



FUSRAP

The St. Louis Site

St. Louis, Missouri



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is implementing a comprehensive cleanup program for three groups of properties in the St. Louis area under the DOE Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The properties are (1) the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS), (2) the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) and its vicinity properties, and (3) the Latty Avenue Properties, which includes the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS). The three groups of properties, collectively referred to as the St. Louis site, were placed under FUSRAP at various times from 1981 to 1984. DOE established FUSRAP in 1974 to cleanup or control sites where radioactive contamination exceeding DOE guidelines remains from early years of the nation's atomic energy program.

During World War II, a chemical plant operated by Mallinckrodt in downtown St. Louis (near the McKinley Bridge) processed and produced various forms of uranium compounds and recovered uranium metals for the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Residue from that processing and from the cleanup of buildings at the plant was stored at an AEC-owned, 21-acre parcel of land on McDonald Boulevard, just north of the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

In 1966, a private firm purchased some of the residue for its commercial value and hauled it in trucks about one-half mile to a site on Latty Avenue, just north of SLAPS. As a result of transporting this residue, the three properties referred to as the St. Louis site became radioactively contaminated at levels exceeding DOE guidelines and require some type of remedial action. These properties are now under FUSRAP. DOE has identified additional residential and commercial properties, as well as more than 70 properties along roads in the airport area that may be contaminated as a result of hauling the residue.

The primary radioactive contaminant at the site is thorium-230. Analyses have also identified the pres-

ence of uranium-238 and radium-226. Given present land use at the site, the low-level radioactivity found at these properties pose no threat to public health or the environment. Performing remedial action and achieving cleanup standards will ensure that the properties pose no significant risk if land use changes in the future.

Under FUSRAP, DOE has analyzed core samples from the properties to determine the nature of the contamination, a process called **characterization**. Characterization has been completed at SLDS, HISS, and SLAPS and its vicinity properties.

Much of the characterization work was performed on soil and sediment samples taken along the haul roads and from a section of Coldwater Creek between Banshee Road and Old Halls Ferry Road. Work along the haul roads indicated some contamination on road shoulders and adjacent properties. In general, any contamination found along the haul roads has been low-level and at depths of less than one foot. Although the characterization is essentially complete, some additional investigation will be needed in these two areas.

DOE recently completed a radiological characterization report for properties located in Berkeley, Hazelwood, and St. Louis. DOE sent notification to owners of those properties detailing results of the surveys. DOE has also called and met with some owners whose properties have contamination exceeding DOE guidelines to discuss the nature of the contamination and the cleanup process. Data from this characterization and other surveys will be used to design a cleanup program for long-term management of these wastes.

In October 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed SLAPS and the Latty Avenue Properties on the National Priorities List (NPL). Placement on the NPL requires cleanup to proceed under

the authority of EPA and the guidelines of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Comprehensive cleanup measures will be preceded by a complete environmental review process as required by CERCLA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In 1990, DOE and EPA signed an agreement that outlines the environmental review process, referred to as the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) process. The RI/FS process is used to determine the ultimate disposition of radioactive materials from the St. Louis site. The goal of the RI/FS process is to reach a formal record of decision (ROD), which describes the selected cleanup alternative. A range of alternatives, including off-site and on-site disposal, will be evaluated. Opportunities will be provided for the public to comment on and participate in the environmental review process. Selection of a disposal site will not be made until completion of a full environmental review, currently scheduled for 1994. DOE will design and begin the cleanup after a ROD has been reached.

If funding is available, DOE may perform an interim cleanup of some of the residential and commercial properties while this review process is being conducted to prevent further spread of contamination.

In response to requests by St. Louis residents to make site information more readily available, DOE opened its Public Information Office at 9200 Latty Avenue in Hazelwood, Missouri. In addition to offering site information, the office provides opportunities for the public to comment on and participate in the environmental review process. The public will be

asked to review and comment on any remedial action plan proposed by DOE.

DOE has also opened for public review an administrative record containing documents related to the St. Louis site. Decisions about the cleanup of the site will be based on these documents. This record and general information repositories are available for review during normal business hours at:

St. Louis Public Library —
Government Information Section
1301 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri, 63103

St. Louis County Library —
Prairie Commons Branch
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, Missouri, 63042

and

DOE Public Information Office
9200 Latty Avenue
Hazelwood, Missouri, 63042
(314) 524-4083

For more information or to be included on the site mailing list, write or call the DOE Public Information Office or:

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ACRONYMS USED

AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DOE	Department of Energy
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FUSRAP	Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
HISS	Hazelwood Interim Storage Site
MED	Manhattan Engineer District
NPL	National Priorities List
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
RI/FS	remedial investigation/feasibility study
ROD	record of decision
SLAPS	St. Louis Airport Site
SLDS	St. Louis Downtown Site