

FUSRAP

The St. Louis Site

St. Louis, Missouri



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

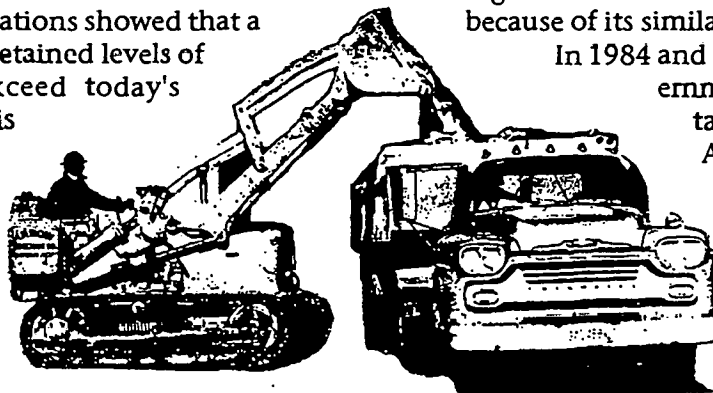
May 1993

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is implementing a cleanup program for four groups of properties in the St. Louis area that are contaminated with low levels of radioactivity. The properties are 1) the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS), 2) the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), 3), several nearby or "vicinity" properties associated with SLAPS, and 4) the Latty Avenue Properties, which include the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS).

The properties, collectively referred to as the St. Louis Site, are among more than 40 sites throughout the U. S. that are being addressed under DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). DOE began FUSRAP in 1974 to find, control, and clean up sites where radioactive contamination that exceeds current guidelines remains from the early years of our nation's atomic energy program. Other sites have been added to the program by Congress. The St. Louis properties were added to FUSRAP at various times between 1981 and 1984.

How did the sites become contaminated?

From 1942 to 1957, the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) contracted with the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works to process uranium compounds at a plant in St. Louis. As a result of these activities, parts of the property became contaminated. When MED/AEC operations stopped, the facilities were decontaminated according to the standards at the time. However, later investigations showed that a portion of the facility retained levels of radioactivity that exceed today's stricter guidelines. This portion of the Mallinckrodt property is called the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS). Six vicinity properties also contain areas of residual contamination.



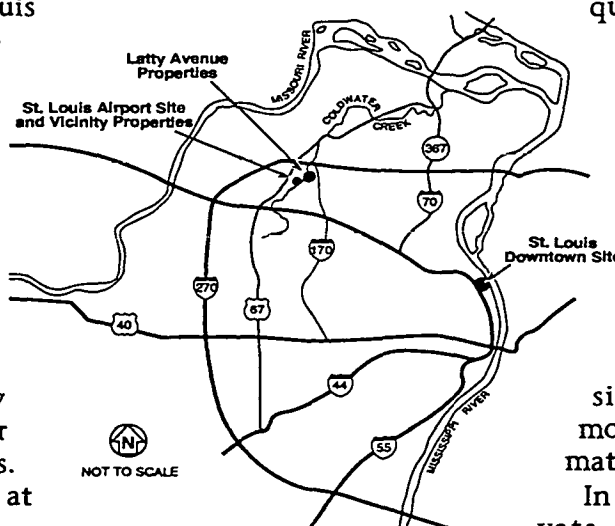
In 1946, MED acquired the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), just north of the St. Louis airport, as a storage area for residues and other materials from

SLDS. In subsequent years, the SLAPS Vicinity Properties became contaminated as the result of erosion and movements of materials.

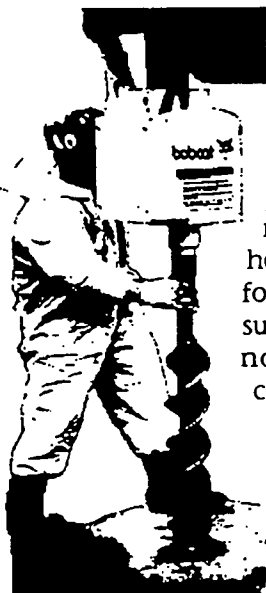
In 1966, a private company purchased the residues

and hauled them from SLAPS to a site about one-half mile north on Latty Avenue in Hazelwood. The residues were stored for several months, then were sold and shipped to another private company in Colorado. However, in 1977, surveys showed that the owner had left contamination on the property and that it had begun to spread offsite. Even though DOE was not responsible for this contamination, Congress directed that DOE add this site to FUSRAP because of its similarity to other FUSRAP sites.

In 1984 and 1986, DOE assisted local governments in the excavation of contaminated soil from along Latty Avenue to allow construction of stormwater and sewer lines. The contaminated soil was moved to an onsite storage pile. The site is now known as the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS).



Together, HISS and the remaining offsite contaminated properties are called the Latty Avenue Properties.



How hazardous are the sites?

The sites are contaminated with very low levels of thorium, uranium, and radium. Given present land uses, the sites pose no significant threat to public health or the environment. Performing remedial action will ensure that the properties will pose no significant risk should land uses change in the future.

At HISS, DOE carries out an environmental monitoring program to ensure that the contaminated material stored there is not a threat to the public or the environment.

DOE publishes the monitoring results yearly in a report that is available to the public.

What is DOE doing to clean up the sites?

DOE is moving forward in a process that will lead to a decision for remediating the sites. The process complies with federal laws and follows steps outlined in an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In October 1989, EPA placed SLAPS and the Latty Avenue Properties on its National Priorities List, which means that EPA has authority over cleanups. In 1990, DOE and EPA signed a Federal Facilities Agreement that laid out the specific requirements and a schedule for the cleanup evaluation.

All work in connection with the sites will conform with the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The CERCLA/NEPA process is lengthy, but it ensures that when a decision is made on cleanup for the St. Louis sites, that decision will reflect due consideration for environmental, public health, and safety concerns.

The process requires a remedial investigation/feasibility study and environmental impact statement. DOE has completed the remedial investiga-

tion phase. Each site has been investigated to determine the amounts and locations of contamination and the possible ways it could spread or pose a risk to the public. The feasibility study-environmental impact statement will present and assess various alternatives for remediating the properties. Data from the investigations will be used in evaluating the alternatives.

DOE expects to issue a draft of the feasibility study-environmental impact statement and a proposed plan in 1994. DOE will solicit public review and comment on this document before making a remediation decision.

The decision, which must be approved by EPA, will be published in a document called the Record of Decision, which DOE expects to issue in May 1995. After the Record of Decision, DOE will proceed with designing and implementing the selected remedy.

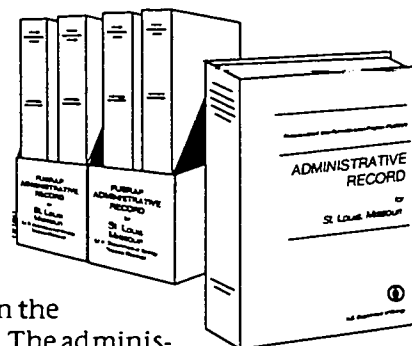
How can I obtain more information?

DOE maintains a Public Information Center to provide site information and offer opportunities for the public to participate in the review process. At the office, DOE maintains a publicly available administrative record of the documents that contain information that will be considered in the Record of Decision. The administrative record also is available at the St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive Street in St. Louis, and at the St. Louis County Library, 915 Utz Lane in Hazelwood.

For information, or to be added to the site mailing list, contact:

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

DOE also maintains a 24-hour, toll-free telephone number. An answering machine records comments or questions, and all calls are returned. The number is 1-800-253-9759.



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.