



# ***FUSRAP Update*** **The St. Louis Site**

U.S. Department of Energy

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

Spring 1996

## **'96 cleanups underway**

**D**rawing from the recommendations of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force, DOE is planning several interim cleanup activities for fiscal year '96. These interim cleanups are part of DOE's commitment to implement focused interim cleanup measures, while continuing to work with stakeholders toward development of an overall, long-term remedy for the site.

### **North County**

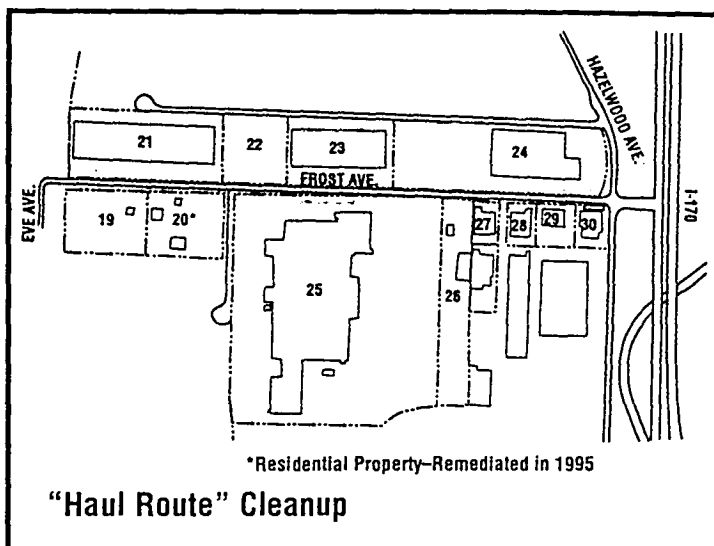
**Haul Routes** – Spring cleaning plans include commercial vicinity properties along Frost Avenue. There are seven commercial properties on Frost, with varying amounts of contamination, mostly along road frontages.

The Frost properties were chosen in part because of their relatively high elevation and drainage patterns, which will preclude recontamination from other areas. The cleanup will allow DOE to release an entire block of properties for use without radiological restriction.

Excavated soils from these properties will be staged at the Norfolk-Southern Railroad siding near the intersection of Eva Avenue and McDonnell Boulevard. From there, the soils will be loaded onto gondola cars for shipping to a licensed, out-of-state disposal facility.

**Berkeley Ballfields** – As part of its interim cleanup deliberations, the Task Force sought a way to return the Berkeley Ballfields (also known as Khoury League Park) to recreational use. Task Force members have asked DOE to look into removing the most radioactive soils from "hot spots" and covering the site with enough clean fill to make it safe for future use. Before DOE begins any work, it will seek public review and comment on any proposed plans.

Continues on page 2 . . .



## **St. Louis Site Task Force recommends cleanup priorities**

**R**estoring the Berkeley Ballfields for public use is one of the priorities recommended to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force.

At its September 12, 1995 meeting, the Task Force agreed to recommend a series of cleanup activities for the DOE to undertake for its fiscal years 1996 and 1997. Fiscal year 1996 began October 1, 1995. DOE has agreed to pursue the Task Force recommendations.

These near-term priorities were developed by the Task Force as it continues to refine a recommendation for an overall cleanup program at the St. Louis Site.

The DOE anticipates spending a total of \$30 million

Continues on page 4 . . .

## from the Site Manager

After months of hard work, the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force appears to be entering the home stretch. The group is shifting from an information gathering phase, such as the just completed Coldwater Creek investigation, to its alternative development phase. The Task Force's report is expected in September 1996.

It has been a long, often arduous process. And yet by any number of measures, it can already be considered a success. For the first time, the many diverse interests and viewpoints represented by the St. Louis Site have come together, dedicating their time and energies to addressing these important issues. The issues have been discussed in a spirit of openness and cooperation. Environmentalists, property owners, and regulators have found common ground and shared values. More tangibly, interim cleanup priorities have been established, and a range of long-term options has been identified and examined.

Public awareness has been enhanced as Task Force members have taken the groups' deliberations back to you and others who make up their various constituencies. This report-back function is even more critical now that we've entered the alternative development phase. I hope you will feel free to talk with members of the task force about your views and concerns. (Information about how to contact Task Force members is available from the DOE Public Information Center.) And of course, the Task Force meetings continue to be open to any interested member of the public, with time set aside for public comment.

The result of all these activities will be better, smarter decision making, and the best remedy possible for the St. Louis Site.

This has been a new and, at times, apprehensive experience for myself and others at DOE. Never before have we so empowered stakeholders at a FUSRAP site. Never before have stakeholders become so directly involved in the decision-making process. In my role as an ex-officio member of the Task Force, I have taken off my site manager's hat and served primarily as a resource. From that vantage point, I've witnessed an incredible amount of hard work and dedication on the part of Task Force members, and I've been greatly impressed by the level of sophistication they've developed regarding the many complex technological, logistical, and programmatic questions involved.

As I mentioned, the Task Force has already issued recommendations involving use of FY 1996 and 1997 funds for interim cleanups. This report has enabled DOE to plan for a significant amount of work this year. (See related stories in this **Update**.) Many key issues remain to be addressed as part of the final recommendation: How much of the site's contaminated material should be excavated? Where should the material be taken? To what extent should DOE pursue emerging technologies that may reduce the tremendous volumes of contaminated soil? And to what extent should future use of a site determine the level of cleanup to be performed?

Precisely how these findings may impact the Task Force's final recommendation remains to be seen. Whatever the outcome, one thing is certain: The Task Force experience has been a winning proposition for all concerned.



David Adler

FUSRAP Update is issued periodically to inform St. Louis residents about current activities at the radioactivity contaminated sites in the St. Louis area.

For more information about the FUSRAP site in St. Louis, call the DOE Public Information Center at (314) 524-4083. Or you may call DOE toll free at (800) 253-9759.

Documents and other relevant information about the St. Louis Site are located in two information repositories. One is at the St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive Street in St. Louis; the other is at the DOE Public Information Center, 9170 Latty Avenue in Berkeley.

Newsletter design by  
Design Alternatives, Inc.,  
St. Louis.

Cleanup Continued from page 1

A related aspect of this initiative would be the cleanup and improvement of adjacent roadside drainage ditches.

### Downtown Site

Mallinckrodt and FUSRAP officials have met on several occasions to decide how best to apply the downtown site's share of FY '96 funding. They have settled on what is known as the 50-Series of buildings, situated between Mallinckrodt and Destrehan streets. Plans call for the buildings to be demolished.

The work is expected to be modeled on last year's successful Plant 10 cleanup in which Mallinckrodt and FUSRAP worked together to remediate an entire city block.