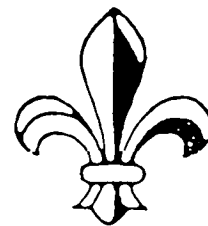


Clarence Harmon
Mayor

NEWS



Contact:

**JOINT STATEMENT
FROM MAYOR CLARENCE HARMON
AND COLONEL LEONARD GRIGGS**

Radioactive Waste Hearing
March 17, 1998

As Mayor of the City of St. Louis and Director of Lambert St. Louis International Airport, we are submitting this testimony in response to the EE/CA (Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis) for the St. Louis Airport Site.

We support Alternative 2 as described in the EE/CA: the excavation and disposal of the waste at the Airport Site and the ballfields. We also support using the strictest proposed clean-up standards for Alternative 2 including clean-up of Radium 226 to levels of 5 picocuries per gram for the surface and 15 picocuries per gram for the subsurface, clean-up of Thorium 230 to levels of 5 picocuries per gram for the surface and 15 picocuries per gram for the subsurface, and clean-up of Uranium 238 to levels of 50 picocuries per gram for the surface and 50 picocuries per gram for the subsurface.

We also support the use of "clean" soil to fill in excavated areas rather than soil from the site that remains contaminated below the criteria of 5/15 and 50. We favor this alternative because we believe it has the support of the public and because it fits most closely with the recommendations of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force regarding clean-up of the Airport Site. This body, representing a broad range of stakeholders, met for over two years and worked through a variety of diverse opinions to come up with a nearly unanimous recommendation on how to proceed with the clean-up of the St. Louis Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) sites.

Furthermore, in referenda in 1988, an overwhelming majority of citizens in both St. Louis City and St. Louis County made it clear that they did not want to see the Airport Site turned into a permanent storage bunker for radioactive waste. We are concerned that the storage of any contaminated soil, no matter how low the level, may be perceived by the public as a step toward establishment of a bunker at the Airport Site.

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TESTIMONY (ADD ONE)

An additional reason for rejecting the below criteria backfill is stated on page 5-6 section 5.2.2 of the EE/CA. This statement points out the fact " the need to segregate these (above and below criteria) soils during removal would complicate the excavation." Complications on projects of this nature often bring increased costs. The City of St. Louis does not believe that minor cost savings is worth endangering the public health in the area surrounding the Airport. We firmly believe that clean soil must be used as backfill at the Airport site.

We also want to reiterate our strong support for continued public participation in the clean-up process of all the FUSRAP sites in St. Louis City and County. Through years of discussion and dialogue among diverse constituencies, this region has established a consensus on how to proceed with the clean-up of these sites. In order to maintain this consensus and implement the plan, we encourage the Army Corps of Engineers to work closely with the St. Louis Oversight Committee on Radioactive Waste and the general public. It is especially important that the Army Corps of Engineers officials coordinate closely with Airport officials to make sure that all clean-up activities at and around the Airport site are consistent with the guidelines of the Federal Aviation Administration.

In closing, we want to note that, in keeping with the spirit of the regional consensus on this issue, we have worked closely with our counterparts in the State of Missouri and St. Louis County to achieve consensus on our positions. We are united in our belief that Alternative 2, with clean-up to the 5/15 and 50 standard is the best option for the Airport Site clean-up.

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