

DOE

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 1991

DOE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CLEANUP OF ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN SITE

OAK RIDGE, TN -- The Department of Energy's (DOE) Field Office, Oak Ridge (OR), is seeking public comment on an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), for decontamination at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS), in Missouri.

This proposed cleanup plan is being conducted under DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), which was established to identify and clean up or control sites where radioactive contamination (exceeding DOE guidelines) remains from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. This is part of Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins' comprehensive Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Five-Year Plan. Releasing the proposed EE/CA to obtain the views of concerned citizens for use in developing the Department's work plans is an important step in the overall cleanup process.

During the 1940's, Mallinckrodt Inc., current owners of the SLDS property, processed and produced various forms of uranium compounds and machined uranium metals for the World War II Manhattan Engineering Project and later for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a DOE predecessor agency. The areas proposed for decontamination are contaminated with uranium, thorium, and radium as a result of this work.

The radioactive contamination at SLDS poses no immediate risk to public health or the environment in its current condition. However, some cleanup activity at SLDS is being proposed as an interim measure because plant activities involving excavation or renovation could result in the generation of dust and other materials, and inadvertent spread of contamination.

The EE/CA summarizes the analysis of cleanup alternatives and the rationale for DOE's preferred interim remedial action alternative. Waste control alternatives considered for soil and structures on site includes removal, reprocessing/treatment, interim storage, disposal, access restriction, and no action. Based on available information, DOE's preferred alternative for SLDS is decontamination and/or removal of contaminated structural material and excavation of contaminated soil, with interim storage on site.

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Implementation of comprehensive cleanup measures will be preceded by a complete environmental review process including preparation of Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. This long-term cleanup program will include, in addition to the SLDS, the St. Louis Airport Site and vicinity properties, and the Latty Avenue properties, including the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site. The three properties are collectively referred to as the St. Louis Site.

The EE/CA is available for public review during the normal business hours in the Government Information Section at the St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103, telephone (314) 241-2288; the St. Louis County Library, Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042, telephone (314) 895-1023; and the DOE Public Information Office, 9200 Latty Avenue, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042, (314) 524-4083.

The public may comment on the proposed plan by submitting written comments no later than July 10, 1991, to:

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P.O. Box 2001
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