Open Space Council, Boy Scouts, Missouri Whitewater Association, Kiwanis, 4-H. Many are ad hoc, such as The Friends of Big Creek and River Rescue Rangers. Some aren't organizations at all, merely family members or friends. Some are just individual stream landowners.

The Stream Team program was begun in 1989 by the Conservation Federation of Missouri during a burst of concern statewide about Missouri's waterways. That was the year that Leo Drey launched his noble campaign for the Natural Streams Act, that the Department of Conservation created its Operation Streams program and that Gov. John Ashcroft signed a proclamation declaring 1989 the "Stream Team Year."

Streams Act went down to humiliating defeat. The governor's proclamation added slightly to the paper waste stream, but the Stream Team program thrives. Though much of it has now become part of the Department of Conservation's program for streams.

The adoption of Stream Team by the state agency was forced by Stream Team's explosive growth.

"Not only did we have so many volunteers, but right away they wanted to do much more than we were capable of helping them with," said Charles Davidson, the CFM's administrative assistant. "If people had only wanted to do cleanups, and things like that, we'd probably still be managing it. Now we are involved mostly in promoting the program, signing people up and referring them to the department."

Just six months after the program was announced in the



Jim Rathert/Department of Conservation
Jeff Koppelman of Columbia, Mo., with a boat full of junk pulled from Hinkson Creek near Columbia.

spring of 1989, 63 groups had signed up to adopt streams. For a while, groups were adopting streams at the rate of 10 a month, though that rate has slowed.

Today all of the major streams and many minor ones in the state have been "adopted" in one way or another by 273 teams with more than 9,500 people.

All of the entire Meramec River system, including all of the Bourbeuse, Big, Courtois and Huzzah rivers, has been adopted. Most of the state's best canoe streams, such as the Current, Jacks Fork, Eleven Point, are signed-up for.

Joe Bachant, the Department of Conservation's manager for the program, said that interest in the float streams was expected, "but we've also had people who want to adopt tiny, little-known creeks, such as Tinkle, Hog, half a dozen Cedars and about 100 Turkeys," he said. "And while we expected a lot of interest in this thing among urbanites, 50 percent of our teams are from rural Missouri. Actually, all parts of the state are represented."

Most surprising, Bachant said, was the diversity of the things people wanted to do for the streams. Efforts range from the highly scientific to the primarily recreational.

Reasons Vary For Joining Stream Team

Sandy Delcours, a Florissant home maker and leader of the Coldwater Creek Stream Team, publishes a newsletter, the Stream Song, and distributes it herself, door to door, "a couple times a year."

"I started with just our subdivision here, Willow Creek, but it's gone beyond that, up and down Coldwater Creek," she said. "I try to keep people abreast of what's happening in the creek, from the airport all the way down to the Mississippi River."

She and her group have done cleanups. She does a periodic environmental assessment of the creek, ranking it for water quality, scenic features, aquatic habitat, watershed, etc. Lately she has been working to get the Metropolitan Sewer District, which controls much of the land along the creek, to modify some of its practices.

Delcours is one of more than 9,500 persons involved in Missouri in the Stream Team program of the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Department of Conservation. The huge volunteer effort is aimed at preserving and improving the state's 56,000 miles of stream channels, large and small. Delcours and her group have "adopted" Coldwater Creek.

"You know, stretches of the creek are still beautiful. That's what got me started," she said. "There's a little

patch of woods just behind the house that our kids and other kids in the neighborhood loved to play in. I want to preserve that and the other nice places along the creek that remain."

"Coldwater Creek, with its many springs, is the reason the Florissant Valley was settled so early. It's an important part of our history and important part of the community."

"My big dream is a green belt, a corridor park along the entire 17 miles of the creek, with trees and walkways. That was tried 17 years ago, but it just kind of fell apart."

"I think it can happen, but it won't be easy. There's so many different groups involved, Florissant, Hazelwood, MSD, St. Louis County."

John W. Headrick, a Monsanto research biologist, his son, Jeff, daughter, Sarah, and, sometimes, his brother, Jason, once a month clean up the trash in Kelfer Creek in Castlewood State Park near their home in Ballwin.

"We'll spend three or four hours at it if we get the whole crew, picking up tires, cardboard, carpeting and other stuff that mostly comes down from Castlewood Village, upstream," Headrick said. "We put the stuff in a dumpster in the park and the park employees haul it away."

"It's not a big deal, we enjoy it. We can see, though, that other stuff needs doing. Some of the banks are eroding, and falling in and we'd like to maybe plant some trees or do something to get that to heal."

Have any of the people visiting the park when the cleanups are under way offered to help?

"Not yet, but when they see us in waders out there dragging up a big piece of soggy cardboard, they do give us some strange looks."

Ron Kathman was looking for some kind of community-improvement activity for his Indian Guides group at the South County YMCA when Stream Team was brought to his attention.

"It isn't easy finding something kids as young as 5-years-old can do, so we decided to do this on Gravois Creek," he said. "Twice a year, spring and fall. We do the one-mile stretch from Whitecliff Park almost to Watson Road in Crestwood."

Last September we had a good turnout of 75 people, almost all parents and kids. We got eight pickup trucks full of trash and took it up to a dumpster in Whitecliff Park. We're going to do another June 7 — if anybody wants to help."

— Tim Renken

"Stream Team has become part of the curriculum at Southwest Missouri State's Geosciences Department in their continuing studies of Piney Creek, which flows through a national wilderness" he said. "They are studying the entire riparian corridor, with students inventorying the relationships between the physical variables, vegetation and water quality. . . . Meanwhile, the Roubidoux Fly Fishers helped stock brown trout in their adopted reach of the Roubidoux, near Waynesville."

Some of the teams, Bachant said, are landowners intent on improving creeks flowing through their property. Some local lobby groups, even individual property owners, are working to prevent damage to streams by city fathers, road builders, other landowners, etc.

"The efforts of some teams are pretty confrontational," Bachant said. "Sometimes they win, sometimes they don't."

The department primarily provides technical assistance and education, he said. "If a group wants to stabilize banks through tree plantings, or whatever, we show them how. If they want to do environmental monitoring, we help them set up a data form."

"But everything we do is aimed at education. People can be a whole lot more effective if, through education, we send them off in the right direction."

The Stream Team program is attracting attention in other states now, Bachant said.

"Kansas has sent people here to study the program with the aim of adopting some or all of it there," he said. "Other states, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, are interested."

The diversity of the interest of volunteers makes Stream Team unique in the nation, Bachant said.

"When we got into this we decided that we wanted it to lead us where people wanted to go."

"Frankly, we had no idea how deeply people wanted to get involved in their streams — how deeply they cared."

St. Louisian Marty King, chairman of the CFM permanent Streams Committee, which sets policy for the program, said that the broad purposes of the Stream effort are 1 — Advocacy, 2 — Stewardship, 3 — Education.

"This thing has grown a lot faster than we thought it would and we hope it continues to grow," he said. "Maybe soon we'll have 15,000 volunteers, then, who knows . . ."



Outlay: Flood-Control, Waste

By Robert L. Koenig
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH's new budget offers mixed news for Missouri and Southern Illinois — from an increase in money for flood-control projects at Valley Park and East St. Louis to cutbacks in heating-aid programs for poor families across the states.

While exact budget numbers were not available for many programs, the losers in the budget appeared to include light-rail systems, such as the Metro Link project in the St. Louis area, and agricultural research programs such as those at the University of Missouri.

The local winners in the budget included continuing federal construction projects — including the replacement of Lock and Dam 26 on the Mississippi River near Alton, which would get about \$47.5 million under the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed budget.

Here are some areas — highlighted in budget documents and in analysis by members and staffers from the bi-state congressional delegation — where Bush's proposed budget for the federal fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 are

expected to affect Missouri and Illinois:

- Federal money for the new Melvin Price Lock and Dam 26 at Alton includes \$9.7 million to complete work on the dam project and \$37.8 million for work on the facility's second lock.

- \$6.9 million for continued work on improvements to the flood-control system along the Mississippi in East St. Louis.

- \$3.1 million for construction on the new levee along the flood-prone Meramec River at Valley Park and \$7.8 million for a major flood-control project in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

But one project that is missing from the corps' plan is more money for work to solve the siltation problems at St. Louis Harbor, on the Mississippi just north of downtown St. Louis. Last year, Congress appropriated \$900,000 for the project.

A ray of good news in the budget — a 34 percent increase (to \$1.9 billion) in the federal money for a group of radioactive-waste cleanup programs — could bode well for the continuing cleanup of the Weldon Spring site in St.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Cleanup Are Local Winners

Charles County, staff members said.

Meanwhile, several big projects or programs in the St. Louis area are expected to face possible cutbacks as a result of the budget:

- Federal money for new light-rail programs would decrease to about \$400 million (from \$537 million this year), meaning that the 18-mile Metro Link project from Lambert Field to East St. Louis would face greater competition for federal transit dollars.

- A proposal to cut back the HOME grant program for low-income housing could mean that St. Louis would expect to get only about half of the \$7 million that it is getting this year under the program.

In addition, Bush's plan to cut modernization money for public housing — to \$2.3 billion, down from this year's \$2.8 billion — could spell further trouble for the St. Louis Housing Authority, which lost millions of dollars in modernization money last year because of a mixup in its application for the money.

- Tens of thousands of needy families in Missouri and Illinois that get help under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program could face cutbacks in aid as a result of

Bush's plan to reduce the LIHEAP budget by about \$500 million — to \$1.06 billion.

Meanwhile, congressional aides said Bush's proposed cutbacks in agricultural research and rural study programs could lead to reductions at the University of Missouri and at Lincoln University's Bennett Living and Learning Center in Jefferson City.

In a boost for Northern Illinois, Bush's budget proposed \$30 million for a high-energy physics project at Fermilab National Laboratory in suburban Chicago. Last fall, the Energy Department had appeared to be reluctant to support the project.

At Fermilab, the money sought by Bush would pay for construction of the main injector, a ring that stores particles before injection into another four-mile ring. The particles collide so researchers can study high-energy research.

In one controversial proposal, the budget proposes that inmates of federal prisons, including the maximum-security prison in Marion, Ill., be forced to pay a fine equal to the first year's cost of incarceration. The proposed fine would apply to all federal prisons and would raise \$48 million a year, the administration said.

Move Radioactive Waste, Panel Told

Hearing On Cleanup Held

By Tom Uhlenbrock

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

More than 50 people signed up to tell the Department of Energy what to do with the radioactive waste contaminating several sites in St. Louis, but few said it more succinctly than Berkeley City Councilman Ted Hoskins.

"I'm not concerned about where you take it, and I'm not even going to give you a suggestion," Hoskins said. "I just want you to take it."

Department officials, led by David Adler, called the public meeting Tuesday night at Berkeley High School to begin what they said would be a three-year process for deciding how to clean up three contaminated sites.

The sites are Mallinckrodt Inc.'s 45-acre complex north of downtown St. Louis and two areas in north St. Louis County — near Lambert Field and on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood. Roads linking the county sites, and nearby Coldwater Creek, also are contaminated and will be cleaned up.

The sites hold up to 1 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and rubble, Adler said.

He proposed three alternatives: consolidating the material at the airport site, moving it to a rural Missouri site or moving it out of the state.

St. Louis County Executive Buzz Westfall, in a statement read by aide Lee Brotherton, said city and county voters had rejected the airport alternative in a vote in November 1990.

Rep. Joan Kelly Horn, D-Ladue, also had a prepared statement read on her behalf and suggested the material be moved to a commercial hazardous waste facility in Clive, Utah.

County Councilman John Shear complained that the waste had been in the St. Louis area since World War II. "All you're doing is delaying and delaying and delaying," he said. "Put all the charts and graphs aside, and get this stuff out of here."

About 200 people attended the session.

Two speakers questioned whether the low-level radioactive waste presented a danger. One of them was Dr. Henry Royal, who said he worked in nuclear medicine at Washington University. He said he had been told the final cost for cleaning up the sites could be \$1.5 billion. He suggested that money would be better spent on health care for the poor.

"We should not allow our anger to cloud our judgment," he said to scattered boos.

Martin Pion, who said he was a scientist who had worked for McDonnell Douglas, said 500,000 people would die this year from smoking, while not one death in the St. Louis area could be blamed on the low-level radiation.



Gary Bohn/Post-Dispatch

St. Louis County Councilman John Shear speaking to federal officials about radioactive waste at a meeting Tuesday night.

ST. LOUIS/MONDAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1992

3A

Waste Storage Site Is Concern To Activists

by Tom Uhlenbrock
of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Anti-nuclear activists fear that a radioactive waste storage site being prepared just north of downtown may be more than the interim structure the Department of Energy is promising.

"Will it become permanent, or at least very long-term?" asked Kay Drey, who has led the fight to clean up radioactive waste sites in the metropolitan area. "I'm worried that it won't be 'interim.'"

The department is renovating an old warehouse at the Mallinckrodt Inc. complex to hold contaminated soil and other debris found on the plant grounds.

The radioactive rubble is left over from Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, which began making pure uranium for the government's atomic-bomb program in 1942 and continued the processing at the north St. Louis plant until 1958.

On Tuesday, the Energy Department will

Some Fear Facility May Be Long-term

hold a public meeting to discuss the cleanup of Mallinckrodt's plant and two other sites — one near Lambert Field and the other on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood — where contaminated material from the plant is being stored.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at Berkeley High School, 8710 Walter Avenue.

David Adler is the Energy Department's official in charge of coming up with a plan to clean up the St. Louis sites. But that deadline is 1995. Meanwhile, he said, something must be done to deal with the waste at Mallinckrodt.

Adler said most of the contaminated soil and debris — estimated at 246,000 cubic yards — was under the concrete floors of buildings or in other areas where exposure was limited.

"Right now, they have a situation that is stable and low risk," he said. "But Mallinckrodt is continuously engaged in efforts to maintain their facility. They replace sewer

lines, repair roofs and do other things that, unfortunately, cause them to work in areas where contamination is present.

"What the department is doing is establishing an on-site storage area and associated decontamination facilities that would allow us store those materials in a safe way."

Adler said the old concrete-block warehouse was being updated with sealed flooring and windows. "We're using a building that is already contaminated on the site and retrofitting it," he said.

"I would estimate less than 10,000 cubic yards would physically fit inside the building," he added. "This isn't a proposal to go into a full-scale remediation at Mallinckrodt and then store the waste on site."

"We don't have a facility big enough for that. This is simply a proposal to deal with the odds and ends as they are generated."

Drey said that attitude was long overdue.

"I'm delighted that they're beginning to pay attention to where they take contaminated building parts," she said. "It's extremely important that they don't disappear off site to undisclosed locations, which was happening as late as last year, when part of a roof from Building 51 was sent off somewhere."

Jack Frauenhoffer, a spokesman for Mallinckrodt, denied that contaminated material was leaving the premises.

"We did have an instance where we thought that could have happened last year, but we checked, and it didn't," he said. "That's the purpose of making the building available to the Department of Energy for storage — to make sure those kinds of things don't happen."

Frauenhoffer also said that letting the warehouse become a permanent storage site wouldn't be in his company's best interests. "No one likes a storage facility located on their property, or to be a neighbor to it," he said.

Anti-nuclear activists fear that a radioactive waste storage site being prepared just north of downtown St. Louis may be more than the interim structure the Department of Energy is promising. The department is renovating an old warehouse at the Mallinckrodt Inc. complex to hold contaminated soil and other debris found on the plant grounds 3A

Officials urge residents to attend DOE forum

By Dennis R. Helze
Staff writer

When the U.S. Department of Energy holds a public forum next week to gather comments about cleaning up locally stored radioactive waste, federal officials likely will get an earful.

"I think all of



Meyer

us are discouraged, disgruntled and aggravated that everybody's dragged their feet on this for so long," said Bridgeton Councilwoman Peggy Meyer, Ward 1. "Anybody who's interested in cleaning up the environment should come out to this and speak their piece."

The DOE currently is studying three radioactive waste sites, known collectively as the "St. Louis Site," for cleanup. The sites include an industrial area in downtown St. Louis, a parcel

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DOE

From Page 1A

adjacent to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and properly located on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood.

The studies, which should be completed by 1995, will be used to determine the nature, extent and environmental effects of the contamination. While the investigation will identify and evaluate cleanup alternatives, the DOE wants residents in surrounding communities to participate in the process.

The public meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 28 in the auditorium

at Berkeley Senior High School, 8710 Walter Ave.

"I'm looking forward to this meeting; it's been a long time in coming," said Nancy Lubiewski, a member of Florissant's Environmental Quality Commission. "We really need people there. Any decision the Department of Energy makes will depend very much on the public."

Lubiewski, who has been vocal in her push for the DOE to remove the waste, said Coldwater Creek — located next to the airport site and near the Latty Avenue site — poses a problem for all of North County. The waste can seep into the creek and contaminate ground water and soil throughout the area.

"Who knows how far it can go?" Lubiewski said.

The DOE has proposed several options for dealing with the waste, including hauling it to a storage facility somewhere else in Missouri or somewhere else in the country, or building permanent bunkers near Lambert Airport.

Journal Staff Writer Laura J. Hopper contributed information to this report.

Waste

Meeting Jan. 28 Will Start Effort To Solve Problem

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

David Adler admits it's been a long time in coming, but he says a meeting scheduled for later this month is the beginning of the end for the St. Louis area's legacy as a radioactive waste hot spot.

"I expect there will be a lot of folks wanting to vent their frustration with the whole thing," Adler said. "The waste has been around for 40 years, and they'll want to know why it's taken so long for the Department of Energy to deal with it."

Adler is the department official managing the cleanup of three contaminated areas referred to collectively as "the St. Louis site." The Energy Department wants a decision by 1995 on how the cleanup will be conducted.

The problem is that, 40 years later, nuclear waste is still a hot potato. Nobody wants it, and there is no private or government repository for it.

The department was known as the
See WASTE, Page 4

Waste

From page one

Atomic Energy Commission when it contracted with Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in the 1940s to make pure uranium to be used in the first atomic bombs.

For the next 25 years, Mallinckrodt produced fuel for the nuclear industry. The wastes from that process now are stashed from the company's plant in downtown St. Louis to its abandoned facility at Weldon Spring in St. Charles County.

Adler's responsibilities include cleaning up the downtown Mallinckrodt site and areas near Lambert Field and on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood where radioactive debris was deposited.

Adler estimated there are 246,000 cubic yards of contaminated material on the Mallinckrodt grounds.

"It is generally underneath concrete or asphalt as new buildings were built over it," he said. "There's also a fair number of building interiors and exterior soils that became contaminated."

Rubble from Mallinckrodt was transported to the airport and later to Latty Avenue. Routes along the way, and Coldwater Creek, were contaminated from spills and runoff. Some of the waste also found its way to West Lake landfill in Bridgeton.

The last official tally by the Energy Department estimated that about 2.3 million cubic yards of contaminated material was scattered across the St. Louis area.

At 7 p.m. Jan. 28, the Energy Department will hold a public meeting in the auditorium at Berkeley Senior High School, 8710 Walter Avenue. The meeting was called to glean what St. Louisans want the department to do with the waste.

Adler described the meeting as the kickoff to the department's three-year schedule for rendering a decision on a final resting place for the contaminated material.

"We'll probably hear lots of classic 'get it out of here' arguments. Solve the problem, but don't solve it by leaving it near me," said Adler. "One alternative, which is highly controversial, is to consolidate the waste at the St. Louis airport site."

The Energy Department previously

proposed building permanent storage bunkers at the airport site, but Adler now says, "There is no bias toward that alternative."

That plan became "highly controversial" when St. Louis and St. Louis County voters in November 1990 were asked their opinion on building the permanent bunkers near Lambert Field. The answer was loud and clear from more than 80 percent of the voters — no way.

A second alternative, Adler said, would be to "construct a dedicated facility somewhere else in Missouri." That plan, he conceded, probably would face the opposition of local residents.

A third option — hauling it all of Missouri to a facility elsewhere — faces the same problem of where to go.

"As we speak, there are no private or commercial facilities that are permitted to receive waste of this type," Adler said.

The Energy Department is conducting an unrelated cleanup of the Weldon Spring site. Radioactive material is being placed on temporary storage pads there, with a permanent site to be decided upon sometime this year.

Kay Drey, the anti-nuclear activist who has led the battle to get the contaminated sites cleaned up, has another idea.

"I think they should consider the surplus 6,500 acres that Union Electric owns contiguous to its nuclear power plant in Callaway County," Drey said. "It's already partly contaminated from emissions from the plant, and could be used for an above-ground storage facility."

UE, as might be expected, balked at that idea.

Drey is doing her part to assure the Energy Department's meeting is well attended. She has sent invitations to corporate leaders and politicians in the area that say: "You are invited to perform in the longest running dog-and-pony show in the Midwest: yet another Department of Energy hearing on the St. Louis radioactive waste sites."

Drey said she doubted whether the area's leaders would show up for the session.

"These are the people who need to say something about it," she said. "But they are taught not to talk about anything controversial, and maybe it'll go away."

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch
January 19, 1992*

Forum Seeks Answer To Waste Problem

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

David Adler admits it's been a long time in coming, but he says a meeting scheduled for later this month is the beginning of the end for the St. Louis area's legacy as a radioactive waste hot spot.

"I expect there will be a lot of folks wanting to vent their frustration with the whole thing," Adler said. "The waste has been around for 40 years, and they'll want to know why it's taken so long for the Department of Energy to deal with it."

Adler is the department official managing the cleanup of three contaminated areas referred to collectively as "the St. Louis site." The Energy Department wants to decide by 1995 how the cleanup will be done.

The problem is that, 40 years later, nuclear waste is still a hot potato. Nobody wants it, and there is no private or government repository for it.

The department was known as the Atomic Energy Commission when it contracted with Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in the 1940s to make pure uranium to be used in the first atomic bombs.

For the next 25 years, Mallinckrodt produced fuel for the nuclear industry. The wastes from that process now are stashed from the company's plant in downtown St. Louis to its abandoned facility at Weldon Spring in St. Charles County.

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Monsanto Hits Cleanup Costs

Contractor's Demands Called 'Unreasonable'

By Robert Steyer

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Monsanto Co. and four other companies paying to clean up a toxic waste site in Texas say the demands made by a waste management firm are "staggering" and "unreasonable."

The five companies commented Thursday in response to a suit by International Technology Corp., the waste management firm they had hired to clean up the 11.3-acre Motco site near Galveston, Texas.

International Technology filed suit Dec. 3 in a federal court in Houston, saying the five companies owe it \$56 million. The firm also stopped work at the site.

The Motco site is a top priority on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list of sites most needing cleanup. The site has been on the list for 10 years.

Monsanto and four other users of the site formed the Motco Trust Group to pay for the cleanup after signing a consent order with the EPA.

International Technology, based in Torrance, Calif., began working at the site last year after being hired in 1988. It says its expenses have more than tripled above the original contract price of \$30 million.

It alleges that the Motco Trust companies failed to disclose the true amount of pollution at the site. An International Technology executive said earlier this month that the cleanup cost had risen to \$95 million.

The Motco Trust said Thursday that International Technology's claims are now more than \$100 million.

"The amounts are patently unreasonable," the Motco Trust said. International Technology "made continuing threats that it would discontinue its performance... if such exorbitant sums... were not paid."

The five companies said International Technology was encouraged to assess the wastes at the site and was not bound by the Motco Trust's estimates. They said the firm could not be paid for cost overruns "because it failed to control its costs and failed to mitigate any damages."

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tue, Dec. 24,
1991
p. 1*

Waste Charges Settled

E. St. Louis To Benefit In \$4.3 Million Penalty

By Roy Malone
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The operator of a hazardous waste incinerator in Sauget agreed Monday to pay \$4.3 million in fines — including \$1 million that will be used to clean up trash in East St. Louis — for violating state environmental standards.

The settlement was announced Monday by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Chemical Waste Management Inc., based in Oak Brook, Ill.

The company agreed to pay fines totaling \$3.3 million for its Sauget operations and a \$1 million penalty for operations at its hazardous waste and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) incinerator on the south side of Chicago.

Chemical Waste Management runs 100 incinerators in Sauget under the name of Trade Waste Incineration and a single incinerator in Chicago under the Chemical Waste name.

The firm operates the only commercial hazardous waste incinerators in Illinois.

Hazardous waste from throughout the Midwest is brought to the Sauget site, which Chemical Waste Management acquired more than 10 years ago. It has added three incinerators to the original one.

An assortment of violations at the Sauget incinerators were cited by the IEPA and the Illinois attorney general's office. Included were:

- Improper mixing of hazardous wastes on Jan. 16, 1990, which resulted in a plume of contaminants that became airborne for six hours and traveled off the site.

- Discovery during an inspection in August 1990 that containers of hazardous waste were not marked with date and contents.

- A steam explosion Feb. 5, 1991, when molten slag dropped into water

See FINES, Page 4

Fines

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carrying ash, causing the release of hazardous particles. Waste Management failed to notify IEPA within the required 24 hours.

- Failure in February 1991 to transfer hazardous waste in leaking containers to other containers.

- A visible airborne ash particulate emission that crossed the firm's property line on March 4, 1991.

- An explosion on Jan. 25, 1991, involving hazardous waste that caused vapors or particulate matter to be released into the air.

Joe Pokorny, vice president for communications at Waste Management, said the firm was neither admitting nor denying the IEPA allegations. He noted that IEPA did not say that the Sauget or Chicago incinerators posed any threat to health or the environment. He said the emissions did harm anyone.

Pokorny said the firm destroys waste products that federal regulations require to be incinerated rather than be buried in landfills. These may include pesticides, pharmaceuticals, materials from perfume and fragrances and spent laboratory materials.

Consent decrees outlining the penalties and violations were filed Monday in circuit courts in St. Clair County and Cook County.

In Sauget, the company will pay \$1.5 million in civil penalties to the state, \$200,000 to set up a computer link allowing constant monitoring by IEPA, \$240,000 to pay for one year of IEPA oversight and \$1 million to finance a trash pickup program in East St. Louis.

The million dollars will provide cash and services to help East St. Louis clear away thousands of truckloads of trash that have built up over the past few years because the city lacked the money to pay waste haulers.

In Chicago, the firm was assessed for delays in completing trial refuse burns and for accepting containers of laboratory chemicals that the IEPA said were not properly identified by shippers. The Chicago incinerator has been shut down since an explosion occurred in the rotary kiln on Feb. 13.

Group Flunks St. Louis On 'Green' Test Study

By Christine Bertelson
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

St. Louis ranked a dismal 63 out of 64 major U.S. cities in a survey of environmental quality disclosed this week by the World Resources Institute in Washington.

The survey of cities with more than 250,000 people was included in the 1992 Information Please Environmental Almanac published by the Institute, a non-profit public policy research organization.

St. Louis's ranking brought an angry rebuttal from William Kuehling, director of public safety for the city.

"I find that incredible," Kuehling said. "It's beyond belief. This is a lovely area."

But St. Louis's poor showing came as no surprise to environmental groups here.

"The more that is brought out on the environmental problems here, the better," said Mike Burke of the Coalition for the Environment. "The average person needs to be more aware of what can do to change them."

The study looked at environmental problems closer to home than global warming and ozone layer depletion, said almanac editor Allen Hammond.

"Our basic purpose was not to be judgmental but to try to hold up a mirror and see how we behave environmentally," said Hammond in a

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telephone interview from his Maryland home.

Eight areas were measured: waste disposal, water use and water source, energy use and cost, air quality, transportation measures, toxic chemical accident risk, environmental amenities (the percentage of city budgets spent on parks and recreation) and environmental stress. Environmental stress included population change, air and water quality, water availability, sewage treatment and chronic toxic releases.

High per capita water use indicated poor conservation and perhaps a strain on limited ground water supplies. Low per capita energy use was good for the environment, no matter what the cause, Hammond said.

The information was gathered from sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Transportation, Hammond said.

Santa Ana, Calif., had the worst environmental record in the United States — worse than those of St. Louis, Los Angeles, Chicago, Newark, N.J., and Detroit. Honolulu ranked best.

St. Louis's rankings were:

- Waste expenditures — 62 (of the 64 cities in the survey)
- Water use per capita — 52.
- Energy use per capita — 48.
- Energy cost — 49.
- Air quality: ozone — 40; particulates — 60; sulfur oxides — 52; nitrogen oxides — 24; carbon monoxide — 26.
- Transportation impact — 29 (percentage of population using mass transit, length of commute, car pool use, etc.).
- Toxic chemical accident risk — 51 (based on chemical accidents from 1980-1989).

GREEN CITIES INDEX

BEST		WORST	
Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Honolulu	60.	Chicago
2.	Austin, Texas	61.	Los Angeles
3.	Jacksonville, Fla.	62.	Long Beach, Cal.
4.	Oklahoma City	63.	St. Louis
5.	Fort Worth, Texas	64.	Santa Ana, Cal.

SOURCE: World Resources Institute Post-Dispatch chart

■ Environmental amenities — 52

■ Environmental stress — 54

Kuehling says environmental rankings often "compare apples and oranges," making them invalid. Kuehling said that St. Louis's air quality had improved dramatically in the last decade and that its water quality was good.

"It is worse than worthless," Kuehling said of the report. "These groups out of Washington that attempt to garner publicity by these scattershot rankings do a disservice not only to the [environmental] movement as a whole, but to themselves."

Burke said many of the environmental problems in the St. Louis area were the result of inadequate planning for development and the fragmentation of government in the city and county.

"Unless we change the way business is done here, we will stay at that rank, and it will get worse," Burke said.

Laura Barrett, director of the Missouri Public Interest Research Group, said the group planned to put pressure on electric utilities like Union Electric Co. to significantly boost their spending on energy conservation.

The Los Angeles Times and the Associated Press provided information for this story.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Don't Drink The Water

The Coalition for the Environment is right to question the effectiveness of the treatment plant being constructed for the contaminated water at the Weldon Spring quarry in St. Charles County. This water, once treated, will be discharged into the Missouri River just upstream from the intakes for both the St. Louis city and St. Louis County water supply.

The quarry water is a thick soup of radioactive and toxic materials, dissolved from the many drums of waste and loads of debris deposited in the quarry long ago. The list of pollutants known to be there is long and varied, and no one knows if the list is complete.

Murray Underwood, a professor of chemical engineering at Washington University, doubts that any process can really work against all these substances. He knows enough to point out that the methods that will be used are untested against all but a few of the substances known to be present. He also says that good engineering practice would dictate the construction of a pilot plant to test and perfect the process before any discharge begins.

That this is not being done makes one wonder whether the treatment plant isn't just an expensive eye-wash for the public with real reliance on the Missouri River's ability to dilute the discharge beyond the detection abilities of the St. Louis City Water Division and the County Water Co. One wonders whether the real process involved won't be simply to declare the "treated" water clean and let it go.

The authorities in charge owe us more than a bland assurance that they know what they are doing. What's at stake is no less than the integrity of our drinking and washing water. Exposure to small amounts of radioactive or toxic substances every day can injure us. People with small children should be especially concerned.

J. Peter Schmitz
Clayton

● Cost Figures Explode For Nuclear Cleanups

©1991, New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of Energy has sharply raised its estimate of how much cleaning up pollution at nuclear weapons plants will cost.

And the department suggests that it does not expect to receive enough money to do the job on schedule.

On Thursday, the department released a report that showed a gap of nearly \$12 billion over the next five years between the \$40.3 billion it said was necessary and the \$28.6 billion it was likely to receive.

The department stopped short of retreating from its commitments to state agencies and to the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up 30 years of waste and to comply with laws on the polluting of soil and water.

But the report seemed to be laying out a rationale for doing less, or at least for letting the cleanup schedule slip substantially.

Painting a still-grimmer picture, a top Energy Department official said he had far less to show for the money spent than he would like, and that tens of millions of dollars had been wasted on relatively simple tasks, like mixing dangerous liquids with cement to immobilize them.

At Rocky Flats, Colo., near Denver, wastes from an old disposal pond, set in blocks, failed to solidify; and at Oak Ridge, Tenn., many of 25,000 barrels are still a slurry or have liquids in them.

The official, Leo P. Duffy Jr., the department's top environmental officer, released a detailed five-year plan

with two cost estimates. The first, a "preliminary unvalidated case," was the amount of money the department believes is needed to protect the health and safety of workers and the public, to comply with federal laws and to honor the cleanup agreements. That came to \$40.3 billion over the fiscal years 1993 through 1996.

The second figure, called a "validated target level," was the current budget raised by 10 percent a year, as specified under last year's congressional budget agreement. That came to \$28.6 billion.

Asked if the department could honor its promises to states to clean up at the lower level, Duffy said, "It's going to be very difficult." But he added that the department's budget was still not ready for submission to Congress.

Environmentalists were less circumspect. "If the president's budget request contains the lower level of funding, then this plan sabotages cleanup commitments instead of honoring them," said Shira Flax, a lobbyist with the Sierra Club.

State officials were pessimistic. At the Colorado Department of Health, David C. Shelton, the director of the hazardous materials and waste management division, said that for the Rocky Flats plant, "We've heard that on the one hand they need about \$85 million, and that they may only get \$25 or \$30 million."

Jeffery P. Breckel, who represents the governors of Washington and Oregon in negotiations with the Energy Department over the Hanford nuclear

reservation, said, "Our agreement says you committed yourself to ask for the money, and we expect them to comply."

The schedules listed in the agreement to clean up Hanford, which is probably the most expensive site, "was not unilaterally imposed on the Department of Energy," he said.

Breckel said he had compared last year's five-year plan with the one issued Thursday, and for the four years the two plans have in common, found that the validated target level was \$1 billion smaller.

"I have some real questions as to whether or not they could keep the agreement" at that level, he said.

Duffy, in contrast, concentrated on how much the program had grown in recent years, and, even at the validated target level, how much faster it would grow than other defense programs at a time of fiscal stringency and a shift away from military spending generally.

In 1989, he said, his office had 58 people in the department's headquarters, but now it has 315, along with 1,000 people in the field. He also raised the question of how fast environmental restoration and waste management could continue to grow. "Have we digested what we're doing?" he said. "I don't really think so."

In addition, he said, final costs will depend on decisions yet to be made, like how many parts per billion of a hazardous chemical should be left in the ground, or how much radioactive material should be left in place.

Another uncertainty is the cost of technologies yet to be invented. For example, Duffy said, the department has a problem with polychlorinated biphenyl, a carcinogenic chemical, 240 feet in the ground, in Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Tenn., for which no method yet exists for retrieval.

And in at some sites, he said, investigations of the extent of the contamination are still incomplete. "In many cases we know the volume of material, know the contaminant, but don't know the concentration of that contaminant," he said.

Innovation

Big 'Pressure Cooker' Touted In Destruction Of Toxic Waste

By Charles Campbell
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Here's the idea: You take hazardous waste — sewage sludge, PCBs, old chemical weapons, almost anything — and stuff it into what amounts to an enormous pressure cooker, possibly one drilled deep beneath the Earth's surface.

And presto! Instead of toxic crud, you've got carbon dioxide, water, maybe some salts and ammonia.

The process, called supercritical water oxidation, can break down any organic compound. You filter out possibly dangerous heavy metals from the waste stream, and what's left is harmless. It can even be resold or released without damaging the environment.

With opposition growing to landfills and incinerators — especially for hazardous wastes — researchers say this new technology could prove to be an appealing alternative.

"It's an extraordinarily attractive and economic solution to some vexing problems," said Earnest Gloyna, professor of engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. "I am very enthusiastic about the whole operation."

Gloyna leads a team that has built the largest supercritical waste oxidation plant to date, a 30-foot-tall unit that can cleanse 40 gallons of waste an hour.

In tests at Texas and elsewhere, various toxic wastes have been destroyed safely and efficiently.

But governments and investors have been wary about putting up the millions of dollars necessary to build the first full-scale production facility.

"What we're looking at now is how to get it commercialized," said Ron Turner of the Environmental Protection Agency's risk reduction engineering lab in Cincinnati. "Right now, it's not commercially viable."

The process was developed beginning in the 1970s by Michael Modell, then an engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

By now, there is a handful of small companies working on variations of Modell's idea, including his own in Framingham, Mass.

"We're looking for our first production customer right now," said Charles Hayes, vice president of Modell Development Co. "There have been some problems along the way. We think we have overcome them."

They haven't yet found a catchier name than supercritical water oxidation. But here's how it works:

When water is put under 3,200 pounds per square inch of pressure and heated to 705 degrees Fahrenheit, it becomes "supercritical" — that is, its properties change dramatically.

Organic compounds, ranging from plastics to petroleum to PCBs, dissolve readily in supercritical water. When oxygen is added, the pollutants will oxidize — a process akin to burning, but much slower and better controlled. Nasty chemicals are reduced to simple, harmless substances.

"It's a process that is very environmentally pure," Hayes said.

The environmental group Greenpeace has urged the Defense Department to consider supercritical water oxidation — and other emerging technology — as a better way to destroy chemical weapons. The Pentagon is sticking to incineration, arguing that it needs a proven method rather than something experimental.

A particularly daring version of the supercritical water idea is being promoted by James Titmas, an inventor and engineer from Hudson, Ohio. He proposes to drill a well a mile deep or more, making use of the natural pres-

sure at the bottom to make the supercritical reaction happen.

In the Titmas system, a tube within the tube would separate wet sludge or other watery waste flowing down from the treated, purified stuff flowing back up.

At the bottom, the water would be under enough pressure to turn "supercritical," needing only sources of heat and oxygen to start the reaction. Once started, the process would generate enough heat to be self-sustaining.

"It's a pressure cooker, but very efficient," Titmas said in an interview. "It's not cheaper than ocean dumping, but it's cheaper than incineration or composting."

He believes it would cost his company, GeneSyst Inc., between \$15 million and \$50 million to build such a system, big enough to handle a medium-sized city's output of sewage sludge — what's left over from a sewage treatment plant's operations.

He has been talking with officials in several large cities, but he hasn't received any commitments.

"We're looking the idea over. It has the potential to destroy sewage in astronomical amounts," said Ben Benjamin, deputy director of Detroit's water and sewage department. "But until you run a full-scale test on it, you can't be 100 percent sure."

To date, most research has focused on much smaller above-ground systems — some of them portable — suitable for cleaning up toxic messes.

"We've been looking at some fairly specialized wastes," said Cheryl K. Rofer, program coordinator for supercritical water oxidation at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Los Alamos is doing experiments for the Air Force, which needs to dispose of rocket fuel and explosives, and for the Energy Department, whose nu-

Ruling Affects Cost Of Dioxin Cleanup

Insurance Firms Would Be Liable

By Tim Poor

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

9-14-91

A federal appellate ruling Friday could make it easier for governments to collect up to \$96 million to pay for dioxin cleanup at Times Beach and other sites in Missouri.

The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington held that cleanup costs are "damages" that insurance companies are liable for under Missouri law. The three-judge panel made its finding despite an opinion by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that came to the opposite conclusion, setting up a potential showdown in the Supreme Court.

The issue is important because some of the companies responsible for dioxin contamination in Missouri have gone bankrupt and cannot reimburse local, state and federal governments.

If it stands, the ruling in Washington could pave the way for government to go after dozens of insurance companies to recover cleanup costs.

In 1988, the St. Louis-based 8th Circuit held, in a 5-3 ruling, that cleanup costs were not "damages" for which insurance companies were responsible under Missouri law. That ruling applied to the Continental Insurance Co., which insured the Northeastern Pharmaceutical & Chemical Co. (NEPACCO), a company that made hexachlorophene in a factory in Verona, Mo., from 1970 to 1972. Dioxin was one of the hazardous wastes produced.

NEPACCO hired Independent Petrochemical Corp. to dispose of the wastes; that company in turn hired Russell Bliss, who sprayed waste oil mixed with the wastes on the roads of Times Beach and at other sites.

Friday's ruling concerned Indepen-

dent Petrochemical and its 28 insurance companies. A suit over the insurers' liability was filed in federal court in Washington, where a judge agreed to take jurisdiction of the case.

That judge deferred to the 8th Circuit opinion, but his decision was overturned Friday by the appellate panel. It found that the 8th Circuit had misinterpreted Missouri law and relied on a too-technical definition of "damages." It said that a more common sense reading of the law would find the insurance companies liable.

The Washington ruling will not affect the 8th Circuit's decision regarding NEPACCO because the two appeals courts have equal standing.

Because the companies have been held jointly liable for dioxin contamination, the ruling could mean that Independent Petrochemical's insurers would have to reimburse the government for the entire \$96 million, according to John H. Gross, an attorney for Independent Petrochemical.

NEPACCO has been out of business since 1974; Independent Petrochemical has gone bankrupt, although its parent company, the Charter Co., has paid \$6 million to Missouri and to the federal government in reimbursement for cleanup costs. Friday's ruling enables Charter to continue its court battle to recover the \$6 million from its insurance companies, Gross said. He said it also cleared the way for the government to seek the rest of the cleanup costs from the insurers.

James E. Rocap III, a lawyer who represented one insurance company, Aetna Casualty and Surety Co., said it had not decided whether to appeal to the full appeals court or, if that fails, to the Supreme Court.

Westfall Selects Nine Advisers

Panel To Help Draw Up Proposal For Expanding County Council

By Virgil Tipton

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Nine St. Louis County residents, including three blacks, will advise County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall on how many new members should be added to the St. Louis County Council.

Westfall said Wednesday that he had picked the committee, which will act as an informal advisory board.

"The charge is to examine the issue of the County Council as to whether it should be expanded and to what number," Westfall said, who supports an expansion. "I will defer to their recommendation as to what the number should be."

The council now has seven members. Westfall, the Democratic members of the council and some black officials in the county favor enlarging the council to give black candidates a better chance to win a seat. A black has never served on the council.

The vice president of Black Elected County Officials and an alderman in Rock Hill, Matthew Knuckles, called

the appointment of the committee "a step forward from what's been done in the past. It's a positive point showing that Buzz Westfall is working with the minority community."

But many Republicans oppose the idea of enlarging the council.

Said H.C. Milford, Westfall's predecessor: "Why do we want to increase the cost of government now, when literally there's less for them [council members] to do?"

Milford, a Republican and a member of the County Council Reapportionment Commission, said he thought blacks would have more representation on the council if one of the seven districts were redrawn to include more blacks.

Westfall's group will be chaired by E. Terrence Jones of Ladue, dean of arts and sciences at the University of Missouri at St. Louis and the husband of Rep. Joan Kelly Horn, a Democrat. Jones is with Confluence St. Louis, a group that favors expansion of the council.

Westfall's group includes the chair-

man of the County Council, George M. "Jerry" Corcoran of St. Ann, D-2nd District.

The other members are:

- Dorothy Davis of University City, a member of the University City School Board.

- Richard Brunk of an unincorporated part of West County, a lawyer.

- Errol S. Bush, a Northwoods alderman and the financial secretary of Black Elected County officials.

- Brender Moore of Bellefontaine Neighbors, branch manager for the Florissant office of ADIA Personnel Services, a temporary employment agency.

- Linda Behlmann of Florissant, president of Behlmann Properties.

- State Rep. May Scheve, D-South County.

- Daniel Fowler of South County, a member of the Mehlville School Board.

Davis, Bush and Moore, who are black, were suggested by Black Elected County Officials, Westfall said.

Weldon Spring Plant Is Opened To Public

Former Workers Get One Final Look

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

George Stuckenschneider still had his identification badge. It showed a much younger Stuckenschneider and said: "Mallinckrodt Chemical Works Uranium Division, No. 1418."

"I was the No. 1 security guard out here — from '56 until they closed it in '66," said Stuckenschneider. "It costs \$75 million to build it."

"And 10 times that to tear it down," added his wife, Mary.

The Department of Energy held an open house Saturday at the abandoned Weldon Spring Chemical Plant in St. Charles County to allow the public a look before work begins to raze the complex of some 40 rusting buildings.

The Army owned the site in the 1940s and used it to make explosives. Mallinckrodt, which had the contract to make uranium for the Atomic Energy Commission, took over 205 acres in 1955 to build a processing plant.

The open house turned into a reunion of many former employees, mostly in their 60s and 70s, returned to pay a final visit.

They sat on the tour buses, pointing out the sights to their wives, children and grandchildren.

"I used to work in the 'green salt' building," said George Toben, referring to one of the five main processing buildings where radioactivity levels are said to be the highest.

"Back in those days, we used to sit on those barrels of uranium and never thought anything of it," said Toben. "This was heaven. The pay was outstanding compared to other factories in the area."

Gil Wahlmann was supervisor of engi-

neering standards at the plant.

"I didn't think they'd allow us to go in because they're making such a big deal about contamination, but I'd love to go through those buildings," Wahlmann said.

"I used to give tours of the plant for dignitaries. One guy was a Turkish general. You wouldn't believe the gaudy stuff hanging from his chest."

Like the other former workers, Wahlmann shook his head at the cost estimate for cleaning up the complex and a nearby quarry, where contaminated material was dumped. The figure ranges from \$500 million to \$800 million.

"I don't know whether or not we were just stupid then about what this stuff would do to the environment, or if they just kept lowering the limits to the point that now they're overly conscious about it," he said.

"But you've got to do something about this place sooner or later. You can't just leave it like this for another 25 years."

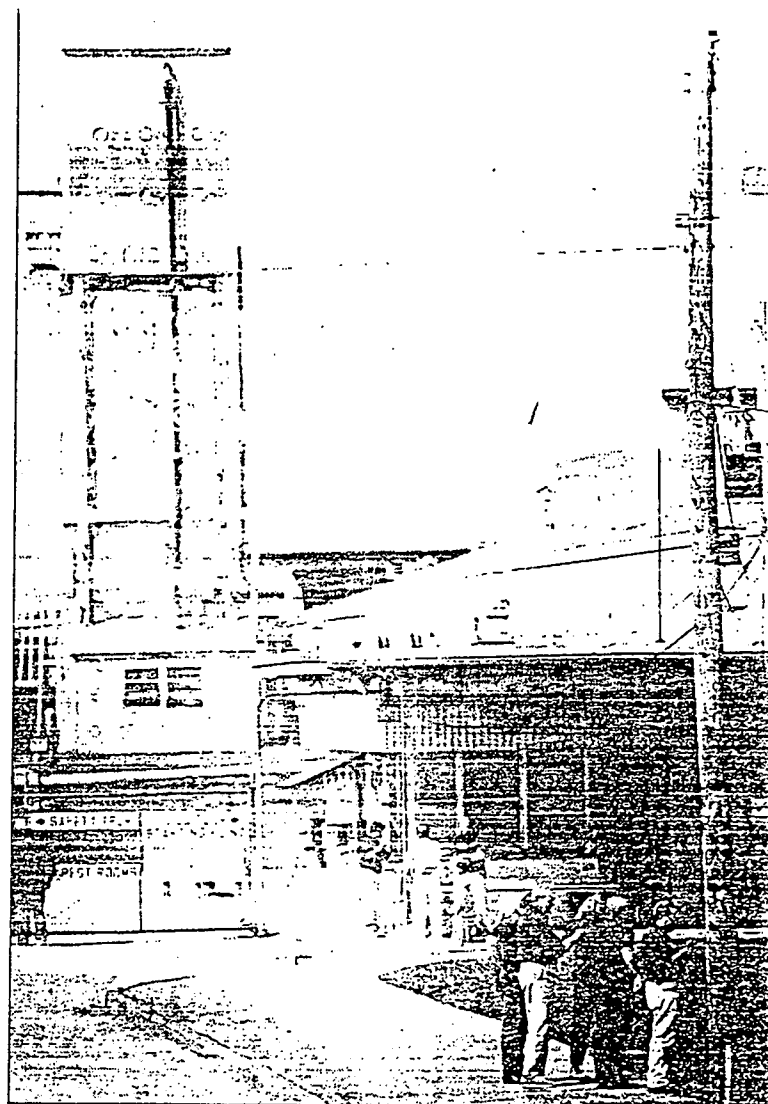
Richard Bozarth, 57, said he worked in maintenance until 1966, when the plant was closed.

"We just walked out, the last ones turned off the lights and left behind newspapers and coffee cups on the tables," Bozarth said.

"I wouldn't be afraid to walk anywhere in that plant right now," he said. "They said it made you sterile, but I had three kids while I was working here. And I'm still healthy as a horse."

Said Stuckenschneider, who is 77: "A lot of people I know have died from cancer, but anybody can get cancer. I'm still here."

Steve McCracken, the Energy Department official managing the cleanup of the site, said the open house, which included exhibits and lectures, was held to answer any questions about the project.



Kevin Mannir

Staff members of the Weldon Spring Remedial Action Project waiting Saturday for people on a tour of the abandoned chemical plant.

"People are going to be looking over our shoulder — we expect that and invite it," said McCracken. "What we want to do is achieve understanding, and let the people decide for themselves if they want to fear it."

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Tailings Called Risk To Water

By Leo Fitzmaurice

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Anything that knocks tailings of lead and barite into the Big River could threaten the water supply for many Jefferson County residents, an official of the Army Corps of Engineers told county commissioners on Monday.

The warning came from Dave Rahubka, a corps official working on a study of the water supply of the St. Louis area. He was reporting on the study's progress in its first six months.

"The mine tailings are a significant environmental disaster waiting to happen," he said.

In an earthquake or other natural disaster, the tailings would, in effect, liquefy, flowing mainly into the Big River, he said.

Eight ponds that include lead tailings and 50 barite mines and tailing piles are near the Big River, Mike Klosterman, a corps geologist in St. Louis, said in an interview. The mines are in Jefferson County and also to its south.

The lead and barite tailings are the residue of mining. Rahubka said the piles were like "a desert" where nothing grows.

He recalled that a barite pile flowed into the Big River in the mid-1970s. Nature took several years to restore the balance of the environment, he said.

Presiding Commissioner Elizabeth Faulkenberry said she was particularly concerned. "When we have an earthquake," the release of the tailings "could be an ecological disaster" for the county, she said in an interview.

The cleanup cost could run into the tens of millions of dollars, Rahubka said. In the early 1980s, the corps estimated that \$75 million would be needed to dispose of lead-mine tailings.

Among the possible solutions, he said, are:

- Separating the traces of minerals from their sandlike structures that form the piles.
- Placing nutrients in the piles of tailings so that vegetation would grow.
- Using the sites as compost piles for such materials as yard waste.

clear plants have produced some of the nation's most difficult waste, including some waste that mixes radiation and toxic hazards.

"I am very optimistic about this," Rofer said. "There is a potential for this technology to be an alternative to incineration, at least for many hazardous wastes."

New Waste Disposal Idea

Scientists are working to develop a new waste disposal process that relies on gravity pressure to transform hazardous waste into harmless products. The process, called *supercritical water oxidation*, involves a closed vessel extending a mile or more below the earth's surface.

1 Water containing up to 10 percent solids or additives is fed into the top of the closed vessel.

11 The finished water may be engineered for filtration, off gas cleaning, or production of products such as methane, ammonia, or alcohol.

Hazardous waste, sewage, PCBs, old chemical weapons

carbon dioxide, water, salts and ammonia

2 The water is directed down the sides of the vessel. As it descends, it gains pressure due to the weight of the water above it.

3 The water also picks up heat from the water rising up through the center of the vessel.

4 The earth acts as insulation, keeping most of the heat in the vessel.

5 Under 3,200 lbs. per square inch of pressure, heated to 705° F, water becomes "supercritical". Its properties change dramatically.

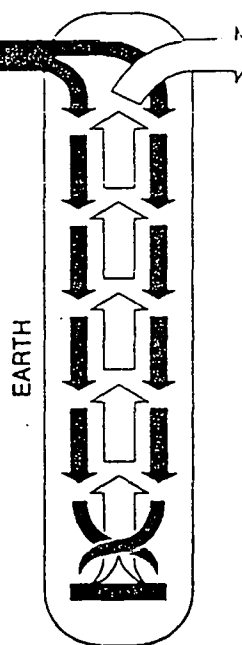
6 At the bottom, water is recirculated and mixed with oxygen to burn the wastes out of it.

10 Metals are oxidized to a point where they do not dissolve in water and can be filtered out of the treated water stream.

9 Small stones and grit are broken into powder that is easily carried along by the moving water.

8 As the water ascends, it loses pressure and is cooled by the descending water.

7 The ascending water is warmer and lighter than the descending water, providing the force to move the water without pumping.



Editorial

Use Caution At Weldon Spring

The Department of Energy is preparing to clean up millions of gallons of toxic water produced as waste by the old Mallinckrodt Chemical plant in its work on atomic bombs during and after World War II. But the procedures that the department proposes to use have never been tried and remain to be fully tested. As St. Louis County Councilwoman Geri Rothman-Serot said last week, "Let's rush to clean (it) up, but let's not rush to make another problem for someone else."

She was referring to the department's plan to treat contaminated water now held in the Weldon Spring quarry in St. Charles County, then release it into the Missouri River only a few miles upstream from area drinking water intakes. Despite assurances from the Energy Department that the water will be tested in batches, then treated again if it fails to meet acceptable standards, there appear to be reasonable doubts as to whether the plan has been fully perfected.

The Energy Department itself acknowledges the need to develop more sophisticated filtering technology and monitoring instruments to meet at least one crucial problem: effectively treating mixed waste — that is, uranium mixed with thorium and radium, which are also present in the Weldon Spring quarry. Current plans appear adequate for treating uranium, but not necessarily when other chemicals are present.

What's more, if the department's methods don't

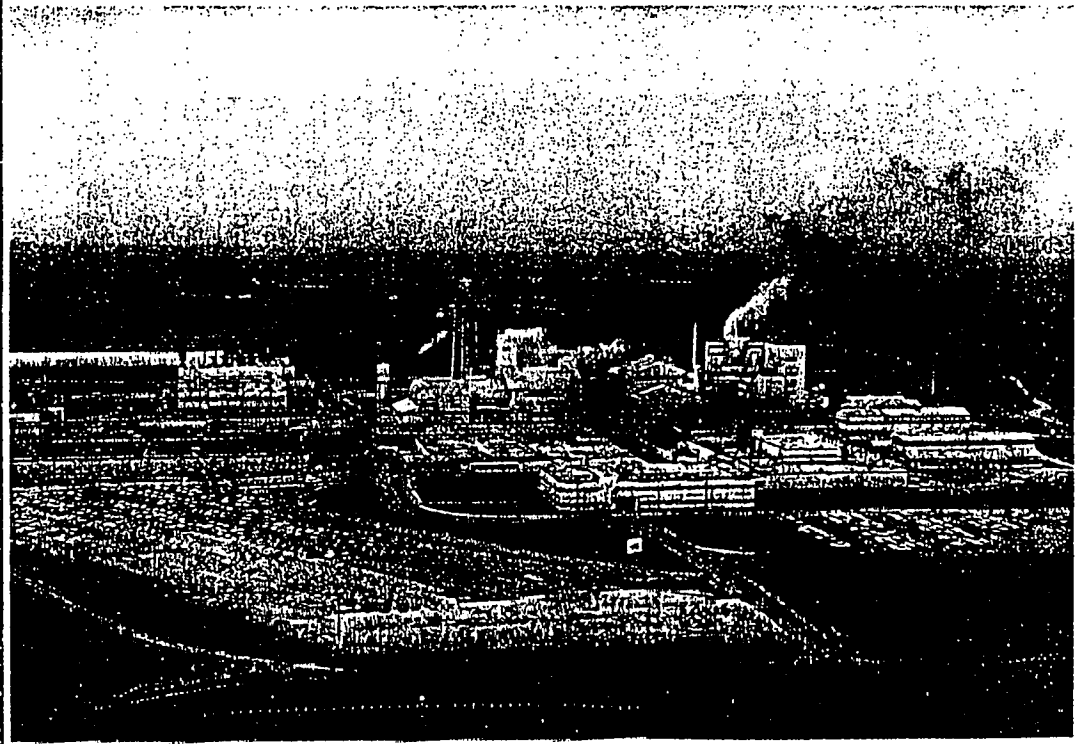
succeed, it will have been cheaper to follow standard procedure by constructing a pilot plant to perfect the required technology than to attempt to re-treat the contaminated water, perhaps many times. The department should review its plans to be certain they represent the safest and least expensive method to clean up Weldon Spring before proceeding.

Nearly 50 buildings, including the one at left, will be carefully dismantled during the cleanup of the Weldon Spring site in St. Charles County. The Weldon Spring Chemical Plant, below, processed uranium ore from 1957 to 1966.

Cleaning Up the Weldon Spring Site:

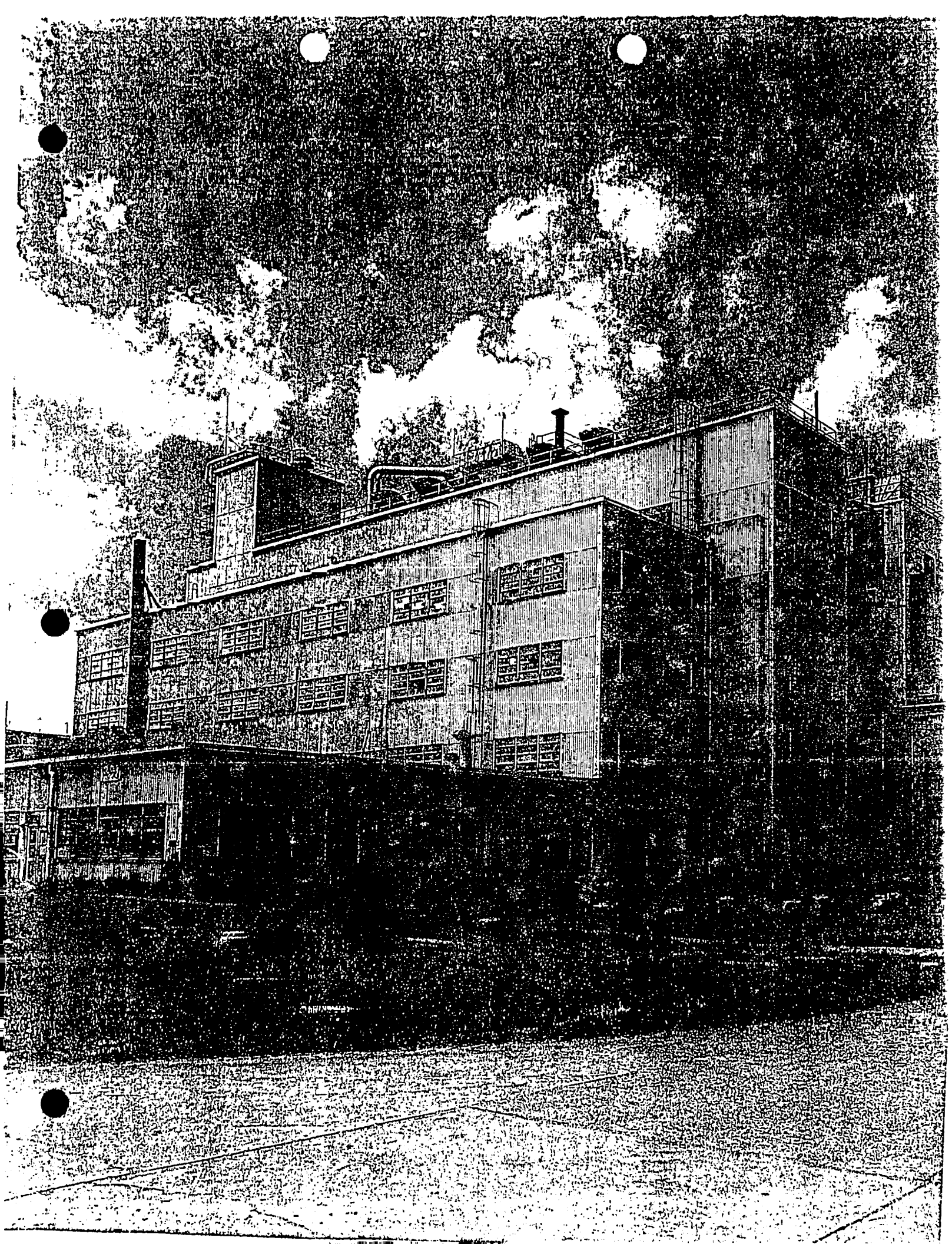
MISSOURI'S LEGACY FROM THE NUCLEAR WASTE

by David Bedan



U.S. Department of Energy

Nick Decker



The nuclear age came early to Missouri. It began in April of 1942 when the American scientific community was convinced that German scientists were making rapid progress toward the development of an atomic bomb. Arthur Holly Compton, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist from Washington University in St. Louis, asked chemical manufacturer Edward Mallinckrodt to join him in a luncheon meeting.

The Americans had outmaneuvered the Germans in a race to secure high-grade Belgian Congo pitchblende, a mineral containing high percentages of uranium. Only Mallinckrodt's chemical plant had experience with the dangerous ether extraction methods, which could be adapted for processing uranium ores into a usable form.

Compton urged Mallinckrodt to assist the war effort by processing large quantities of uranium ore in order to build the first atomic bombs. But the first task was to prove that a sustained nuclear reaction was indeed possible. The U.S. Army had gathered some of the nation's finest scientific and technical talent in a super-secret project code-named the "Manhattan Project." Compton was a part of the group that was laboring day and night in the secret laboratory under the football stadium at the University of Chicago to

produce a sustained but controlled nuclear fission reaction. They needed lots of uranium metal quickly.

Mallinckrodt agreed to process the uranium and thus began 15 years of such work at his chemical plant near downtown St. Louis. This work was carried out originally under the Army's Manhattan Project and later by the Atomic Energy Commission. In 1957, a new plant was opened at Weldon Spring in St. Charles County, on the site of an old Army trinitrotoluene (TNT) plant, and Mallinckrodt processed uranium there for 10 more years.

Missouri's legacy from this work is the wastes and residues from that processing. At five locations in the St. Louis area, almost two million cubic yards of waste and contaminated materials still await decisions on their disposition. These are the first wastes of the Atomic Age.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

The primary contaminants in this waste are low levels of natural uranium and thorium and their radioactive decay products. The most highly radioactive wastes are fenced and secured from public access. Under these current conditions, the primary potential risk to the occasional visitor or passerby is from breathing alpha- or beta-emitting isotopes. A person who spent long periods of time near the more highly concentrated wastes would have a greater risk of being exposed to gamma radiation. There is no enriched uranium nor are there any reactor fission products in these wastes; that is, there is no risk of a nuclear reaction due to the presence of a critical mass of uranium and there are no high-level wastes.

However, the volumes of this waste were large in the beginning and have become even larger over the past years as wastes were haul-

ed to various locations and some waste was evidently spilled along the roads. Because the waste was simply dumped and was not properly contained, erosion and leaching have spread the waste even farther, contaminating ground water and large volumes of soil. Over the years, even more waste has been spread by road, bridge, sewer, and other utility and construction projects, especially in the Hazelwood and Berkeley areas of north St. Louis County. And, many contaminated buildings still remain at the Mallinckrodt plant north of downtown St. Louis and at the Weldon Spring site in St. Charles County.

"The handling of this material was incredibly sloppy," said Ron Kucera, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "This can only be understood in the context of the extreme secrecy and urgency of the atomic weapons program during World War II and the subsequent Cold War. In addition, radioactive waste management was given a very low priority and radiation protection standards were much less strict than those of today."

This secrecy and the government's overriding commitment to weapons production goals became a habit and persisted well into the 1980s. Almost 50 years since this uranium processing began, Missouri is now faced with nearly two million cubic yards of waste, contaminated soil, buildings, and rubble remaining at five major sites in the St. Louis region (the Mallinckrodt plant, the St. Louis Airport site, the Latty Avenue site, the Westlake Landfill, and the Weldon Spring site). Proper management of this waste at the time of its generation would have probably cost a few tens of millions of dollars. Now the total remedial cost for the Missouri sites will probably be at least \$1.5 billion, and more likely close to \$2 billion. And the cleanup of all of these sites will probably require 15 more years to complete.

Although the radioactive waste sites in Missouri are among the largest and oldest, they are only part of the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) national cleanup problem. More than 100 sites nationally are competing for cleanup resources. These sites include the active nuclear weapons facilities, uranium mill tailings sites, and formerly used or surplus sites such as the sites in the St. Louis area. U. S. Secretary of Energy James Watkins has committed the DOE to a massive cleanup of these sites across the country, which will cost \$200 billion and take approximately 30 years. Many



U.S. Department of Energy

TNT and uranium-processing wastes were dumped into the Weldon Springs Quarry from 1942 to 1946.

states feel that this commitment should be shaped into law and such a proposal will be debated in the U.S. Congress.

THE WELDON SPRING SITE

The federal government's involvement at Weldon Spring in St. Charles

taminants were primarily TNT and other members of the family of chemicals known as nitroaromatics. Many local residents still remember when the local creeks ran red with these contaminants. Between 1945 and 1955, the government demolished the buildings and attempted

Mallinckrodt Chemical Works. The Atomic Energy Commission also acquired an old quarry from the Army, about four miles south of the production area that had been used for the disposal of both TNT production and uranium processing wastes. The uranium plant operated from 1957 until 1966.

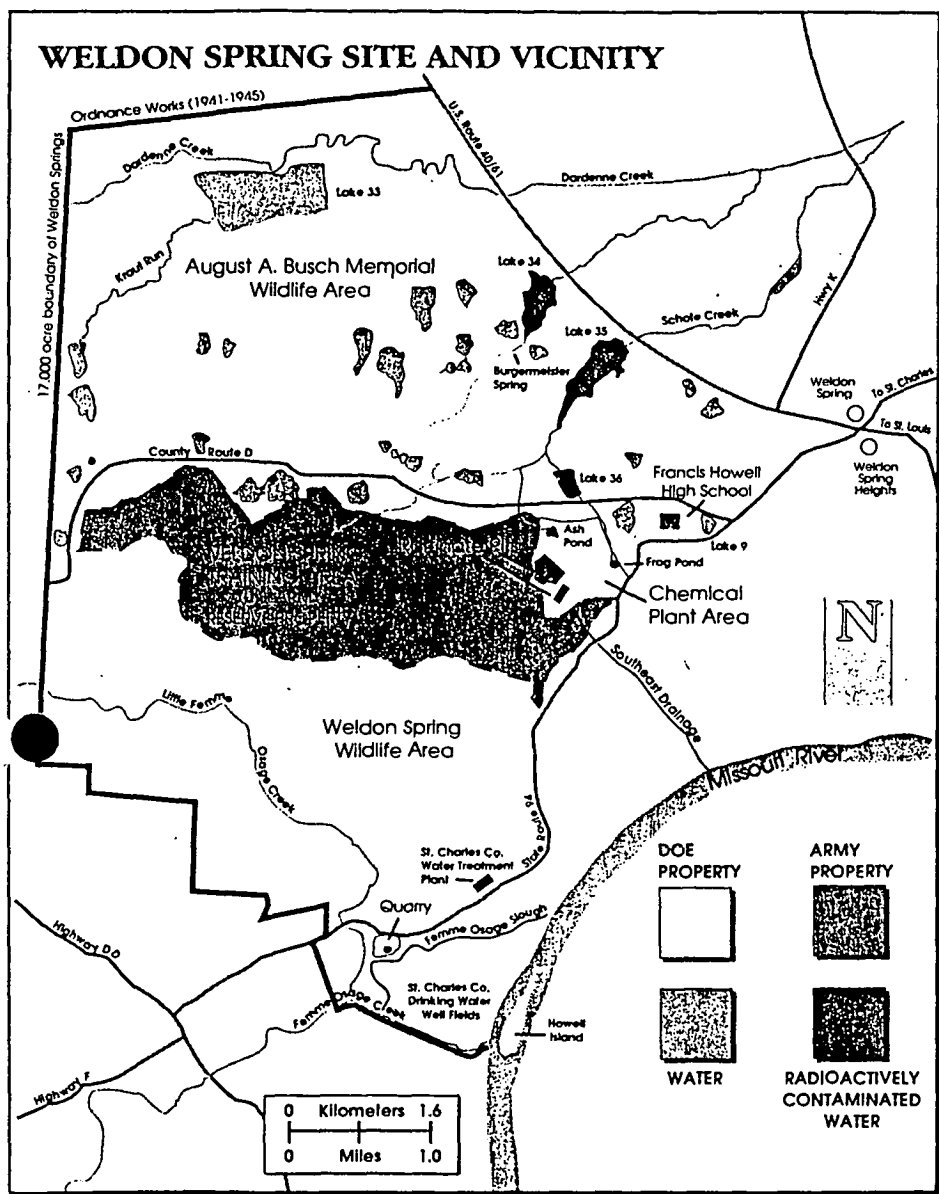
During plant operations, uranium ore concentrates and recycled scrap were processed to produce uranium trioxide, uranium tetrafluoride, and uranium metal. An average of 16,000 tons of uranium materials was processed each year. In addition, a limited amount of thorium ore concentrates was processed at the plant. These processes generated several chemical and radioactive waste streams including uranium-bearing wastes called "raffinates" from the refinery operation and magnesium fluoride slurry (washed slag) from the uranium recovery process. These waste streams were slurried to four lagoons (known as the "raffinate pits") where the solids settled out and the liquids were drained to the Missouri River.

"In 1986, the DOE initiated a major investigation and cleanup at the site," said Steve McCracken, DOE's project manager for the Weldon Spring cleanup. "The DOE recognizes that there is a problem here that needs to be fixed. We have committed significant technical and financial resources to the project. We have also committed ourselves to an open and honest relationship with the public, the state, and the EPA on this project. I invite anyone to visit with us and discuss the project."

The Army also has initiated a separate investigation and cleanup of the remaining 1,600 acres still under its control. The Army's area, known as the Weldon Spring Training Area, is primarily contaminated by nitroaromatics and has also been placed on the National Priority List of Superfund sites by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The DOE portion of the Weldon Spring site consists of a large number of contaminated buildings, the raffinate pits, and the quarry. The primary contaminants are uranium, nitrates, and nitroaromatics. Leakage from the raffinate pits is causing surface-water and shallow ground-water contamination in the Missouri Department of Conservation's Busch Wildlife Area and the Weldon Spring Wildlife Area. Three lakes and several springs are contaminated in these wildlife areas.

The quarry has been the focus of public concern for many years because it is



County began in April 1941 when the Army forcibly acquired more than 17,000 acres of land in order to build a TNT and dinitrotoluene (DNT) explosives production facility known as the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works. The Weldon Spring Ordnance Works was operated by the Atlas Powder Co., an old-line explosives company that employed approximately 3,000 workers. Between 1942 and 1945, the company produced an estimated million pounds of TNT.

Significant contamination of surface water and ground water occurred during the years of TNT production. These con-

to clean up the site several times but nitroaromatic contaminants still remained in the soil and ground water at the site of the old ordnance works. In 1949 about 15,000 acres of the original ordnance works was transferred to state and local agencies. The remaining 1,875 acres contained the area of the actual TNT production facilities.

In 1956, the eastern portion of the TNT production area was transferred to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission to build a uranium processing plant. This plant, which produced uranium metal, was operated under contract with the

Stuart Westmoreland

leaking wastes toward St. Charles County's public drinking water well field.

"The residents of the area and the DNR have long been concerned about potential contamination of the St. Charles County well field," said Jerry Lane, the director of the department's public drinking water program. "Although extensive monitoring by DNR and several other agencies and organizations has shown that the contamination has not reached the well field, we want the waste removed as soon as possible to prevent any possible problems. This has to be the first priority in the cleanup project."

THE CLEANUP BEGINS

In 1986, the DOE and the EPA agreed that the DOE would clean up the Weldon Spring site. In 1987, the EPA placed the quarry on the National Priority List and added the chemical plant and the raffinate pits in 1989.

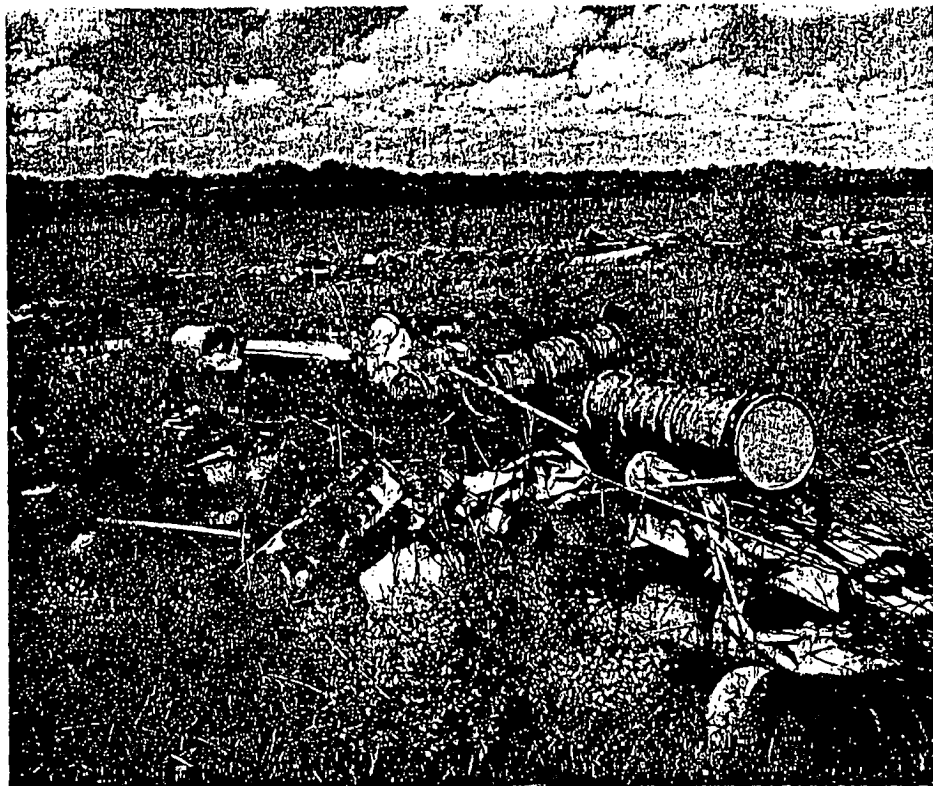
The Department of Energy's characterization of the site, that is the investigation and assessment of the scope of the problem, is now essentially complete. The estimated total volume of waste, contaminated soil, and demolition material is approximately 800,000 cubic yards. The estimated cost of the cleanup is \$650 million.

The DOE is now preparing a feasibility study or environmental impact statement, which will consider all feasible options for remedial action and the environmental and economic impacts of each alternative. The DOE also will propose a specific alternative as the preferred cleanup plan. This plan will be presented to the public in early 1992. Later in 1992, after receiving and considering input from the public and the state, the DOE and EPA will sign a Record of Decision, thus officially adopting a specific cleanup plan.

The remedial action will start in 1993 and the project should be completed by 1999. This schedule assumes that there are no significant delays due to budget reductions or legal challenges.

INTERIM ACTIONS

Meanwhile, several interim actions have been completed or initiated by DOE at the Weldon Spring site. Several buildings have been removed and the non-contaminated material removed from the site. The radioactively contaminated materials are stored on site. Chemically hazardous wastes have been inventoried and stored in a secure building; polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and asbestos have been removed.



Nick Decker

Raffinate Pit No. 4 is one of the areas awaiting cleanup at the U.S. Department of Energy's Weldon Spring site in St. Charles County.

The most important interim action that has been proposed at the Weldon Spring site is the removal of the water and the bulk waste from the quarry. After having obtained a permit from the state, DOE is building a treatment plant to treat the quarry water before it is discharged to the Missouri River.

"This treatment plant will include the best available technology to treat the water to near drinking water standards," said Robert Hentges, chief of the permits section of the Department of Natural Resources' water pollution program. "Then, to ensure protection of the downstream water supplies, the treated water will be collected in two side-by-side holding ponds and tested before it is released to the Missouri River. If the water does not meet the standards, it will be run through the treatment system again. This guarantees that the water meets our requirements. Monitoring of the river and the downstream drinking water plants will also be conducted before and during the discharge of treated water to add an additional measure of assurance. The discharge of this treated water to the Missouri River will have no impact on the quality of the drinking water in St. Louis."

After the water is removed from the quarry, the bulk waste will be removed, sorted, and transported to a temporary storage area near the raffinate pits.

Covered trucks will transport the waste on a dedicated haul road completely separate from local traffic.

"DNR will require that the temporary storage area and all other facilities at the site be built to stringent engineering and environmental standards," said Nick Di Pasquale, director of the Department of Natural Resources' hazardous waste management program. "The department will review all engineering plans to ensure that these standards are met."

Treatment of the quarry water is scheduled to begin this year and bulk waste removal should begin next year; a second water treatment plant is being built to treat the water in the raffinate pits and the storm-water runoff from the temporary storage area.

WHY MUST THESE SITES BE CLEANED UP?

The wastes at the Missouri sites do not present an extreme risk in their present condition, and they are not particularly mobile since the radionuclides tend to bind with soil particles.

"These materials are primarily alpha-particle emitters so for the general public the primary risk is from the ingestion or inhalation of contaminated materials, which means that dust control is important," said John Bagby, Ph. D., director of the Missouri Department of Health.

"Some specific areas at these sites are fairly hazardous, for example, the pilot plant building at the Weldon Spring site where indoor radon is a problem and portions of several sites where gamma radiation is a problem if a person is subjected to prolonged exposure. However, these areas are presently secured from public access. The off-site contamination could present a hazard if it is disturbed; it is important to contact the DOE or the state before disturbing any of the contaminated soil."

Natural Resources staff regularly consult with the Health Department staff to assess new data and to ensure that all

reasonable precautions are being taken. During remedial actions, simply dampening the materials with water will keep contaminated dust out of the air. An elaborate monitoring network will detect any off-site releases of the contaminants. The DOE also has given the Francis Howell School District funds to hire their own experts to review DOE's activities and ensure the safety of the students and staff at the nearby Francis Howell High School.

If the current risk from these materials is low, why should government spend millions of dollars on their cleanup? The problems follow:

- These wastes, for all practical purposes, last forever, since the half-life of uranium is 4.5 billion years. This means half of the radioactivity will still be present at end of that period.
- There is a huge volume of wastes and contaminated soil.
- The wastes are scattered over a large area in many separate places, some of which are accessible to the public, particularly in St. Louis County.
- Wastes continue to be spread by human activities and natural processes.
- Some buildings are deteriorating.
- Long-term control of land-use changes cannot be guaranteed.

BASICS OF RADIOACTIVITY

Radioactivity is a phenomenon by which energy and subatomic particles are released by the disintegration of certain unstable elements called radionuclides. The resulting ionizing radiation is and always has been present on earth and everywhere in the universe; however, since the discovery of radioactivity in 1896 by Henri Becquerel, various uses and misuses of this property of matter have stimulated concerns about its impact on human health.

Ionizing radiation is capable of damaging living cells and thereby causing cancer or genetic effects. There are three basic forms of radiation emitted by natural elements such as uranium, thorium, and radium (the primary radioactive elements at the Missouri sites).

Alpha radiation is the most energetic (the most ionizing) but the least penetrating form of radiation. Even a piece of paper or human skin is a barrier to alpha particles. But they can be very harmful if they enter the body through a cut, through ingestion of food or water, or by inhalation. The uranium at the Weldon Spring site is primarily an alpha emitter.

Beta radiation is a more penetrating type of ionizing radiation. As in the case of alpha particles, beta emitters can cause their most serious effects when they are ingested or inhaled. Fission products from nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons are strong beta emitters.

Gamma radiation (also called "direct radiation") is very penetrating and requires lead, thick clay, or concrete shielding to protect living or-

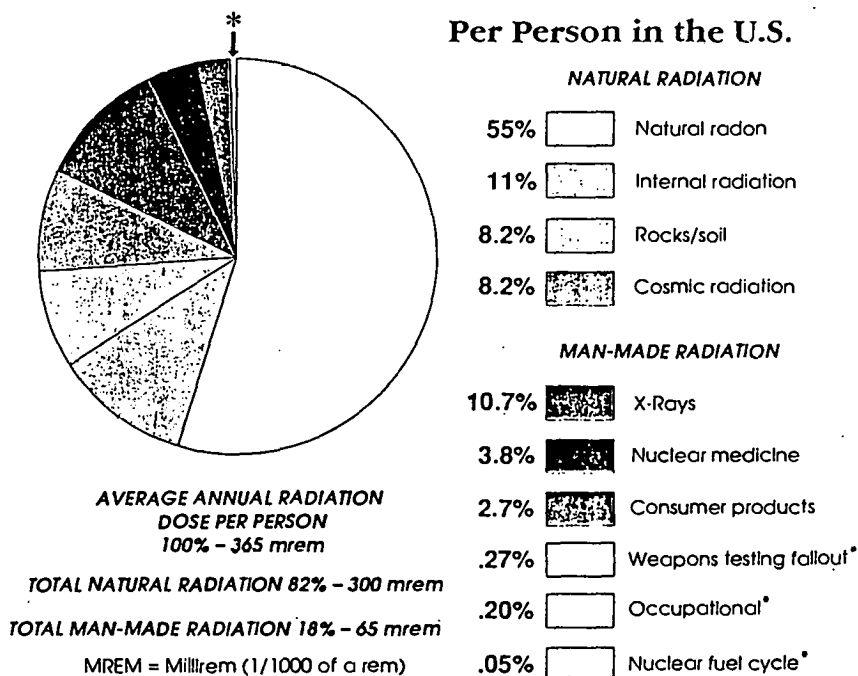
ganisms. The gamma levels of the materials at the Missouri sites are generally very low except in areas with the more concentrated wastes.

The radioactivity of a radioactive element is measured in a unit called a "curie," which is related to the number of atomic disintegrations per unit of time. In describing the levels of activity in environmental samples, the most frequently used unit is the "pico-curie" or one trillionth of a curie. Public drinking water standards, for example, state that "finished water," or water distributed to the public, should not have more than 15 picocuries of alpha activity per liter of water.

Environmental radiation also can be considered from the point of view of the biological effect of a dose of radiation, which is measured in a unit called a "rem." Radiation protection standards are often expressed in terms of "millirems" (thousandths of a rem). In the United States, the average person is exposed to about 300 millirems (mrem) per year of background radiation including about 200 mrem from indoor radon. Medical diagnostic tests and radiopharmaceuticals contribute another 53 mrem of radiation. Fallout from nuclear weapons testing adds about 1 mrem per year.

SOURCES OF RADIATION: Average Annual Dose

Per Person in the U.S.



While the short term risks are minimal, the long-term, accumulative risks could be significant.

"We must act quickly to reduce the spread of these wastes and minimize potential hazards," said Tracy Mehan, director of the Department of Natural Resources. "I believe that these materials can be safely cleaned up and contained. The state insists that the federal government continue to commit the necessary resources to properly conduct the long overdue cleanup of these sites.

"No one can guarantee that the government and other landowners will continue current uses of the land during the hazardous life of the radioactive materials," Mehan continued. "A loss of institutional or governmental control and the security it provides could result in much greater risks than those present now. For example, future uses of the land could include residential or agricultural activities which could present a long-term hazard. The wastes need to be physically secured in a manner that does not depend on institutional or governmental controls."

Mehan believes that the longer the cleanup is postponed, the more the waste will be spread, the more difficult and costly the job will become, and the chances of someone receiving an unacceptable exposure increases. "But we should not delude ourselves with the idea that there are any quick and simple solutions. Any solution will be controversial and costly."

The debate about the management of radioactive waste carries with it all of the controversies surrounding any hazardous waste: How does the material contaminate the environment? How does it affect human health? How clean is clean? What is an acceptable risk? How much should be spent to reduce the risk? Who should bear the costs?

When the waste is radioactive, an additional and disturbing dimension is added. Because radioactivity is associated with the horror of nuclear weapons, it is very difficult for us to think unemotionally about the risks associated with radiation. Yet radioactivity is one of the oldest and most pervasive aspects of the planet Earth. Radiation is everywhere; our own bodies are radioactive and we are immersed in cosmic and terrestrial radiation at this very moment. There is no way to avoid these relatively low levels of radiation.

Data on the health effects of these low levels of radiation are inconclusive, so scientists must extrapolate from the



Nick Decker

The contaminated water in the Weldon Spring Quarry will be treated to strict standards and then discharged to the Missouri River; the solid wastes will then be hauled to the chemical plant area for temporary storage.

known effects of higher levels. Until proven otherwise, biologists must conservatively assume that even small amounts of radiation can be harmful; therefore society has adopted a policy of keeping unnecessary radiation to a minimum. Most of us agree that, while we cannot avoid all natural sources of radiation, we should not be unnecessarily exposed to additional man-made sources of radiation. We may voluntarily decide to be exposed to radiation for a specific personal benefit, for example, a medical X-ray. But we are far less willing to be involuntarily exposed to radiation from military or industrial activities even when benefits to society are claimed.

Much of the debate about risk in regard to radiation relates to the cost of reducing small amounts of man-made

radiation. How much should be spent, for example, to eliminate the risk of one person in ten million contracting cancer? Society has been willing to spend far more to protect its members against cancer risks, and particularly radiation, than most other risks.

Some argue that risk from environmental contaminants should be reduced to zero and that cost should not be a factor. Others argue that resources will always be limited and that society should make use of comparative risk assessment to allocated resources and to decide how to manage environmental risk. Focusing on trivial risks may divert attention from significant risks. This debate will become more intense in the 1990s and decisions regarding radioactive waste management will play a major role.

THE STATE'S INVOLVEMENT

The state of Missouri and its citizens have been aggressively pushing for action at Weldon Spring and the other sites for at least 15 years. "Significant progress has been made only in the last five years," said Mary Halliday, a resident of Defiance, a small hamlet near the Weldon Spring site and a leader in the St. Charles Countians Against Hazardous Waste since the group was formed. "In the early 1980s, it was frustrating because the DOE didn't want to admit that there really was a problem that needed fixing. It's good to see things starting to happen, but we want the state to continue to push the project and to keep an eye on activities at the site."

The state has always taken the position that the federal government is the principal responsible party at the Weldon Spring Site. The DOE and EPA now have made firm commitments to clean up Weldon Spring and most of the other Missouri sites.

"The interagency agreement signed by both DOE and EPA guarantees that the federal government will fulfill its obligations at the site," said Bob Morby, the head of EPA's Superfund Branch in Kansas City.

The DOE will implement and pay for the remedial action, and EPA will supervise the project and make the final decision on the choice of remedial action. Public participation will be conducted on all interim and final remedial actions. In addition, Natural Resources will conduct its own independent oversight of the project.

"While some interim remedial actions are being taken, no decisions have been made yet at Weldon Spring or any of the other sites regarding the long-term or final remedial actions," stressed David Shorr, director of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Environmental Quality. "DNR will insist that the sites are adequately studied and that the cleanups meet all state environmental requirements. The department will insist that the public be informed and be given an opportunity to comment on activities at these sites."

MONITORING THE SITES

DOE has an extensive monitoring program at the Missouri

sites. However, state and local agencies are also conducting oversight monitoring in certain areas related to the sites.

"The DNR has been conducting monitoring for several years at the Weldon Spring site, especially in the drinking water well-field area," said the Department of Natural Resources' Jerry Lane. "Based on this monitoring, we are confident that the Weldon Spring Quarry has not affected the public drinking water of St. Charles County."

The Department of Health also has been monitoring approximately 50 private wells in the Weldon Spring area. The Health Department has found the only instance of contamination due to the Weldon Spring sites at a nearby resort, where nitroaromatic contamination from the Army's Weldon Spring Training Area was found in several wells. The Army has furnished a new water supply to the resort.

In the past year, the Department of Natural Resources has extended its monitoring program to the Missouri River itself, and to the four major St. Louis area drinking water treatment plants.

"Again, based on our monitoring data, we can find no impact from these radio-

active waste sites on drinking water in St. Louis. However, we do plan to continue our monitoring program," Lane said. (Citizens may obtain a summary of the results of this monitoring by contacting the department.)

The Department of Natural Resources also has been involved in an extensive study of the shallow ground-water system at the Weldon Spring site. Using dye tracing methods, the department's staff has been able to determine the pattern of ground-water movement in the chemical plant and raffinate pits area.

"This work is very important in determining the best way to clean up and monitor the ground water at the site," said Jim Williams, Ph. D., director of the department's Division of Geology and Land Survey. "Department of Natural Resources geologists have also been involved in studying the site's geology for many years and will continue to carefully review DOE's geological work."

DECIDING THE MAJOR ISSUES

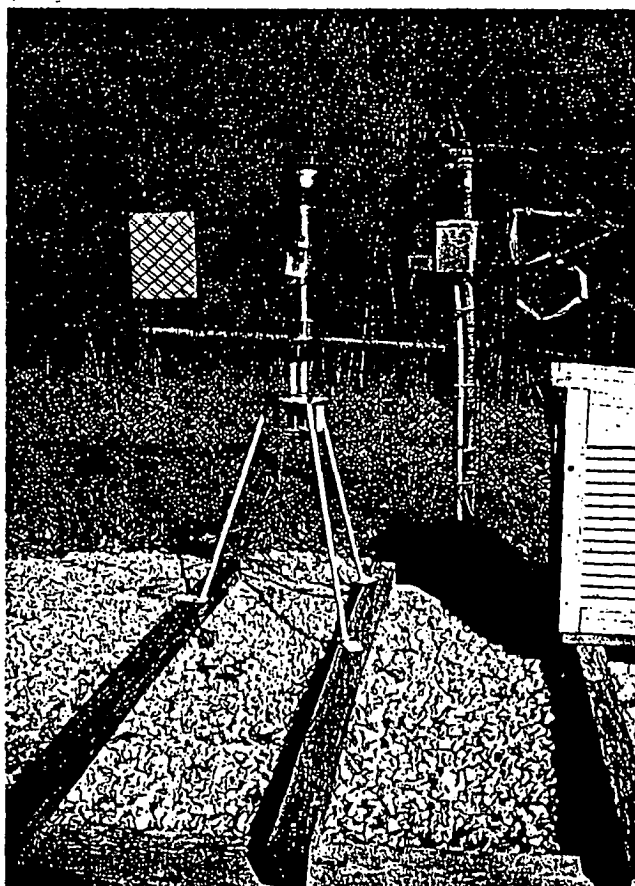
Policies for these sites should be developed in the context of three time frames. First, are any immediate actions necessary to protect the public health? So far, no such situations have come up but the state will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available.

Second, should any interim actions be taken to reduce potential human exposure, improve safety conditions, facilitate local improvements, or facilitate the final cleanup? At Weldon Spring, the department has supported several interim actions and some interim actions might also be feasible at the St. Louis sites.

Third, what are the best alternatives for long-term storage or disposal of the wastes?

The proposals on long-term waste disposal have not yet been made. All Missourians will have the opportunity to review and comment on these proposals. We need to make these decisions and close out this chapter of Missouri's history that began in 1942. ■

David Bedan is the Department of Natural Resources' radioactive waste cleanup action coordinator.



Air monitoring stations are placed at strategic locations around the Weldon Spring site to verify that no contaminated dust or radon gas is leaving the site.

Corcoran's Remap Plan Jumps Gun, Critics Say

Councilman Seeks To Add 3 New Townships In County

By Virgil Tipton

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A plan by St. Louis County Council Chairman George M. "Jerry" Corcoran to establish three new townships has prompted some criticism for his solo approach and for his timing.

At issue is his proposal to add three new political townships to the current 20. To do that, he has proposed dividing the Meramec, Missouri River and Queeny townships into five townships. The new areas would be named Maryland Heights and Chesterfield townships.

Another township, dubbed Mehlville, would be carved out of pieces of Concord and Lemay townships in South County.

Townships are used to organize election precincts. Members of the county Democratic and Republican committees are elected by township. Corcoran said the township lines needed to be redrawn because wide disparities in population had developed since the last redrawing in 1971.

Corcoran, D-2nd District, said he planned to introduce his map at a meeting of the County Council next week or the week after that. He will then let members of the Election Board and leaders in both parties offer suggestions. The changes need only the approval of the

Councilman Greg Quinn of West County, R-7th District, questioned Corcoran's decision to draw the new map on his own.

County Council.

Councilman Greg Quinn of West County, R-7th District, questioned Corcoran's decision to draw the new map on his own. "I would have preferred that we would have had a bipartisan commission look into this," said Quinn.

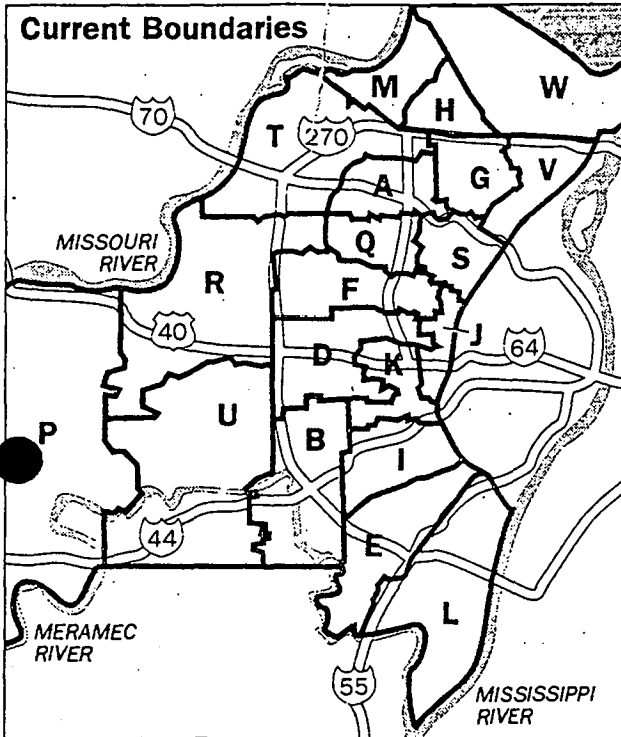
In addition, Quinn said, drawing township lines now is doing the job too early. He said it would make more sense to wait for new district lines for congressional, County Council and state legislative seats. That way, the township lines would follow the new district lines, making it easier for the Election Board to establish precincts, he said.

Otherwise, odd pockets might develop as the township and district lines overlap, Quinn said. For example, under current lines, Northwest

St. Louis County Townships

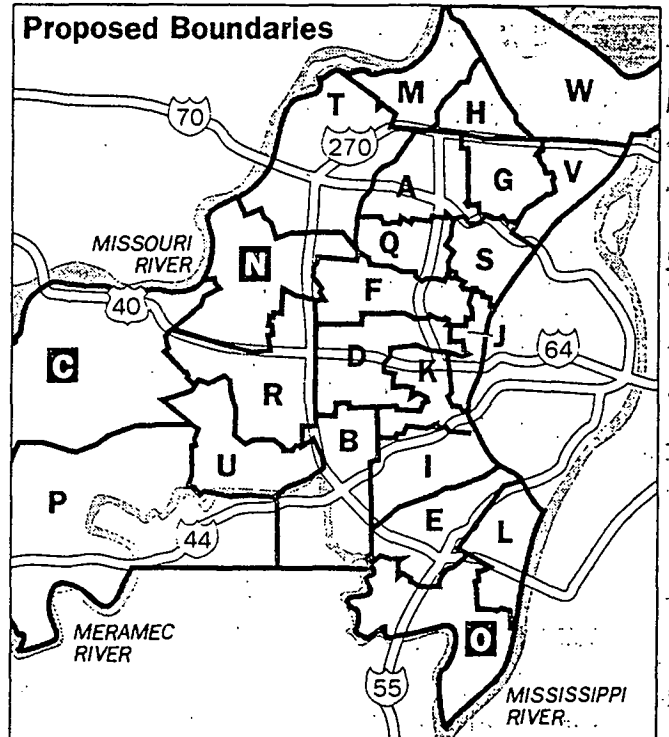
Proposed new townships are highlighted in the list.

Current Boundaries



- A. Airport
- B. Bonhomme
- C. Chesterfield**
- D. Clayton
- E. Concord
- F. Creve Coeur
- G. Ferguson
- H. Florissant
- I. Gravois
- J. Hadley
- K. Jefferson
- L. Lemay
- M. Lewis & Clark
- N. Maryland Heights**
- O. Mehlville**
- P. Meramec
- Q. Midland
- R. Missouri River
- S. Normandy
- T. Northwest
- U. Queeny
- V. St. Ferdinand
- W. Spanish Lake

Proposed Boundaries



Tom Borgman/Post-Dispatch

Township overlaps the 7th District by just one house, Quinn said.

Paul S. DeGregorio, the county's Republican director of elections, agreed that drawing

township lines could wait, "so we don't have a situation where we have to create precincts of two people, which has happened in the past."

Meanwhile, Corcoran, of St. Ann, said he

had given some thought to the names of the three districts.

"I thought about 'Truman', but I thought that might create some controversy," he said.

ST. LOUIS/MONDAY

• MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1991

3A

Effect Of Weldon Spring Waste Feared

By Christine Bertelson
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Coalition for the Environment called on the St. Louis County Water Company on Sunday to protect St. Louis drinking water from radioactive and hazardous wastes from the Weldon Spring quarry in St. Charles.

The group says it is concerned that water from the quarry will be dumped into the Missouri River about 5 miles upstream of the major St. Louis drinking water intakes.

Poger Pryor, executive director of the Coalition for the Environment, said a pilot plant should be built first to see whether the treatment methods actually were able to remove the waste. The treated water should be kept in tanks or lined ponds for at least a year for thorough testing, Pryor said.

The group held a news conference outside the St. Louis County Water Co. plant on Hog Hollow Road in west St.

Group Is Concerned About Area's Drinking Water

Louis County on Sunday afternoon. About 30 protesters attended.

In the next few months the Department of Energy will begin cleaning up 3 million gallons of water contaminated by radioactivity, explosives and other wastes in the Weldon Spring quarry near St. Charles. Wastes leaking from the quarry are endangering ground water in St. Charles.

The quarry was used as a waste pit by the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works which produced pure uranium for the atomic bombs used in World War II. The Army also produced explosives on the site, dumping drums of TNT into the quarry. The plant was closed in 1966.

The Department of Energy is building a new water treatment plant that may begin operating in December. The plant will use a process involving

The old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works put waste in the quarry.

a resin to remove uranium, and charcoal to remove organic chemicals. The treated water will be discharged into the Missouri River.

"I think concern is always justifiable when there is something brand new going on upstream of a water intake," said Terry Gloriod, vice-president of production for St. Louis County Water Co. "But I don't think there is any cause for alarm."

Gloriod said the greatest safeguard at the new plant is that water can be tested in batches. If some water sam-

ples fail to meet local, state and federal standards it can then be retreated until it does meet safe standards.

The water company plans to monitor the water from the Department of Energy's treatment plant for radioactivity, using laboratory facilities at the St. Louis County Health Department, Gloriod said.

St. Louis County Councilwoman Geri Rothman-Serot said at the news conference that she would ask city and county officials to apply pressure jointly on Missouri's members of Congress to find a safer solution to the problem.

"This water has to be cleaned up immediately," Rothman-Serot said. "Let's rush to clean it up but for God's sake let's not rush to make another problem for someone else."

Murray Underwood, a chemical en-

gineer who also was at the water company plant, said it was not known whether the methods planned to clean up the Weldon Spring water would work.

Underwood is an associate professor of chemical engineering and director of undergraduate laboratories at Washington University.

"The process has not been tried out," Underwood said. "There are a lot of questions that need to be answered. Building a pilot plant would be a lot cheaper than building the full-scale plant, which is what they are doing now."

Beatrice Buder Clemens, 30, of Richmond Heights said she was worried about the health of her 2-year-old son, Nicholas.

"We have little ones and they will be drinking the water longer than anyone else," Clemens said. "I'm not willing to live with trace amounts of possible dangerous chemicals in the water."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1991

Radiation Leaks Investigated

Data Missing At Nuclear Weapons Plant In Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy Department inspectors will investigate why documents about radiation leaks are missing from a nuclear-weapons facility in Washington state, congressional auditors say.

The General Accounting Office said in a report Thursday that the Energy Department and Westinghouse Corp. had greatly underreported hundreds of thousands of gallons of radioactive liquids that officials knew had leaked from waste tanks at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington.

The GAO report also says officials of Westinghouse Hanford Co. bypassed a safety engineer who refused to sign off on storage-tank data prepared for Congress in 1989.

GAO investigators said they had found no evidence that the disappearance of the records was an attempt to conceal the leakage of contaminated cooling water, which could approach 1 million gallons.

But leaders of a watchdog group in Seattle disagreed. And Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, said the report's findings indicated neglect in health and safety issues throughout the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

Former Rep. Don Bonker of Washington, a board member of Heart of America Northwest, said, "The Columbia River is being poisoned by

the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford tank leaks and illegal discharges."

The nuclear reservation at Richland, Wash., covers 560 square miles along the Columbia River. Established in the 1940s to aid in the Manhattan Project, the reservation contains about half the nation's radioactive waste.

Glenn, chairman of the Senate Government Affairs Committee, said the report showed "a continuing pattern of behavior by [the Energy Department] and its contractors to downplay the seriousness of contamination problems at Hanford."

Leo Duffy, who heads the department's national waste cleanup effort, called the report outdated.

Plant Rebuked

The Rocky Flats nuclear-weapons plant at Golden, Colo., has come under sharp criticism from the Energy Department for safety problems.

In documents obtained by The Associated Press, the department cited "numerous problems" in a program to prevent runaway nuclear reactions.

20 Protest Times Beach Incinerator

Groups Seeking Another Method Of Dioxin Disposal

By Judith VandeWater

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

About 20 protesters stood on an overpass above Interstate 44 in the rain Sunday to try to register opposition to a proposal for a dioxin incinerator at Times Beach.

In addition to solids from Times Beach, the incinerator will burn dirt from 27 other dioxin-contaminated sites in Missouri. Once begun, the cleanup will take about seven years and cost \$80 million.

The incinerator can still be stopped, said Don Fitz, a spokesman for the Gateway Green Alliance, one of the groups at the protest. Before construction can begin, the state must issue a building permit, he said.

Environmental groups under the umbrella of the St. Louis Area Incinerator Network view the public hearings required by the permit process as another opportunity to block construction.

"People believe that nothing can be done about the incinerator, that will be a self-fulfilling prophecy," Fitz said.

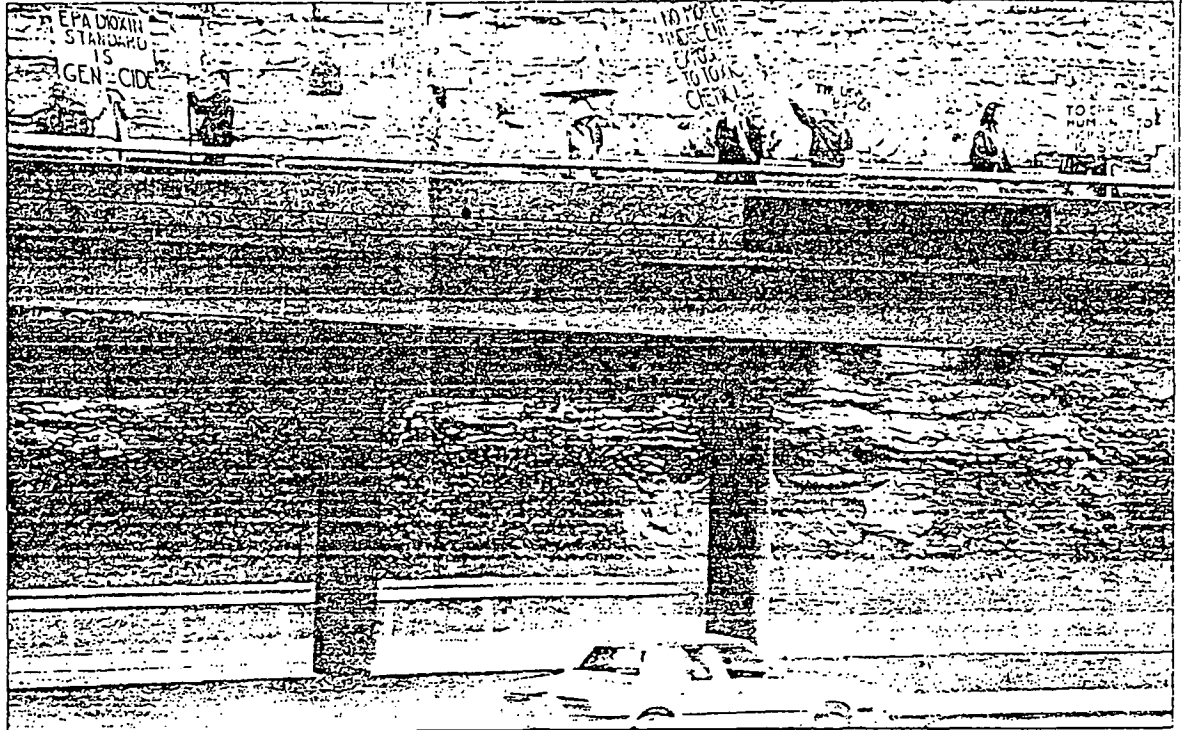
Fitz, 43, is a research psychologist from University City. He said protesters planned to demonstrate on the Lewis Road overpass near Eureka on the second Sunday of each month to demand that plans for the incinerator be halted and that a method to dispose of the dioxin be developed with input from the community.

Unofficial votes on a non-binding referendum in St. Louis County last November showed 55 percent of county residents opposed to the Times Beach incinerator.

"The EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Syntex have ignored what the people have said," Fitz said.

The cleanup agreement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Syntex Agribusiness Inc. — the company responsible for much of the cleanup — was approved in January by U.S. District Judge John F. Nangle.

The dioxin that was spread in road oil in Times Beach and the other sites was produced by Northeastern Pharmaceutical and Chemical Co. at a plant in Verona, Mo. The plant was leased from a company later acquired by Syntex.



Wes Paz/Post-Dispatch

Opponents of a plan to incinerate toxic waste at Times Beach protesting Sunday on the Lewis Road overpass over Interstate 44, near the abandoned town.

Barbara Chicherio, 42, a member of Gateway Greens, said the residents of Fenton and Eureka and the former residents of Times Beach had fought long and hard against the incinerator, but that many now felt powerless to oppose it.

"I think they came to a point of exhaustion," she said. "We really want to re-energize people."

"We're focusing on trying to get in touch with community groups in this area. We want to involve groups close to the site."

Lori Weber, 30, a spokeswoman for the St. Louis Area Incinerator Network, said she feared for her family's health and the health

of other residents if the incinerator was built.

"The reality is that incinerators pollute," she said.

"Every time an incinerator shuts down, there are emissions called fugitive emissions. Anything in there just goes right up the stack unburned."

Weber said she had begun working against the incinerator out of concern for her 3-year-old son. The family lives in Ballwin, about 10 miles from the incinerator site.

"The dioxin is in the ground and not moving anywhere," Weber said. "If the incinerator is built, we will have to worry about the water our children are drinking, the air they are

breathing and the ground they are playing on, because the emissions from the incinerator are going to be evenly spread across the St. Louis area. That terrifies me."

Syntex has called the incinerator a safe and effective solution to the disposal of the contaminated soil.

Weber said Syntex and environmental officials should wait until science develops a safer way to detoxify Times Beach.

"Very soon a way will become clear," Weber said, referring to efforts to neutralize dioxin through the process of dechlorination.

Times Beach Dioxin Plan Unchanged

Westfall, Others Asked For Risk Assessment

By Virgil Tipton

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

If dioxin is considered a less serious threat than it once was, should the plan to burn dioxin-contaminated soil at Times Beach be scrapped in favor of burying it?

St. Louis County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall and other local officials have asked the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for clear answers on the federal government's current assessment of the danger of dioxin — and on whether the cleanup plan should be changed.

The answer, delivered last week: Nothing will change.

Westfall and the officials sent a letter in July, asking for some answers on questions raised after a top federal health official said the danger of dioxin had been overestimated.

The federal official, Dr. Vernon N. Houk of the Centers For Disease Control in Atlanta, said in May that if dioxin was a carcinogen "it is, in my view, a weak one that is associated only with high-dose exposures."

The federal Environmental Protection Agency once called dioxin "the most toxic man-made chemical."

Houk's comments — and the way they were reported by the press — raised questions about the wisdom of continuing with a plan to burn dioxin-contaminated soil at Times Beach, said Lee Brotherton, Westfall's spokesman.

Westfall and the other officials asked whether Houk's conclusions represented those of the federal agencies involved. And, if that's the case, should officials look at another method of cleaning up the dioxin rather than burning it?

Residents and local officials wonder "if incineration and the products of incineration may be more hazardous to our community than the dioxin soil risk itself," the officials said.

The officials who signed that letter are Mayor Barney Nelson of Eureka; Mayor James Graham of Fenton; state Reps. Jim Murphy, R-Crestwood, and William Linton, R-West County; and state Sens. Walter Mueller, R-Kirkwood, and Thomas W. McCarthy, R-Chesterfield.

The letter in response was signed by John R. Bagby, director of the state Department of Health, and by G. Tracy Mehan III, director of the Department of Natural Resources. Their letter makes these points:

- Neither federal agency involved in measuring the risk of dioxin — the Public Health Service or the Centers for Disease Control — has changed its position on the risk of dioxin.

- Even if the risk assessments were changed, Times Beach and other sites in Eastern Missouri still would have to be cleaned up.

- Burning remains the best way to deal with the contamination. Saying that dioxin is not as toxic as it was once thought to be "does not necessarily mean that the chemical no longer poses a threat to human health, nor does it mean that it should remain in the environment."

Lead Waste May Be Hazard, Experts Warn

By Tom Uhlenbrock
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Thousands of people may be exposed to hazardous lead levels as a result of mining waste products near their homes in the Joplin area, say two researchers at St. Louis University Medical Center.

R. Gregory Evans and Dr. Ana Maria Murgueytio are coordinating the research for the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Missouri Department of Health.

In an interview Tuesday, Evans stressed that he was talking of "potential exposure" levels because test results have yet to be analyzed. But he said thousands of people, including up to a 1,000 children, live in the mining area where the lead wastes are situated.

The researchers have taken blood samples from 400 residents of the Joplin-Neosho-Webb City area — including 150 children under the age of 6, 150 from 6 to 18 years old and 100 adults.

Those tested were chosen randomly, and paid \$10 to take part. "Their only exposure is what they had in everyday life," Evans said.

The testing is completed, but the results have yet to be analyzed and most likely will not be announced until early next year, Evans said.

Several lead mines operated in the area in the pre-1940s and left behind mounds of lead tailings when they closed, Evans said. The waste was used for a variety of purposes, including fill on residential lots.

The lead wastes have broken down and mixed with the area's soil and gravel, Evans said. "The dust can be inhaled and can be on food and get ingested — that's the two primary sources," he said.

Exposure to lead can cause anemia, stomach problems and learning disabilities. Lead exposure can cause problems with fetal brain development.

In children, lead poisoning is said to cause a decrease of as much as six points in IQ levels.

Because of the risk, the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta recently lowered its official recommendation of blood levels at which children are said to be at risk for brain damage. The level was decreased to 10 micrograms per deciliter from 25 micrograms.

If elevated levels of lead are found in the blood of those tested, it could have implications for similar areas throughout the nation, Evans said.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1991

GOP County Map 'Dead On Arrival'

Democrats Fear Loss Of Majority

By Virgil Tipton
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

REPUBLICANS SAID Tuesday that they had black voters in mind when they drew a map for the St. Louis County Council giving blacks a 63 percent total in the council's 1st District.

But Democrats accused the Republicans of looking out for another minority: Republicans on the County Council.

"This map is dead on arrival," said Cary Hammond, a Democrat and the chairman of the county's redistricting commission. "This is not a plan for a minority district. This is a plan for Republican control of the County Council."

H.C. Milford, a former county executive and the lead Republican on the redistricting commission, denied that Democrats planned to create a black majority.

"Our first challenge was to draw a district that could be won by a minority," Milford said.

At issue is a map disclosed Tuesday by the seven Republicans on the county's redistricting commission. The commission's job is to redraw the boundary lines for the seven County Council districts to reflect changes in population in the past 10 years.

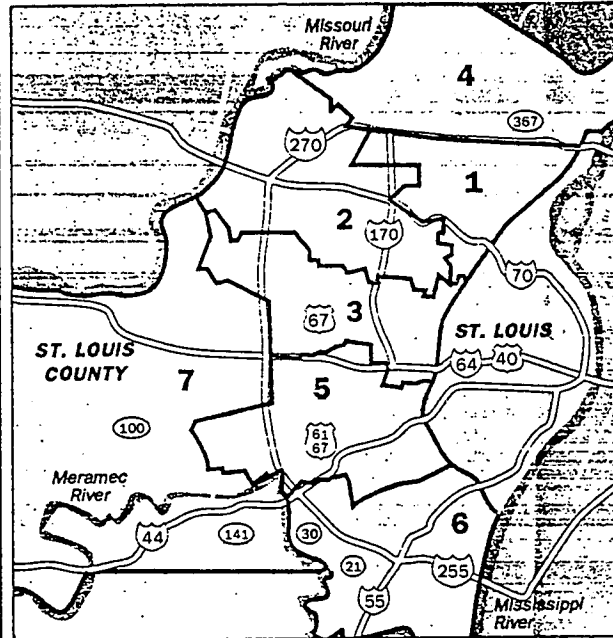
For the past 10 years, three seats have been considered generally safe for Republicans and three safe for Democrats, with the remaining seat a swing district. Right now, four Democrats and three Republicans serve on the council.

But the Republican map pushes the 3rd District — the swing district — westward into the heavily Republican territory of Missouri River and Queeny townships.

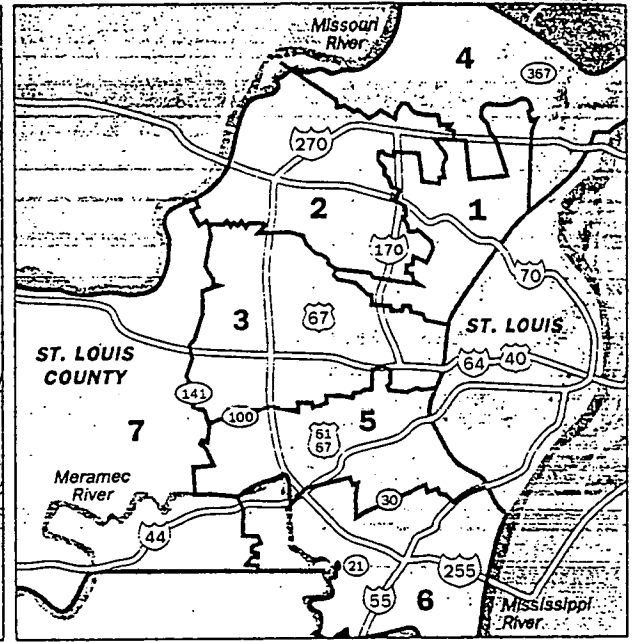
Councilwoman Geri Rothman-Serot of Frontenac, a Democrat and the incumbent in that district, said the result is that the district would become "extremely Republican. It no longer is a swing district."

That contention leads to the Democratic charge that Republicans are using the issue of a minority district as a

St. Louis County Council District Boundaries
Current District Boundaries



District Boundaries Proposed By Republicans



Tom Borgman/Post-Dispatch



H. C. Milford
Republican member

smokescreen.

Republicans are using the issue "as

The Republican map pushes the 3rd District — the swing district — westward into heavily Republican territory.

a pretext to achieve their true ambition in this reapportionment process," Hammond said. "And that's to draw a Republican majority in the County Council."

Milford acknowledged that Republicans might have an easier time in that district under the Republican plan. But he contended that the change was a consequence of drawing a black district — not a goal.

The Republican map draws district boundary lines in such a way that the 1st District in North County would



Geri Rothman-Serot
Democratic incumbent

have a population that's 63.3 percent

black, or a total minority population of

64.3 percent, compared with the current black population of 44 percent.

A Democratic plan proposed last week showed a black population of 56 percent.

Republicans and some black political leaders say that for a black to have a reasonable chance of winning a district, the district must have a minority population of close to 65 percent. Democrats contend that a black could have a chance of winning with a lower black population.

Despite the disagreement Tuesday, both sides said they were ready to negotiate.

One detail of the Republican map amused both sides. Turned upside down, the 1st District somewhat resembles an elephant — the symbol of the Republican Party.

"There's no way an elephant's going to win in that 1st District," Milford said.

EDITORIALS

Falling Behind On Weapons' Waste

Little progress has been made on cleaning up the mountains of contaminated waste at the nation's nuclear weapons plants. The Department of Energy first admitted the cleanup to be a problem of major dimensions five years ago; now it appears to be a task of much greater magnitude than previously imagined. Yet the department says it lacks the money and expertise to be confident of resolving it.

The department has issued a report indicating that in the next five years there will be a large gap between what is estimated as necessary to maintain a timely cleanup program and the amount allocated by Congress to do so. So far, a mere \$26 billion has been budgeted for the problem. The Energy Department thinks the true cost will be closer to \$40 billion — or more. The affected states, which are relying on federal help to clean up the contaminated sites in their territory, are expressing well-founded concern that the federal government may renege on its com-

mitment to do the job right.

Worse, the dimensions of the problem keep growing. For instance, while the volume and nature of material at the sites is pretty well known, in many cases its concentration — or toxicity — remains completely unknown. This important detail will dramatically affect the cost of cleaning it up. In addition, while methods exist for handling both radioactive and chemical contaminants, no adequate treatment and disposal system presently is available for treating wastes that are a mixture of the two. Indeed, for some toxic chemicals at the sites, there is no known method for retrieval and handling at all.

Thus not only is the money committed to cleaning up the weapons sites inadequate, the true dimensions of the problem have yet to be fully assessed. More money, especially for more scientists and engineers, is essential to eliminate these hot spots around the country in any reasonable period of time.