

DOE FUSRAP Fact Sheet St. Louis Site

November 1990

DOE responds to resident requests for site information

Residents of St. Louis now have a convenient location where they can gain information about the properties in St. Louis that are subject to environmental cleanup.

In response to resident requests to make St. Louis site information more readily available, the Department of Energy (DOE) has opened a Public Information Office at 9200 Latty Avenue, Hazelwood, Missouri. Site information will be available on the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS), the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), and the Latty Avenue Properties. The office has been established to provide opportunities for the public to comment on and participate in the environmental review process that will eventually lead to a decision on site cleanup.

DOE has also recently completed a radiological characterization report summarizing sampling and analysis results for properties located in Berkeley, Hazelwood, and St. Louis. Some of the properties are believed to have residue waste from uranium processing activities conducted in downtown St. Louis several decades ago. Notification has been sent to property owners detailing the results of the survey conducted on their properties. Data from these and other surveys will be used to design a cleanup program for long-term management of these wastes.

Summary

- DOE has established a program to clean up residual radioactivity at the St. Louis Downtown Site, the St. Louis Airport Site, and the Latty Avenue Properties.
- Radiological characterization surveys have been conducted along Latty Avenue, McDonnell Boulevard, Hazelwood Avenue, Pershall Road, Coldwater Creek, and the St. Louis Airport Site areas.
- Results of characterization surveys and other extensive sampling studies conducted at the St. Louis site demonstrate that existing contamination poses no health hazard under current land use conditions.
- When appropriate environmental reviews are completed, affected areas will be cleaned up as necessary to ensure long-term protection of human health and the environment.
- St. Louis site information is available at the Public Information Office located at 9200 Latty Avenue.

For more information or to be included on the mailing list for updates about the site,
call or write: **David Adler, St. Louis Site Manager**

Public Information Office
9200 Latty Avenue
Hazelwood, MO 63033
(314) 524-4083

U.S. Department of Energy
Former Sites Restoration Division
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723
(615) 576-0948

Review Process

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DOE signed an agreement in July that outlines the environmental review process to be used in making a decision on the ultimate disposition of radioactive materials from the St. Louis Airport Superfund Site and associated contaminated properties. The goal of this process is to reach a record of decision that describes the selected cleanup alternative.

A range of alternatives, including off-site and on-site disposal will be evaluated. Selection of a disposal site will not be made until completion of a full environmental review, currently scheduled for 1994. DOE will design and implement the cleanup after a record of decision has been reached.

FUSRAP Program

SLAPS, SLDS, and the Latty Avenue Properties are all part of the DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The objectives of FUSRAP are to identify sites that were used by the government or its contractors in the early years of the nation's atomic energy program and ensure that those sites meet current environmental standards. FUSRAP presently includes 32 sites in 13 states.

History

During World War II, uranium was processed at a chemical plant operated by Mallinckrodt, Inc., in downtown St. Louis. Residues from that processing and from the cleanup of buildings at the plant were stored at a 21-acre parcel of land that was owned by the Atomic Energy Commission on McDonnell Boulevard, just north of the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. In 1966, some of the residues were purchased by a private firm for their commercial value and trucked to a site on Latty Avenue, about a halfmile north of SLAPS.

As a result of these activities, three FUSRAP properties in the Greater St. Louis area contain levels of radioactivity in excess of current standards and require some type of remedial action. DOE has also identified more than 70 haul route

properties in the general airport area that may be contaminated as a result of hauling materials from SLAPS to Latty Avenue. The low-level radioactivity found at these properties poses no threat to public health or the environment, given current land use. Achieving cleanup standards will ensure that the properties pose no significant risk, even if land use changes.

Work to Date

In the past several years, DOE has accomplished a great deal of work at the St. Louis site. This work consisted primarily of characterization (sampling and analysis to determine the nature and extent of contamination). Characterization has been completed at SLAPS, the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site, and SLDS. Much of the work completed focused on Coldwater Creek and the haul route properties. Work on Coldwater Creek involved collection and analysis of soil samples from the creek between Pershall Road and Old Halls Ferry Road. Low-level contamination was found at some sampling locations. Work along the haul routes indicated some contamination on road shoulders and adjacent properties. In general, where contamination was found, the levels were low and at shallow depths (less than one foot). Although the characterization is essentially complete, some additional investigation will be needed in the creek and along the haul routes.

Site Information

DOE has opened an Administrative Record containing the body of information upon which decisions about the cleanup will be based. This record and a general information repository are available for review, during normal business hours, in the Government Information Section at 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 at the Public Information Office, 9200 Latty Avenue, Hazelwood,