

ST. LOUIS FUSRAP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
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May 10, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Washington Post's April 10, 2000 article "Nuclear Cleanup's Fallout" criticized the actions of the United States Army Corps of Engineers at the Tonawanda, NY, Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) site.

In contrast to the allegations made about the Corps in the article, St. Louis has been very pleased thus far with the work of the Corps of Engineers' plans and actions to clean up the St. Louis (Missouri) FUSRAP sites. (St. Louis has the largest FUSRAP site in the United States, both in acreage and volume of radioactive waste material).

For the past ten years, there has been strong community support for cleaning up these sites in St. Louis. In 1990, when the Department of Energy proposed consolidating and storing the radioactive waste in St. Louis, voters in both St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to this plan in a non-binding referendum. Both the County and the City formed a Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Commission to study these issues. At that time, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Thomas Grumbly, proposed the creation of a Citizen Task Force made up of these commission members as well as other interested citizens to make recommendations about remediation of these sites. From 1994 through 1996, the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force met tirelessly to study the issue and to make recommendations for clean up. After hundreds of hours of meetings and many public forums, the Task Force made a report to the community and DOE in September 1996. The recommendations for clean up received wide spread community support.

Since 1997 when responsibility for FUSRAP clean up was turned over to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Corps has been extremely responsive to the community. Clean up standards to date have been those that were called for in the Community Task Force report. The standards require clean up to virtually unrestricted use at all sites. The Corps has actively cooperated with both state and local jurisdictions to assure adequate monitoring of sites being remediated and has assured high levels of public safety. This is in complete adherence with the CERCLA regulations administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Corps has assured independent verification of materials taken from the site. (Both the Corps' own laboratories and separate independent laboratories characterize excavated soils prior to their shipment from the site). The Corps has sent excavated materials to the most cost effective, licensed facilities in the country, assuring wise use of taxpayer's dollars.

Finally, the Corps has been very open in its communication with the community. Monthly meetings are held with the St. Louis FUSRAP Oversight Committee, appointed jointly by the County Executive and the Mayor, to monitor progress, answer tough questions, and solve problems. The Corps has implemented an aggressive Community Relations plan that includes public meetings, displays in local schools and libraries, and an award winning community newsletter. If there are problems, the Corps acknowledges them and implements solutions.

The St. Louis FUSRAP Oversight Committee cannot speak to the situation in Tonawanda. But the experience of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis in dealing with the Corps of Engineers FUSRAP cleanup since September 1997, has been very positive.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Cavanagh
Chairperson
St. Louis FUSRAP Oversight Committee

- c. Senator Christopher Bond
- Senator John Ashcroft
- Congressman Richard Gephardt
- Congressman James Talent
- Congressman William Clay

Cataloging Form

{Technical/Project Managers fill in C through G, K through Q. RM completes other fields}

A. Document ID Number: Assigned by database

00-195

B. Further Information Required?: ☐

C. Operable Unit (Choose One):

USACE ☐
~~St. Louis Sites~~ ☒
Downtown ☐
North County ☐
Madison Sites ☐
Inaccessible Areas ☐
PRP ☐
Oversight Committee ☒

D. Site (Optional):

SLDS VPs ☐
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SLAPS ☐
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F. Primary Document Type (Choose One):

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Feasibility Study ☐
Record of Decision ☐
Remedial Design ☐

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K. Subject/Title:

USACE Progress on St. Louis Sites - Contrast to Washington Post articles on "Nuclear Waste Gallant"

L. Author:

Richard Cavanaugh

M. Author's Company:

Oversight Committee

N. Recipient(s):

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President of US

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