



FUSRAP Update **The St. Louis Site**

U.S. Department of Energy • Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Fall 1995

Task Force enters critical phase

The St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force is steadily moving toward its goal of proposing a cleanup strategy to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Since beginning monthly meetings in October 1994, the task force has selected a facilitator, ranked criteria for evaluating the remedies, and organized several working groups. The working groups consist of 5 to 10 members who take a more in-depth look at specific issues. The groups meet more frequently, in some cases weekly, and are reporting recommendations back to the full task force.

Facilitator Jim Dwyer credits the "extraordinary dedication of those in the working groups" for the task force's momentum.

The alternative sites working group met weekly the first three months of this year. More recently, the priorities working group has met weekly to assess and rank interim cleanup options for the next two years. Other working groups have formed to assess site cleanup standards and to develop communications plans.

The task force meets at 7:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month, at the Hazelwood Civic Center East. All meetings are open to the public. The group plans to deliver a final report to DOE in the spring.



Members of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force discuss cleanup priorities at their September meeting.

FROM THE SITE MANAGER

During the next few months, we have what I believe is one of our best opportunities ever for reaching consensus on a remedy for the St. Louis Site.

Since last August, members of the Remediation Task Force have been working diligently toward that goal. Week after week, month after month, they've immersed themselves in FUSRAP—studying documents, reviewing proposals, and debating the issues. They've grappled with such weighty topics as disposal site alternatives, cleanup standards and health risks, and near-term cleanup priorities.

The challenge Task Force members have undertaken is not for the fainthearted—the issues are complex, the hours have been long, and at times the tensions high. It's no simple matter, finding a remedy that everyone can live with and that Congress will pay for. Now, more than ever, we must deal with stark fiscal realities.

Whether on Capitol Hill or at the White House, budget cutting is the name of the game, and as you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, FUSRAP has not been spared.)

Despite these hardships, the Task Force has persevered. The dedication of these people is commendable. I hope you'll join me in wishing them the best and expressing heartfelt appreciation for their efforts.


David Adler, Site Manager

Survey gauges attitudes toward St. Louis Site issues

Ever wonder what others in your neighborhood and beyond are thinking about the St. Louis FUSRAP site? The Energy, Environment Resources Center at the University of Tennessee recently conducted an awareness and opinion survey of St. Louis Site stakeholders. More than 1,000 surveys were mailed to a randomly selected sample of individuals living in proximity to either the North County sites or the downtown site. Of those, some 200 were returned.

Views were sought on a variety of site-related issues such as perceived risks, preferred site remedies and public involvement. Treatment of soils to remove contaminants and reduce disposal volumes was the most preferred course of action. Next was excavation with off-site disposal; 32 percent gave it a favorable rating of 4 or 5 (on a scale of 1-5). However, 35 percent gave it an unfavorable rating (1 or 2), largely out of concern for costs.

Controlling and monitoring, but leaving the material in place ranked in the middle range of preferences. Equal percentages (32 percent) gave it low and high marks. Scenarios involving consolidation of contaminated materials and disposal on site received the lowest level of support.

In addition, nine site-related concerns—which are commonly voiced—were provided to respondents for ranking. The top three were water contamination (66 percent), overall health risks (59 percent), and the need for public involvement (57 percent).

Project director David Feldman said he was pleased with the level of response and noted the quality of additional written comments provided by respondents.

A summary report has been published and copies are available by calling 1-800-253-9759.

