

Innovative Technologies Tested at SLAPS

Safer. Faster. Cheaper. These are the goals of the Department of Energy (DOE) in characterizing and cleaning up radioactively contaminated sites. In September, Ames Laboratory mobilized at the St. Louis Airport Site to test prototype technologies and techniques in radiological characterization. The laboratory, which is affiliated with Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, has a grant from the Department of Energy to develop new approaches involving both new technologies and new ways of looking at existing information.

The tests conducted at SLAPS on September 12 and 13 are called Expedited Site Characterization (ESC). ESC, pioneered for DOE by Argonne National Laboratory, emphasizes a concentrated coordination of the various steps of the characterization effort. It takes days, rather than weeks or months, to get back results needed to analyze a site.

Approximately 80 people attended the workshops and demonstrations. They not only observed the technology close up, but were able to interact

and exchange information with professionals about environmental cleanup issues and objectives.

Dave Adler, site manager for the St. Louis Site, welcomed the opportunity for Ames to demonstrate their technology. "The fact that so much data already exists at SLAPS will allow Ames to compare their techniques to those traditional ones we have used to date and assess their effectiveness. From what I've seen of their approach so far, it looks exceptional."

One promising technology being developed by Ames is a field screening tool, which is believed to be capable of quantifying radionuclides down to very low levels. The tool uses a laser to separate the elements from the soil, then passes the elements through an analyzer that

yields real-time analytical results. The laser can be tuned to different elements and focused on different soil depths.

"This type of technology could replace traditional sampling and lab analysis for screening and post-remedial action data," Adler said.

Ames is in the process of comparing their results to the existing data collected by DOE over the past several years. A report detailing the findings should be issued in the near future. From there, the new approach can be used to conduct safer, faster and cheaper site assessments.



A group observes one of the Ames Lab technology demonstrations at SLAPS.

Information Center Change of Address

You may have noticed a different address on recent mailings and information.

We haven't moved, but the Post Office has changed our address.

Our new address is 9170 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, MO 63134. Please send any correspondence to our new address.

FUSRAP Update is issued periodically to inform St. Louis residents about current activities on the contaminated sites in the St. Louis area that are slated for cleanup under the U.S. Department of Energy's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). These sites were contaminated during the early days of the nation's atomic energy program.

For more information about the FUSRAP site in St. Louis, contact Patti Hazel at the DOE Public Information Center, 9170 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, MO 63134. Telephone (314) 524-4083.

Citizens Task Force to assist with radioactive waste issues

A task force made up of St. Louis-area officials and residents has organized to study St. Louis' radioactive waste problem and recommend remedies to the U.S. Department of Energy. The group met for the first time September 13 and began regularly scheduled monthly meetings on October 11.

At its organizational meeting, the group adopted the title "St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force" and elected Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan task force chairperson. Bryan, who is director of the St. Louis County Health Department, has also been serving as chairman of the county's Radioactive and

Hazardous Waste Oversight Commission – an advisory panel to the county executive.

Also at that meeting, the group defined its mission and goals, considered a proposed charter, and discussed past impediments to progress.

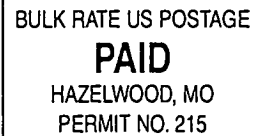
The group's genesis was in the recent site "stakeholder summit" attended by DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Tom Grumbly, who said DOE needed to accommodate broader public input in St. Louis. Invitations to participate in the summit were based on an individual's unique position to represent site stakeholders – those who have a stake

in what is decided at the site. Task Force membership is expected to number about 30.

Task force proceedings are open to the public, with the first 10 to 15 minutes of each meeting set aside for audience comments and questions. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Hazelwood Civic Center East at 8969 Dunn Road. The December meeting will be held on December 6.

Post cards announcing the date and location of each meeting will be mailed to the site mailing list, and area media will also be notified.

DOE Public Information Center
9170 Latty Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134



Your toll-free number to the DOE Public Information Center is **1-800-253-9759**



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