

# DOE NEWS

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## DOE TO BEGIN CLEANUP OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

OAK RIDGE, TN -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced plans to clean up a portion of radioactive contamination located at several sites in the St. Louis area.

This announcement was made by Thomas Grumbly, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at a meeting held last week of key stakeholders from the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Grumbly said, "We are pleased to begin this project, which will remove a significant portion of this hazardous material from both residential and industrial areas in St. Louis."

Close to \$15 million will be committed to this effort, scheduled to begin in FY 1995. Grumbly emphasized that citizen input will be the key factor determining near term cleanup priorities. Plans for control of the remaining contamination in the St. Louis area will be developed over the next twelve months based on input from stakeholders and the public. The cleanup will include all of the residential properties impacted by radioactive contamination, and other select industrial properties.

Grumbly said, "DOE is committed to a process that will lead to increased stakeholder input and involvement in decisions that affect both the near term cleanup and ultimate disposition of these materials. We acknowledge that there is a general consensus against permanent disposal of these wastes in highly populated areas of the country, such as Lambert Field. We will explore alternatives such as soil treatment and the siting of a disposal facility elsewhere in Missouri."

Radioactive contamination in the St. Louis area is the result of the processing of uranium and other materials associated with the nation's early nuclear weapons program. The site was designated for cleanup in the late 1970s and is administered under the DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

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