



FUSRAP Update

The St. Louis Site

U.S. Department of Energy

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

Spring 1997



The Riverfront Trail, looking north toward McKinley Bridge.
Contaminated soils were excavated and replaced with clean fill. The area was then contoured and seeded.

Interim cleanups include North Riverfront Trail

The city of St. Louis' Riverfront Trail, part of the St. Louis Downtown Site, was the recipient of a DOE cleanup effort last fall that has allowed development of the area for recreational use. The work was recommended by the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force as part of its

interim cleanup priorities for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.

The downtown site portion of the trail passes through areas containing radioactively contaminated soils, a legacy of the nation's early atomic energy program. The cleanup will

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From the Site Manager

As we approach the midpoint of the federal FY '97, I am happy to report on the completion of two additional cleanups, as well as other initiatives now underway at the St. Louis Site. This new work is made possible by the recently announced site budget of \$23 million for FY 97--a record funding level for the St. Louis Site.

The Riverfront Trail has exciting potential for the St. Louis community. Hikers, bicyclists, and rollerbladers are already enjoying the completed portions of the trail, which features 10-foot-wide paved lanes, turnouts for wildlife viewing, native plant restoration areas, and restroom facilities.

Over the summer, representatives of DOE, Mallinckrodt Chemical, and the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force joined with the city and the Riverfront Trail Association to reach agreement on a cleanup plan that would allow trail construction to proceed. It was enormously satisfying to see all these groups

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Interim cleanups

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allow the city to complete construction of the trail.

When fully completed, the Riverfront Trail will stretch from the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge in the north to the Merchant's Bridge in the south -- connecting numerous neighborhoods, commercial districts, and tourist attractions along the way.

The Task Force chose a recreational use cleanup standard for the trail area, which is somewhat less stringent than those applied to a residential area. Cleaning up to residential levels would have quadrupled the cost--putting the trail out of reach for an expedited cleanup.

Cleanup spoils from the cleanup are being shipped to a licensed, out-of-state facility for disposal.

Other recent interim cleanups at the Downtown Site included the decontamination and demolition of the 50-series of buildings. In the North County, cleanup continued along the haul route vicinity properties. (See related story and photos.)

Grumbly responds to Task Force report



Tom Grumbly

The U.S. Department of Energy will heed many of the recommendations put forward by the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force. That was the message delivered by DOE Undersecretary

Tom Grumbly at a December meeting with Task Force members.

Grumbly agreed that no waste bunker was to be built in the St. Louis area, as had been proposed previously. Also in alignment with the Task Force, most of the downtown site is to be cleaned to industrial use standards, while vicinity properties and Coldwater Creek are to be cleaned to unrestricted use standards.

Grumbly noted a few areas, however, in which DOE is unable to accept the citizens group recommendations without further review, chief

among them its proposed remedy for the Airport Site. Grumbly called for a thorough review of all available data regarding groundwater issues at the site, before making a determination. Grumbly promised swift resolution of these issues.

Grumbly added that he wants to finish the St. Louis cleanup in 8 years, in time for the 100th anniversary of the World's Fair.

In addition, Grumbly:

- committed \$23 million in FY 97 for interim cleanups;
- promised a full-time, on-site DOE manager by February;
- offered to support the creation of a site-specific advisory board, should the community so desire;
- promised continued financial support for remedial studies at the non-FUSRAP West Lake Landfill.

Prior to the Task Force meeting, Grumbly met separately with state and local officials including Gov. Mel Carnahan, St. Louis County Executive Buzz Westfall, St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley, and EPA Region VII Administrator Dennis Gramms.

From the Site Manager

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come together in a spirit of cooperation, with a common goal and purpose.

In addition to the cleanup of radioactive residues, FUSRAP helped apply the finishing touches by redirecting a portion of the restoration funds to the Trail Association. This cooperative effort resulted in a first-class landscaping and beautification effort, that included the reintroduction of native plants.

Another downtown success story is the dismantlement and removal of the 50-Series of buildings. Later this year, we look forward to the cleanup of the 50-series' sub-slab soils.

In addition, radiological surveying and sampling of the K-series of buildings was completed in early February and decontamination is now underway.

Such cleanups, while relatively small in relation to the overall St. Louis Site, return valuable real estate to productive use -- creating jobs for local residents and tax revenues for

the city. Additionally, the cleanup work itself is providing good jobs at good wages for local contractors, craft, and labor.

So, congratulations and thanks to all who have worked diligently to make these projects a reality. And thanks especially to our stakeholder partners, whose can-do approach has moved us forward and helped set the stage for an effective, acceptable overall remedy for the St. Louis Site.


E. R. Valdez

1996 = great strides in N. County

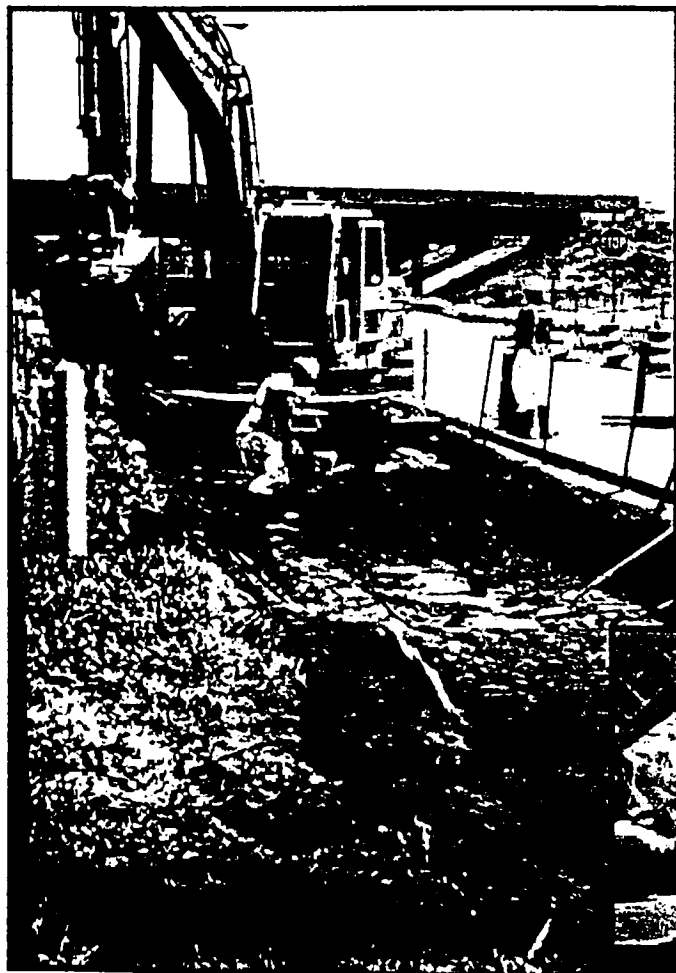
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) made significant headway in 1996 with vicinity property cleanups in North County. After completing cleanups along the entire length of Frost Avenue in Berkeley, work crews turned the corner on Hazelwood Avenue, cleaning up several addition properties

along the way.

The cleanup involved excavating low-level contaminated soils, mostly along drainage ditches and road frontages. The work began in early April and was completed by the fall.

Frost and Hazelwood Avenue were among the "haul routes" that became contaminated in the 1960s. Processing residues that had been stored at SLAPS were purchased and trucked by private interests to Latty Avenue for storage and additional processing. During transport, some of the radioactive material dropped from trucks.

Following release of the properties by an independent verification contractor, DOE brought



Above: Workers excavate contaminated soil near the intersection of Frost and Hazelwood avenues. I-170 crosses in the background.



Right: Looking eastward on Frost. Across the street is McDonnell Douglas.

vicinity property cleanups ...

in clean fill, re-contoured and landscaped. Fences and other property improvements disturbed by the work were replaced.

The Frost and Hazelwood properties were given priority in part because of their relatively high elevation and drainage patterns, which make recontamination unlikely.

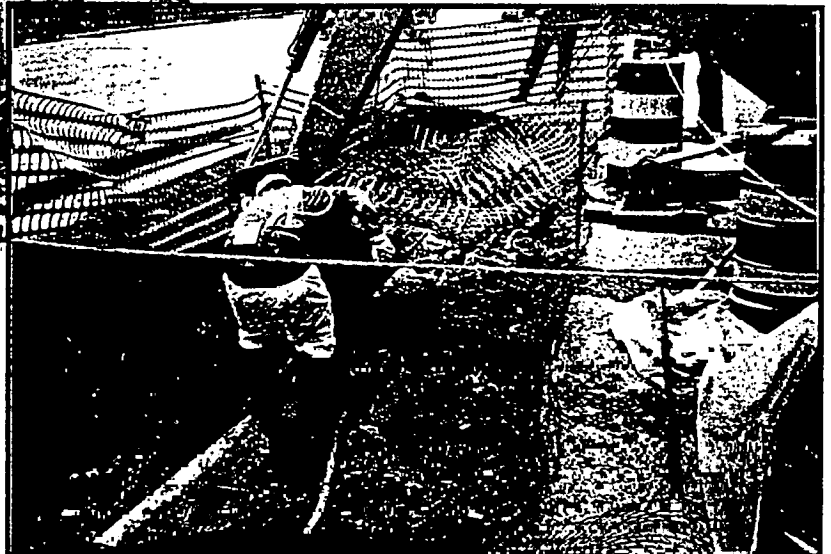
The excavated soils were staged on a Norfolk-Southern Railroad siding at Eva Avenue and McDonnell Boulevard, then loaded into gondola cars equipped with special impermeable plastic covers for the 1,450 mile trip to Utah.

The haul route cleanup was recommended to DOE by the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force, an advisory board established by DOE to make recommendations on the cleanup of the St. Louis Site. Total cost of the project was about \$5.5 million.

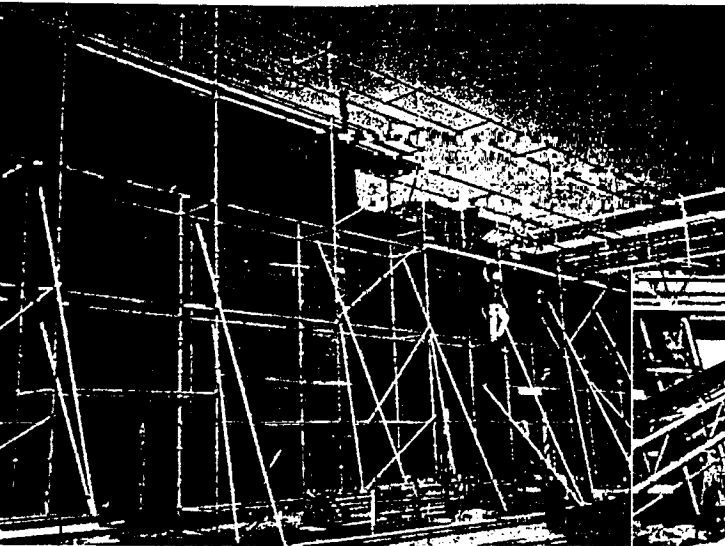
In the preceding year, DOE cleaned all contaminated residential properties along the haul routes. These, along with the Frost and Hazelwood commercial properties were cleaned to levels that are considered suitable for any future land use.



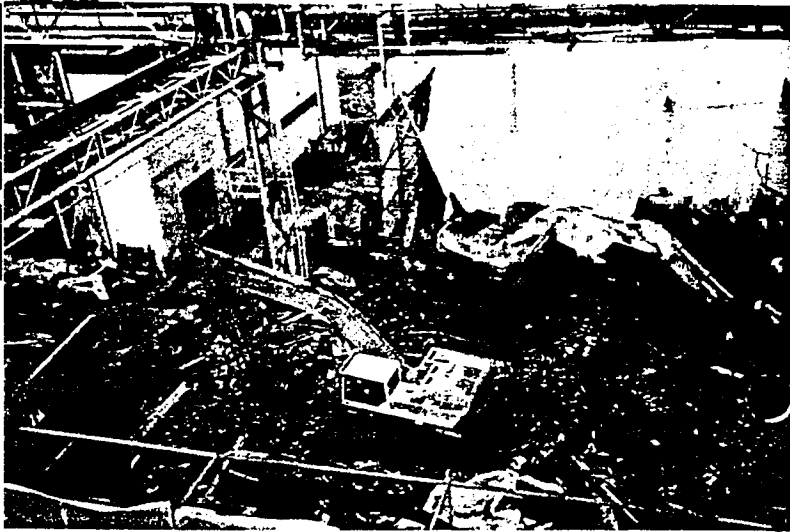
Above: Workers view a fresh cut made by an excavator. **Right** Only old-fashioned hand excavation will do near a utility conduit.



. and Downtown, too



Above -- Scaffolding system, east side of 50-stories buildings. Scaffolding was used to provide support for the enclosure system.



Below -- Demolition in progress. Machines are segregating various building components in preparation for disposal.

Cleanups paying dividends to local economy

After two years of accelerated interim cleanups at the St. Louis site, economic as well as environmental benefits are beginning to mount.

Local companies receive the lion's share of all cleanup-related hiring and purchasing, amounting to more than \$1.1 million in fiscal year 1995, and more than \$2.1 million in FY '96. (Waste transportation and disposal accounted for an additional \$8.9 million over both fiscal years.) Projected expenditures for this year are significantly higher.

St. Louis-area companies awarded cleanup-related contracts in 1996 included St. Charles Engineering and Survey, Remediation Services Incorporated, B&P Construction, Jani-King,

Zambrana Engineering, St. Louis Aerial, Schneider Electric, Collins & Herman, Garrett Trucking, and Spirtas Demolition. (As a matter of policy, FUSRAP uses small, disadvantaged businesses to the maximum extent possible.)

In addition to local contracting, purchase orders for goods and services amounted to more than \$350,000 in fiscal years 1995-1996. These local purchases range from gasoline and gravel to landscaping and traffic control.

These expenditures, along with local salaries and state and local taxes paid, represent a multimillion dollar investment impact on the St. Louis regional economy.

Cyber-RAP

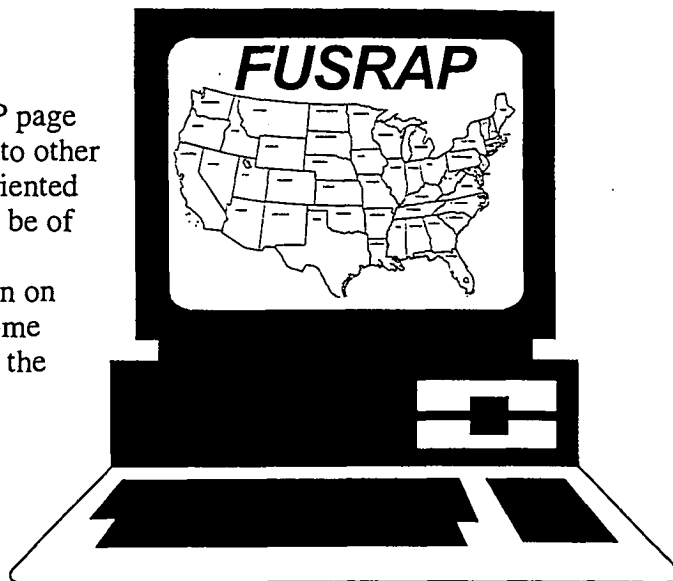
Want to learn more about FUSRAP and the St. Louis Site? Check out the FUSRAP home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address, or URL, is:

<http://www.fusrap.doe.gov/>

The FUSRAP home page provides an overview of the program and plenty of site-specific information that can be accessed with a click of a mouse on our USA locator map. Users can provide feedback or otherwise correspond with project officials by way of an automated E-mail fea-

ture. The FUSRAP page also includes links to other environmentally oriented Web sites that may be of interest.

For information on how to use your home computer to access the Internet and the FUSRAP home page, call the DOE Public Information Center at (314) 524-4083.



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