



# The St. Louis Site

U.S. Department of Energy • Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Summer 1997

## Letter from the Site Manager

*I have been here at the St. Louis Site for about two months now, and I must say that things around here have been anything but quiet. Since my arrival, I have been spending time getting to know both the issues and the people.*

*As an introduction, I have lived in St. Peters, Missouri, for more than ten years, and my job has been to manage the cleanup of the Weldon Spring Site, which was an old uranium ore processing plant that operated from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s. The contaminants at that site are similar to the ones found at the St. Louis Site. There is still a lot of work to do before the project at Weldon Spring is complete, but things are going well, and the end is in sight.*

*In December of last year, Tom Grumbly, who at that time was Under Secretary for the Department of Energy, promised to establish a DOE site office in St. Louis for the management of the St. Louis cleanup effort. The DOE site office has now been officially established at 9170 Latty Avenue, and Ed Valdez, the Deputy Site Manager, and I are located there. It is still unclear how many DOE people will be required to fully staff the site office; this will be worked out over the next several months.*

*In reading this newsletter, I hope you will agree that a lot of work is under way and is contributing significantly to our cleanup mission. In meeting with the representatives from the State, local government officials, community leaders, and members of the public, it is clear that important project objectives should be to*

- *accelerate work at the St. Louis Site,*
- *improve communication and responsiveness to community concerns, and*
- *continue to improve the cost effectiveness of our work.*

*In future newsletters and through other communications, we will share with you our progress toward these objectives.*

*One of the things that will always be an impediment to progress is a lack of trust. I don't expect this to come easily (or quickly); however our commitment to you is to continually behave in a manner that is consistent with building trust. In closing, I would like to share with you some of the principles that will guide our behavior. As a site office (including DOE and our contractors), we will strive to*

- *value differences;*
- *engage people in problem solving, not just decision making;*
- *stand by our commitments;*
- *embrace the fact that technical solutions will not by themselves achieve understanding and acceptance;*
- *and*
- *never let indecision be an excuse for the lack of progress.*

*Your feedback and continuous involvement are important. If you feel that we have dropped the ball in any way, please call me at (314) 524-4083.*



Sincerely,

Steve McCracken

DOE Site Manager, St. Louis Site Office

## DOE Establishes Onsite Presence

DOE has established an onsite presence at the St. Louis site, as promised late last year by former DOE Under Secretary Tom Grumbly. Ed Valdez, of St. Charles, Missouri, was the first DOE official to be based full time at the site. He has now been joined by Steve McCracken, who will serve as Site Manager.

Valdez comes from DOE's Weldon Spring Site in St. Charles County, where he was a project engineer. He previously worked for McDonnell-Douglas in Hazelwood as a project and systems engineer. A retired Marine Corps officer and combat pilot, Valdez's many assignments included a tour of Vietnam.

McCracken also comes from the Weldon Spring Site, where he was the Project Manager. He has been with DOE since 1980, spending the past ten years at Weldon Spring.

Rounding out the team at the site are Wayne Johnson, Joe Wood, Suzanne Szojka, and Robert Edwards.

Johnson is the onsite Project Manager for the project management contractor. Before joining FUSRAP, he was a Project Manager for the Environmental Restoration Department at DOE's Savannah River Site. His primary responsibility in St. Louis will be to ensure that all work at the site is performed safely, cost effectively, and on schedule.

Wood is an Environmental Engineer, responsible for oversight of all environmental engineering activities at the site. He previously worked for EPA conducting remedial investigations and evaluating remedial alternatives for NPL Superfund sites.



*Joe Wood*

Szojka is a Professional Geologist with more than 8 years of experience as a hydrogeologist and technical manager in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Edwards comes to St. Louis from the Arnold Engineering Air Force Base in Tennessee. He has worked with both the Department of Defense and DOE environmental management programs. Early in his career, he worked in industry as an air pollution meteorologist.

These individuals and other site personnel are available to discuss any questions you have about ongoing work and site activities. They will also be participating in community outreach and educational activities.

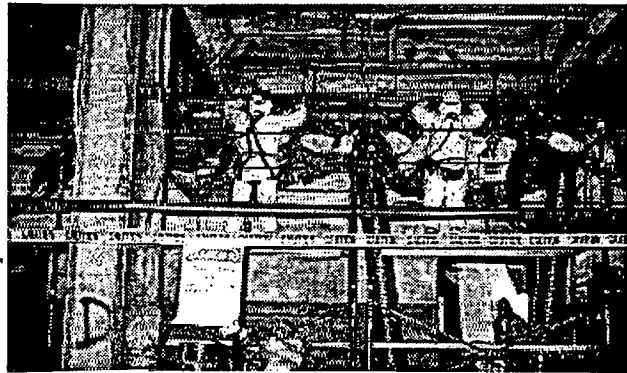


*Personnel who have recently relocated to the DOE St. Louis office include Suzanne Szojka, Wayne Johnson, and Robert Edwards.*

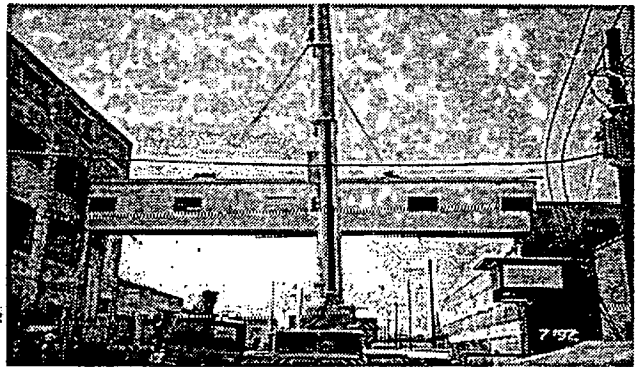
## Summer Cleanup Activities

In June, DOE began the cleanup of low-level radioactive contamination along the road in front of nine commercial properties on Hazelwood and Latty avenues in North County. This cleanup is a continuation of remediation activities previously conducted along "haul routes" that became contaminated in the 1960s. Approximately 4,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be excavated, primarily from ditches along the sides of the road. The soil is being transported by truck to a staging area at the Norfolk-Southern Railroad siding at the intersection of Eva Avenue and McDonnell Boulevard; from there, it will be loaded onto gondola rail cars and shipped to an out-of-state licensed disposal facility. Clean soil will be brought in to fill the excavated areas.

Work going on this summer at the St. Louis Downtown Site has primarily been the removal of 365 cubic yards of asbestos from nine buildings that are to be demolished. Demolition activities have begun, and the buildings should be gone by the end of September. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of demolition debris will be shipped offsite.



*Workers prepare to remove asbestos from piping in Building 705 at the St. Louis Downtown Site.*



*An overhead walkway between SLDS Buildings 704 and 117 is lowered to the ground before being demolished. In addition, nine buildings at the site are being demolished.*

## St. Louis Site and Area Utilities Draft Response Policy

Working with area utility representatives, DOE has drafted a policy that outlines responsibilities for both St. Louis Site and utility personnel during utility work at or near the site. The policy is intended to protect the health and safety of site personnel and utility workers who may come into contact with low-level radioactivity in soils. The draft response policy is expected to be finalized by the end of September.

Under the proposed policy, site personnel will be available 24 hours a day to respond to calls from the utilities. Depending on the circumstances, site support might include the services of an onsite health physics technician, radiological surveying using field instruments, soil sampling, and providing utility workers with personal protective clothing. Upon arrival at the work site, qualified

St. Louis Site personnel will brief utility workers on radiological safety practices and make recommendations based on radiological conditions at the site.

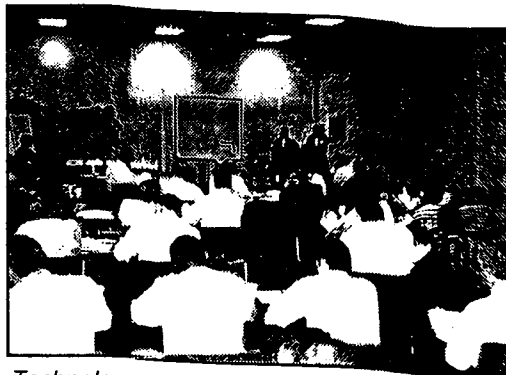
In cases where excavation is required, contaminated soils may be received by St. Louis Site personnel for controlled storage or disposal at a licensed disposal facility.

Many of these measures are being implemented as "best management practices," meaning they exceed minimum requirements established by law. The St. Louis Site vicinity properties are not considered hazardous waste sites as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Therefore, utility personnel working in these areas are not required to have OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations Training.

## Technology Demonstration Conference

DOE hosted a pre-solicitation conference for technology vendors on July 1 at the St. Louis World Trade Center. This conference was the first step in a procurement process to identify on-site, cost-effective technologies that could be used for the remediation and treatment of soil contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS).

Prospective subcontractors, representing 29 companies, attended the conference; they were given a 1-hour bus tour of SLAPS before the conference began to familiarize them with the site. Proposals to demonstrate a remediation technology that has the potential to reduce cost and risk will be due approximately September 5, 1997. Full remediation of the site will be addressed after the proposed technologies are evaluated.



*Technology vendors at DOE's technology demonstration conference.*



**Do you have questions** or topics for discussion about FUSRAP, the St. Louis Site, the environmental cleanup process, cleanup guidelines, or related issues? Send them to us, and we will reserve space to discuss them in future issues of the St. Louis FUSRAP Update. Address them to Steve McCracken at the DOE Site Office, 9170 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, MO 63134.

### For more information...

If you have questions or comments about our work, please call us. You can reach us by calling our local site office in Berkeley at 524-4083, or call our toll-free information line at 1-800-255-3759. Leave a message with your name, phone number, and area of interest, and someone will return your call promptly. You can also visit our Internet home page; the address (or URL) for FUSRAP is,

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

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